Government under mounting pressure to protect old-growth forests

by Jan McMurray

The BC NDP government is under fire for dragging its feet on protecting old-growth forests.

Rallies outside Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy’s constituency office in Castlegar attracted about 150 protestors on May 31 and about 70 protestors on May 25, standing in solidarity with the people defending old-growth forest at the Fairy Creek blockade on Vancouver Island.

At the May 31 event, protestors marched from Conroy’s office to City Hall, and many sat in the middle of the main street as an act of civil disobedience. Four people who were determined to stay on the road until Minister Conroy declared an end to old-growth logging were arrested by the Castlegar RCMP, who said they had contacted Conroy’s office and learned that the BC government would not be ending old-growth logging at this time.

The four people arrested, including a 14-year-old Nelson high school student, were released an hour later.

These Castlegar events were organized by Extinction Rebellion, Fridays for Future youth and Stop Ecocide Canada.

However, there are signs the government may be getting ready to make a move. A government announcement was expected on Tuesday, June 1 (the day after this issue of the Valley Voice went to press) “about plans to update and modernize forest policy and legislation as soon as possible,” according to the Castlegar Weekly.

In mid-May, a Ministry of Forests spokesperson told the Valley Voice: “We know, and we’ve said clearly, that the status quo on old growth isn’t acceptable. We inherited a patchwork of measures on old growth and we know we need a comprehensive strategy to move forward. That’s why we committed to doing things differently to protect vital old-growth stands while supporting workers and communities.”

It’s been one year since the government received a report called ‘A New Future for Old Forests’ from the Old-Growth Strategic Review Panel (Gary Merkel and Al Gorley), and seven months since Premier Horgan promised to implement all the recommendations from the report. At this point, many environmental organizations and members of the public are getting impatient.

“More than one year after the BC government received the recommendations, old-growth logging continues unabated, almost all at-risk old-growth forest remains without protection, and the provincial government has moved to increase the number of cutting permits compared to last year,” states a May 19 press release from the Sierra Club.

The Wilderness Committee says there has been a 43% increase in old-growth logging in the 12 months since the government received the report. The organization used publicly available data to map cutblock approvals within old-growth forests between April 30, 2020, when the government received the panel’s report, and April 30, 2021.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) says the ministry believes there are significant gaps in the Wilderness Committee’s analysis. “The biggest gap is that the analysis did not use a consistent definition of old growth,” the spokesperson said. “This disagreement on the definition of old growth is something we are working with environmental advocates to fix. The truth is that we have protected hundreds of thousands of hectares of old growth and are working to protect more.”

Recommendation 6 in the old-growth report was to defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss. The recommendation was to do this within six months.

Forests Minister Katrine Conroy deferred logging in nine areas containing about 196,000 hectares of old-growth in September last year. However, environmental groups say that very few of these areas contained productive old-growth forests, or they were not immediately threatened by logging.

The ministry spokesperson said these initial nine deferral areas were areas where conflicts had occurred in the past. He said the Province engaged directly with First Nations who have territory in these areas. “We are exploring further deferral areas through engagement with Indigenous Nations, and in alignment with the old-growth report,” he said.

The ministry spokesperson reminded that the report also recommends engaging with Nations on deferrals, minimizing and mitigating the impacts of deferrals, and targeting areas that are at risk. “This is what we are doing, but some groups refuse to recognize engagement of this scale and scope, particularly in the midst of a global pandemic, takes time.”

Recently, Veridian Ecological Consultants out of Nelson completed a mapping project to identify the at-risk old-growth forests that are recommended for logging deferrals in the old-growth report. A document on the Veridian website says the intent of the project is “to kickstart the urgent conversation about old-growth deferrals.”
Nakusp Citizens of the Year announced

submitted

Zac Wethal, Jay-Dell Mah and Oriah Leeson have been chosen as Nakusp’s Citizens of the Year. Zac will receive the Citizen of the Year Award, Jay the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Oriah the Youth Achievement Award.

“We’re pleased to announce this year’s recipients,” says Dan Nicholson of the Rotary Club, which sponsors the event. “As always, the selection committee had some hard decisions to make, but they’ve done a stellar job. To all those who nominated others – please resubmit next year.”

Zac Wethal is an active member of Nakusp Minor Hockey, serving as referee-in-chief and coach. He organizes the annual Falcon’s Cup tournament, which raises money for youth hockey programs. He has also coordinated the spring and summer softball leagues, supported youth baseball, and been president of the local slo-pitch league. As a Village employee in the parks and recreation department, he works hard to keep Nakusp beautiful.

“He has made and continues to make significant contributions to the welfare of our community,” his nominator says. “His involvement and contributions to various endeavors have enhanced the quality of life in Nakusp.”

Jay-Dell Mah “is a great ambassador for Nakusp,” says one of his nominators. “He is an expert in baseball and keeps the community informed on our local teams as well as on Minor Hockey news. He informs us on Village council meetings and all progress in the Village. His posts on Facebook are enjoyed by all and are most informative and often amusing, too.”

Another of Jay’s nominators described him as “so friendly” and “very attentive to all people and all things. Everyone loves him!”

Oriah Leeson is president of the Interact Club, Fair Trade Committee, and SAFE Club (Sexual Advocacy for Everyone), and is a member of student council. She volunteers for PALS and at many community events. She is a coach for the youth soccer program, and is on the soccer, basketball, ski and mountain bike teams at the school. You’ll see Oriah and her mother busking at the farmers’ market and other locations this summer.

The Nakusp Rotary Club is planning an awards ceremony to honour these exceptional citizens in the coming months. Watch for details.

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Valley Voice early editions now online

submitted

Historians, researchers and news junkies alike will now have access to a complete run of the Valley Voice newspaper online, thanks to a recently completed project by the Arrow Lakes Historical Society.

Last June, the society’s archivist technician, Kyle Kusch, undertook the task of digitizing all issues of the 20-year-old paper not already online. The paper is available digitally from 2005 to today at valleyvoice.ca, but the first 12 years have not been available online until now.

It took eight months to scan, crop and painstakingly stitch together PDFs of the first 546 issues of the Valley Voice from the first edition (December 11, 1992) to the last undigitized (June 8, 2005). But now the collection is available to read, for free, through the society’s page on the UBC Okanagan Library website (bcrdh.ca) or the digital archive at arcd.ca.

Each issue has been made machine-readable to ensure that it is fully searchable online.

Other ALHS material can be accessed by visiting https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/alhs-root.

The project was made possible by a grant from the 2020-21 BC History Digitization Program, sponsored by UBC’s Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

The historical society thanks the Valley Voice publishers “for giving us the idea, and the permission to carry out this project on their behalf.”

The society would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Columbia Basin Trust, which allowed it to buy a wide-format scanner in 2018 to do projects like this.

Ralph Hall

August 22, 1935 – May 2, 2021

It is with great sorrow we say goodbye to our Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Great Grandfather, Ralph Hall. Ralph passed away May 2, 2021, surrounded by his family, after a lengthy struggle with his health and will be greatly missed for his sense of humor, his beautiful singing voice and his many varied interests. Ralph was born August 22nd, 1935 in Peterborough Ontario.

He loved fishing, western movies, hunting, and panning for gold. He was a hard-working man always building something new and beautiful, or tinkering in his shop with something. He had many creations, some no one else can work. His Celebration of life will be held July 24th outside at his and his wife Mary’s home in Fauquier, BC. Ralph is survived by his wife Mary Hall, children; John Hall, Ken Hall, Rick Hall, Keith Horning, Jordan Horning, Lois Hall, Sylvia Montgomery and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. His mischievous smile and that twinkle in his eye when he was up to something will be greatly missed.
We can all help bring families together again. Get vaccinated.

Canada.ca/covid-vaccine
1-833-784-4397
Scenic, tranquil New Denver

The logging on Idaho Peak is leaving a scarred scenic view of New Denver and surrounding area for decades to come. It doesn’t matter whether it’s on private or Crown land, this kind of logging is short-sighted, unsustainable and in my opinion it’s criminal and stealing from future generations.

Mike Simpson
New Denver

Twilight Zone

"Doo doo doo doo... the twilight zone. You’re about to enter a dimension of sight and sound.” This was the lead-in to the old show, The Twilight Zone. At times it’s like I’m in the twilight zone while working on the computer. It won’t let me out and the more things I touch, the more I’m sucked into it. If you don’t know how to do certain things on it or if you touch the wrong thing, it can be very frustrating.

Ron Heppner
Edgewood

Against paving Kaslo Back Road

I would like to add my voice to the growing list of people who are opposed to the future planned paving of the Back Road aka Kaslo South Rd. to the future planned paving of the Back Road to Edgewood.

We have lived on Carol Street, just off the Back Road, for 27 years. Talking with many of the residents who live on or use this road, a common theme comes up – namely the relative quiet and serenity that a gravel road provides.

Paving this road will change this dramatically. Speed and usage will increase. Accidents and incidents will occur more frequently.

There seems to be no good reason for this project to go ahead. The vast majority of people living on this road are against it. Surely there are other roads in the area that could use paving.

A hard NO to the paving plan.

Marty Lynch
Kaslo

Independence for the west

I have voted in 54 federal elections, and my vote has never counted because the outcome has been dictated by the time Ontario finishes voting. It’s time either the western provinces get together to form our own country, or the people in BC should vote to form our own country. Just think of the benefits: all those millions of dollars we send out east every year in transfer payments would be used here to improve the education of BC students, improve housing and provide better health care. And to top it off, we would have someone in control who holds our interests first and foremost, instead of using us as a cash cow for the east. Western Canada cannot afford to have prime ministers like Trudeau, whose main interest is the eastern vote.

Peter Martin
Nelson

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”.

We are unable to reply to letters due to the volume of mail we receive.

We do 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 the Valley Voice.

The Valley Voice
Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
Phone/Fax: 1-833-501-1700 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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Dan Nicholson
Editor

J. B. Gilmore
Kaslo

Open letter to

Open letter to John Horgan and Katrine Conroy

The facts about the importance of old growth (wild) ecosystems, and the matured forest corridors connecting them are well known. They are publicly known to you, and they have in the past been acknowledged by you.

The costs of ‘harvesting’ old growth areas and the matured forest corridors connecting them are yet to be fully determined. That is unfortunate insofar as these as-yet undocumented costs being ignored.

The returns from such ‘harvesting’ are not generally known – nor all of them. And only a small proportion of these current revenues trickle down to local labourers or as government revenues. That proportion is surely less than the future ecological and social and tourism costs of losing these resources.

Please, get real. Stop all logging in BC old growth and the mature corridors around it. An increasing proportion of the next electorate will thank you if you do what is needed. And whether they appear to do so or not, if you do what is needed, you will have done what you previously swore to do for the province as a whole – an honourable legacy to have.

J. B. Gilmore
Kaslo

Open letter to officials re: paving Kaslo Back Road

I live on my farm at the south end of the Back Road. I have lived here for 60 years. I remember when the Back Road was not a through road. At that time, it was actually part of our property (and parts of the road may still be).

I am writing on behalf of the wildlife that lives on my land. Have you ever experienced the sight of 95 elk in your backyard? Or bears, deer, owls and eagles? People park at the end of my meadow and watch all of these magnificent animals on a regular basis. Once that road is paved, the animals will disappear. Can you imagine once the Back Road is paved and adjoining Highway 517 Motorists will be ripping through there without any thought or care for the wildlife.

Why are you doing this? Please do not pave the Back Road. Perhaps a compromise could be reached where you only pave the north section to the Weintz property. Or, if you have to get rid of some asphault maybe you could gift it to the Village of Kaslo and they could pave the garbage dump road. I understand it is in a terrible state and would be appreciated by many, unlike this proposed paving.

Please reconsider your decision to pave the Back Road.

Irina Aldinger
Kaslo
Save Box Mountain

As you are aware, NACFOR and Interior Interiors are planning to develop a very large portion of Box Mountain. This cutblock will encompass the whole lower portion of Box Mountain from Box Lake to Hwy 6 south. NACFOR have already applied for a six week supply NACFOR with 450 truckloads of wood. We have no estimate for unit seven, which appears to have a similar size but is in Interiors’ hands as yet.

To do such a project with seven kilometres of roadbuilding and at least two landings and three road crossings of domestic options in a one-party system under a perpetual state of emergency, and the powers over public lands given to Registered Professional Foresters is beyond inappropriate. BC needs tenure reform and a repeal of the Forests and Range Practices Act. Canada doesn’t grow bananas; why are we becoming a banana republic run by monopoly and political things? Oh, and let us not gloss over the fact that during this pandemic, our freedoms and equality have been speedily removed.

 Beware. Organize and inform yourselves. Help prevent prevail against these chaotic plans based on fear of wildlife and enormous profit for the few. Help us save Box Mountain watershed and the water for Crescent Bay residents, including those who live under unit seven.

Craig Schroff
Crescent Bay

Somewhere, over the rainbow

Dispassionate to the point of cruelty, many arguments on the basis of arbitrary rules, can the ones who live this way be a part of a humanities vision? The answer depends on the context in the world of humans. In no case has the right to pass judgement on another’s way of life. Once you are in the world of humans and away from the world of nature, you are immersed in dualistic distinctions. Concepts of righteousness and mercy should have meaning. The way of “civilization” is the process of comparing ideas to find agreement or disagreement. They are the basis of society.” The facts must be thoroughly examined. Leaders must clearly and wisely apply distinctions.

In the same way, we are all compelled to examine the ongoing circumstances of our lives. This is a part of the responsibility of a human being. You have the choice to make or not into the more entangled parts of our nature. In our contracted state, we as humans seem to be set out to destroy that which is actually the source of strength and energy of our greater identity.

When your final day comes, will you be thankful for all the days you have been given? Will you see a life full of the great dream overflowing with memories and experiences? Or did you squander your precious existence?

For a gift in the houses, “the children of the rainbow,” how grateful you are to me. “May my heart be your drum, and each breath a song, for all of the ones who have forgotten the way to the sky and the earth.” So may we one day dream together again, and all of creation may once again embrace the banner of the rainbow. Many blessings for the return of the sacred…” The phenomena of the beautiful, the material always corresponds to the spiritual.” - I CHING

Tipa Janssen-Angerta
Who will pay?

Last month, there was a unified national uprising of the entire Palestinian people against Israeli ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and aggression. It began as the flight of the Palestinians from their homes in an East Jerusalem neighbourhood gained increased international attention as the campaign of their expulsions intensified. Gangs of Israelis began roaming the streets chanting, “Death to the Arabs” and beating up Palestinians while the police looked on. Palestinian citizens of “Israel” who dared to live in the north began to descend on Jerusalem. On May 7, Israeli forces started the al Aqsa Mosque during Friday prayers, assaulting worshippers and attacking them with both tear gas and rubber-coated bullets, leaving 200 injured. On May 10, Israeli settlers planned to go ahead with their “Jerusalem Day” march, which decides whether we are in the 1967 war and during which they habitually chant “Death to the Arabs.” Due to Palestinian resistance, the march was rerouted and ultimately cancelled but a lot of damage was done and innocent people were injured.

While the mosque was being assaulted, Hamas in Gaza issued a demand that the Israeli occupier withdraw from the mosque within two hours or face a strike on their forces. It would have been an easy thing to withdraw and save themselves from a rocket barrage. Also, one shouldn’t be attacking places of worship. They didn’t withdraw. Soon the warning sirens sounded and the rockets fell.

In response, Israel’s attack on Gaza amounted to genocide and should be denounced as such. Last February, in a 266-0 vote, Parliament declared that China is conducting genocide against the people of Uighur. The reason why Hamas has its bombing is much worse. When Israel attacks, the aim is to inflict damage and punishment which will demand a long and expensive reconstruction process. Living conditions in Gaza were ten times under two other major bombings since 2009. Now they are worse. The economy was destroyed along with the hopes of the people from being able to live.

Who will pay? The people of Gaza will be left to pick up the pieces. The United States gives Israel $10 million in aid and supplied it with the weapons that did the damage. Trump cut off all aid to the Palestinians and Biden gives them next to nothing. The United States should hold liable for all the damages. If they were forced to pay, they would not permit Israel to destroy Gaza again. The US should give as much aid as they can, and pressure them to show they are fair to both sides. The international community must hold the US and Israel to account.

Ed Zak
Nakusp

Koots stools article correction and clarification

I was surprised to read of my correspondence with the Koots Village council and the Koots Artist Collective did I say the artists and council “should” change anything. I made a request and asked for advice on how to go about any request, the other party can give a no, or make a counter-offer.

The crucial information that one in three girls and one in six boys will have unwanted sexual contact before turning 18 was missing in the article.

Caregivers need to be aware of the social impacts of this kind of crime are immense. I will add that in most cases (80-90%), the child knows the perpetrator. Parents (including biological, adoptive, step and foster parents) are more likely to be part of family-related sexual offences and physical assaults against children and youth victims in 2009. Your readers can find more facts, research and free resources at the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

It is not the responsibility of youth and children to protect themselves from this crime. That means the burden lies with us, the adults, to know the signs and speak up when we observe behaviors of concern.

As one with any artistic expression, we cannot fully comprehend how others will receive or perceive it. I understand the artists’ intention with “Hide and Seek” to illustrate “an elder’s proper relationship to a child” Unfortunately, other survivors of childhood sexual abuse do not receive the art installation in this way.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this story with your readers.

Zeta Lay (She/Her)
Victoria

More on COVID

Granted, elderly and health-compromised people are not responsible for protecting themselves as best they can from COVID. But why would someone who is NOT at risk (99.7%) get a ‘job’ that is in fact experimental, when it does not prevent you from getting COVID? From recent reports (CTV, NYT), more than 5,800 fully ‘vaccinated’ people have gotten COVID. These are considered breakthrough cases.

CDC is changing how they record COVID-19/breakthrough cases, “…CDC is transitioning to reporting only patients with COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infection that were hospitalized or died to help maximize the quality of the data collected on cases of greatest clinical and public health value.”

One Patroner user (going by: “What’sHerFace”) states: “I suppose when you start seeing numbers you don’t like, it’s easiest to just stop updating.”

Expect to see a drastic decline, artificial though it be, in COVID infections among the vaccinated.” She points out that even with the ‘vaccines’ extensive roll-out, “the vaccinate” continued on page 6

LETTERS
continued from page 5
include asymptomatic cases. All contributing to present-day policies and look for a way in the midst of this astounding hardship in terms of personal and professional well-being AND substantial market shifts.
Keep in mind, unvaccinated asymptomatic persons will be included in case counts.
Oh… and what about the actual numbers of breakthrough cases? The CDC states: “It is important to note that reported vaccine breakthrough cases will represent an undercount. This surveillance system is passive and relies on voluntary reporting from state health departments which may not be complete. Also, not all real-world breakthrough cases will be identified because of lack of testing. This is particularly true in instances of asymptomatic or milder illness.”

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) results reveal there have been 3,410 deaths from the vaccine (https://perma.cc/9MV5-TJ8B). Many consider this potentially low.

So… why do people cling so passionately to the notion that this entire inoculation regime is done with scientific rigor and consensus? One of the measurements to anyone who wants to quickly dismiss or discredit anyone who casts a negative light on what is being rolled out at large. If an expert, like Dr. Michael Yeadon, former VP of Pfizer, comes out and does a little whistleblowing… no one need pay attention. Even though he is pro-vax and has developed reputable vaccines for many decades, he can be easily dismissed and cast into the conspirator category.

Is there the true tells of where the truth lies and cons? Be alert to those showing signs of:
1) Failure to look at evidence that may be seen as contrary to the accepted narrative.
2) Failure to give any credit to anything that is truthful (meeting part way). Check 3) Perceived common threat and foe: Conspirator! Heretic! Witch! Conman-sympathizer? Terrorist! We’ve seen it before.
Be open to holistic views that aren’t black and white. Dr. Zach Bush, for example, recommends PCR testing as a prognostic tool. He, like many experts before.

One misunderstanding is about the difference between messenger RNA and modified (synthetic) messenger RNA. The shots contain the latter. (I am generalizing; each product is different.) The former cannot permanently modify DNA, but the latter can because it is permanent. The manufacturer must receive a license for it to be temporary, but how can they know this given that they are using the same exact messengers to create the vaccine?

This colonial violence happened to our ancestors. The Scottish and Irish who migrated to Canada were displaced to make way for the European settlers. Their homes were destroyed, mature forests lost forever, loss of cultural connection and storage, and loss of jobs for the loggers. These factors are exactly what we are dealing with.

In any case, a sea change is occurring. The demand for vaccines is growing and the public is demanding vaccines. The demand for vaccines is growing and the public is demanding vaccines. The demand for vaccines is growing and the public is demanding vaccines.

There is at least three alternative locations for a pump track: 1) Centennial Park, 2) the schoolyard (I was told that the school did have approval for a pump track there) 3) Some people have also checked out the area where the old dump used to be. But Centennial Park has been dedicated to a sports ground and play for yard for decades.

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Nakusp council, May 25: Council hears big ideas and gains interim CAO

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It was a marathon of delegations at last month’s Nakusp council meeting, with four presenters taking up more than an hour to hand over to the appointed acting mayor (Joseph Hughes) while he made two presentations for groups in the community.

Interim CAO

A familiar face to the local government is helping keep the doors open at City Hall after the departure of Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Martens in mid-May. Linda Tynan was confirmed by council as the Village’s interim CAO at its May 25 meeting.

It’s not the first time Tynan has lent a hand in Nakusp. A resident of Nelson, she stepped in as Nakusp’s CAO in 2010 after the then-CAO went on medical leave, and stayed for four years.

Tynan was director of corporate services and chief financial officer of the City of Nelson from 2006 to 2011, and was CAO of Summerland in the Okanagan from 2015 to 2019. She resigned from that position for personal reasons, saying it was the time that travel between her home in Nelson and her home in Summerland was proving to be too much.

New stage

A proposal to build a permanent performance stage in the park was pitched by Zeleznik, representing the Society for Nakusp Community Events (SNCE), during the last council meeting. The SNCE are sponsoring the project (see ‘Return of the Nakusp Music Festival’).

“Now to be clear, I am not suggesting we dive head first into another massive festival,” said Zeleznik. “I believe there is a much more sustainable approach to live music and events in our town that could and would be easier to keep a handle on for the future.”

Having small events regularly throughout the summer would likely be more palatable to maintain a volunteer pool for such events, and in supporting local businesses, too.

“As much as we love the vendors and food trucks we see at larger events, I would rather see the local restaurants and stores supply these things to our patrons,” Zeleznik’s presentation read.

Jordan also spoke to council about his plans, and existing community support. While the pieces of the stage have only to be reassembled in place, and local businesses have come out to support the project, Jordan estimates a further $6,171 has to be raised to get the project completed.

Counil voted to receive the report from the SNCE for information, and have staff look into the project and report back to council.

Breakwater dreams

Mayor Zeleznik’s hustle and hard work saved the Nakusp breakwater drama from being abandoned last year, when he found hundreds of thousands of dollars to do emergency repairs to the facility on the Nakusp shoreline.

But there is still much to do to secure that emergency job, and Zeleznik’s been working to try to save it for the long term.

And the presented some big ideas to council to make it happen.

Zeleznik said he had secured a commitment from Celgar/Mercer for a donation of six bundles of dry logs to act as a breakwater, which would add another 300 feet of protection on the west side of the dock. The job would be done with help from Interfor’s tugboat, and other corporate donations for bundling and anchoring the logs.

The Selkirk Marine Society also has a $72,000 contingency fund the Village can use to help offset costs.

But Zeleznik wants to go further.

Calling it an excuse in “thinking outside the box,” he pointed to a 9.5-acre parcel of land just south of the marina the Village owns. Zeleznik says that with some strategic partnering and vision, the site could be turned into a massive marina and wildlife sanctuary.

He suggested they could build up a waterfront-level island that’s just off the shore, which would add hundreds of feet of slips for boaters, and create a real marina asset. The waterfront trail could be extended to the area as well. All could be done with the use of grants and public-private partnerships, he figures.

“The above presentation is just a vision only that could possibly become a reality without the box thinking on part of the community and area...” he wrote in a report. “[I am] suggesting council and staff to look into the proposal together to see the possibilities that would benefit the community and area.”

Council received Zeleznik’s request and asked the staff to look into the breakwater idea and report back to council “identifying resources and logistics required to proceed with this project.”

High springs reopen

The Nakusp Hot Springs reopened to Interior Health residents on May 26, and will be open to people from other areas after June 15, in accordance with provincial health orders. The facility closed on April 25 for regular maintenance, but remained closed for a month, until May 25, to support the provincial “circuit breaker” called by Dr. Bonnie Henry.

That hit the facility’s revenues. In 2019 (the last time it was open for the full month of April) it made $47,910; this year, it made $41,541. It also had just one-third the number of booked campsites.

While much of the tourist season will depend on COVID numbers staying down, Noel Ballard, the hot springs manager, told council they were expecting a busy summer.

Selkirk College update

Vincent Barletta, Selkirk College campus manager and community education coordinator in Nakusp and Kaslo, let council know what’s new for the fall: increasing availability of first aid training, return of mental health first aid training, digital skills training, and Learning in Retirement. Barletta is also seeking funding for additional training programs to support the forestry industry. A new pilot project for students of high school age who have struggled in traditional learning environments may expand in future, he reported.

Interfor presentation highlights

A new planer is coming to Interfor’s Castlebay facility this year, enabling the production of higher value products from the local forest. Interfor currently employs 310 people, three of whom were hired into Nakusp in the last six months, plus 350 contractors. More than 200 of those contractors are from Nakusp.

Locals grapple NACF on wildfire risk reduction plan

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp community forest company representatives spent the better part of two hours at a recent open house trying to convince residents the plan won’t upset or destroy a neighbourhood water supply and shutter low profit.

The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACF) met on May 26 was dominated by concerns about a proposed wildfire risk reduction program on Box Mountain.

“Now to be clear, I am not suggesting we dive head first into another massive festival,” said Zeleznik. “I believe there is a much more sustainable approach to live music and events in our town that could and would be easier to keep a handle on for the future.”

Having small events regularly throughout the summer would likely be more palatable to maintain a volunteer pool for such events, and in supporting local businesses, too.

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As a companion to the website, CFCK also started the Facebook group ‘Kootenay Shipping’, where local business owners can talk about their shipping needs and find opportunities to support each other. For example, if a business in Kaslo is making weekly deliveries to West Kootenay communities and driving back an empty truck, they could potentially connect with other businesses and take their goods to Kootenay. To learn more about business shipping options in the Kootenay, visit KootenayShipping.com and to talk with shipping with other small business owners, go to Facebook.com/Groups/KootenayShipping.
Silverton’s mayoral candidates on top priorities

The two candidates for Silverton mayor were asked what they perceive as the top priorities.

People shouldn’t have to complain about sidewalks and trees. They should be checked regularly. Another priority for me is a slide in the playground. I asked about it at a council meeting, and the mayor at the time said the CAO at the time had been in charge of the project, and that council was looking into it. I haven’t heard about it since. There are many little kids who use the playground in Silverton and I’d like to see them playing on a slide. My vision is to have a small slide and a large slide installed at the playground.

A third priority for me is honesty. When people complain, the Village should take it seriously, and should not tell them it’s being looked into when it’s not. As mayor, I would tell people whether or not we could do what they were asking. I’d be up front and honest with people.

I will do my best to see more openness at council meetings. I’ve been attending council meetings for several years now. The rule that the public can only ask questions about sidewalks and trees. They should be checked regularly.

Another priority for me is affordable housing through several government roles and powers can be implemented. That report was the needs identified within the report, and lists policy tools that can be followed up on the RDCK’s Housing Initiative reporter John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Regional District of Central Kootenay’s board of directors has decided to pursue some “quick wins” to begin tackling the local housing crisis. The board approved a plan at its May meeting to review its zoning bylaws to incentivize infill housing, support local not-for-profit housing organizations, make vacant or underutilized land available for community housing projects, and take other steps to try to provide more housing in the region.

The action came from a workshop on housing held in April, following up on the RDCK’s Housing Needs Assessment that was released last fall.

“One of my top priorities is the safety of people in Silverton. Repairing sidewalks and foot bridges, and removing danger trees shouldn’t take 15 or 20 years. The sidewalks in Silverton have been deteriorating ever since we came back from Edmonton 12 years ago. There is finally a plan for sidewalks this year, but it has taken too long.”

RDCK workshop

DON BROUGHTON

One of my top priorities is to be an ongoing champion for affordable housing in the region. Properties that languished on the market for several years sold in short order over the past 12 months, often in a bidding war. Slocan, Silverton and New Denver are doing this right. The biggest priority I perceive for Silverton’s new mayor is to lead in a village-wide discussion around development – to consider its benefits and its drawbacks. I know people who live in Silverton are concerned and some don’t, but whatever anyone’s feelings about it, it’s coming, and we need to prepare for it. If we have any control over the outcome, Silverton’s Official Community Plan is overdue for renewal and we need to garner input from everyone to update a vision for Silverton at its ‘Future Best.’

We need to achieve consensus on community values and ensure policies are in place that will uphold those now and in the days to come. Pressure will come from different directions and effects will be felt, so I’d really like to see discussion extend to our lakeside neighbours in Slocan, New Denver, and even to Kaslo.

Another priority for me is a housing authority could look like.”

The planning department has included housing as a project for this year, and discussions are continuing with housing advocacy groups and other interested parties.

In the meantime, they’ll actively pursue the “quick wins” as directed by the board.

This year’s new ‘hot’ real estate market suggests there is a new imperative for local councils. Properties that languished on the market for several years sold in short order over the past 12 months, often in a bidding war. Slocan, Silverton and New Denver are being “discovered.” And there’s a new mega development proposal above Three Forks.

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An existing priority for council is to support new business and home-grown projects such as Silverton’s Lift, and to ensure ‘last-mile’ connection for the upcoming broadband. Broadband internet will support established businesses, and enable at-home work for current residents. It will also attract new businesses, and workers from away who desire to move to a more tranquil lifestyle.

Attracting new residents or businesses helps retain community vitality, however it can produce its own problems, as the recent surge in demand for houses and resulting increase in prices has shown. New development and the cost and availability of accommodation are usually inextricably entwined. Mismatches between local economy, local incomes and lifestyles create social stresses. Rental housing supplies may not be improved by an increase in the value of property, and solutions to the issue of affordable accommodation will require sustained energy from local councils if population growth further.

Finally, climate change is making it necessary to work to protect a safe and secure water supply, and also makes wildfire and disaster preparedness more important than ever. Silverton has already done a creditable job with these but they must continue to be top of mind for council going forward. You can contact me directly at don2021@outlook.com.

When someone raises a concern about a sidewalk being dangerous, a Village should look into it and repair it. Two years or so later, it is brought up again. This time, yellow paint was the solution. Really not a good fix. Yes, they solved the problem. But it’s still a walking sidewalk this year, but broken sidewalks should not be a 15-20-year plan.

When we told the Village that we thought the trees in the campground would fall on us someday, we were told to hold onto them. Then for 10 years they told us the trees were checked on a regular basis in the campground and around town. That was not true.

I asked the council back then to hold a meeting so they could get other people’s thoughts on how they should deal with issues around Silverton, but they would not hold a meeting where people could ask questions.

Everyone in Silverton should be treated the same. No one should have all their business hidden in a camera so it won’t be seen by others.

No one should have to wait 2-8 months for info on a bylaw or proof that they are following it. If you have questions, I would like to hear them. It’s sunny, look under the chestnut tree or in the garden at 116 5th St. or you can call me at 1-778-206-9965. I’ll take your number and call you back.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and please get out and vote.

June 3, 2021 The Valley Voice
The logs are being hauled via the Hartney Forest Service Road, he reported, and log hauling is ongoing until June 9. Logs are being trucked to a few local Kootenay sawmills. Lafleur said local contractors have been hired for the processing, loading and hauling of the logs. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) confirmed that the heli-logging was happening on private land. However, FLNRORD has no regulatory role in private land logging unless the private lot is in an area that has been deemed a “sensitive area.”

The Regional District of Central Kootenay received a few complaints about the logging operation, but they don’t have any jurisdiction over the logging operation, either. “The RDCK bylaw department does not have the authority to “stop or shut down any helicopter or logging activity occurring,” says a statement provided by the local government. “Please be advised that Transport Canada’s federal regulations applicable to the helicopter operating within these areas supersede any local government regulatory bylaw, including the RDCK Noise Control Bylaw Regulations.”

RDCK Area H Director Walter Popoff says RDCK staff contacted the logging companies applicable to the federal and provincial agencies to bring community concerns to their attention. “Staff went above and beyond on this,” Popoff said. “We have no authority to regulate logging, and provincial and federal legislation overrides local government regulations.”

The FLNRORD spokesperson listed the laws applicable to all private landowners in the province: the Water Sustainability Act, Drinking Water Protection Act, Environmental Management Act, Wildlife Act, Wildfire Act, Assessment Act, and the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, Fisheries Act and Species at Risk Act. “The extent to which these might apply would depend on the activities of the land owner,” the minister said.

by Jan McMurray

Helicopter logging on private land below Idaho Peak near New Denver ended last Sunday, May 30 after 10 full days of activity. Log hauling is expected to continue until June 9.

Cooper Creek Cedar, a forestry company based in Salmo, is doing the logging. Dan Lafleur, the harvesting supervisor for the project, provided a very little bit of information by email. He said the harvested area was approximately six hectares in size and consisted largely of Douglas fir and western red cedar.

For more details, please see the Valley Voice, July 8, 2021.
RDCK board, May 20: Building boom prompts quick project turnaround

June 3, 2021 The Valley Voice

A nearly 1,000-page agenda package greeted directors at last month’s Regional District of Central Kootenay meeting. From land-use decisions to a budget of the auditor’s 2020
to reviewing land-use bylaws, there was a lot to discuss. RDCK
decisions about housing and grants are also included as part of the paper: here are some of the other
relevant discussions for Valley Voice readers.

Skyrocketing construction costs are affecting everyone – even the RDCK. The Regional District is wasting no time doing upgrades to the Slocan fire hall to get the job done before it will cost even more.

The work includes the design and construction of an additional 18 x 30’ bay to house rescue apparatus, and to address safety issues regarding insufficient space for equipment storage. The whole project will cost just under $200,000.

To get costs locked down, staff said with board approval they’d issue an RFP for the expansion by the end of May. The contract will be advertised to get the work done by the end of the year. “The expansion will be basic in design, in construction, and in finishing in order to stay on budget,” says a report from staff. “It will either be attached to the building or a separate building, whichever is more cost effective.”

Details on Kaslo River Bridge project provided by MOTI reps

by Jan McMurray

Details on the Kaslo River Bridge replacement project were provided to Kaslo council at the May 25 council meeting. By Mayor of Transportation representatives Robbie Kalabis and Rocky Vanlerberg.

There won’t be long traffic delays, the scheme was designed to be completed by the ministry in 20 minutes, but Kalabis said delays wouldn’t be near that long in this case.

Starting right away, single-lane traffic on the existing bridge was expected for about 14 days while the contractor, BD Hall, started on the new bridge main crossing under the highway.

In about mid-June, a temporary detour bridge will be installed. The detour bridge will be single lane with portable signals in this edition of the report states. Kalabis explained that the signals will be activated by traffic coming to a stop at the stop line, so it’s important that traffic stops right at the stop line for the signals to activate properly. Emergency vehicles will be given priority in an emergency situation whenever possible, the report states. Kalabis said that he would like to see both sides of the river have the same capability to cross the site as quickly as possible.

Access to South Beach will be affected by the project. “Unfortunately, it isn’t possible to allow people to walk through an active construction site whenever they wish, due to safety concerns,” Kalabis said.

The access to South Beach is privately owned property, so Kalabis said people who want to cross the river would have to first make arrangements with the property owners and then with BD Hall to escort them through the site when construction activities allow.

By the end of the project, River Lane will no longer connect to Highway 31, as this is an unsafe condition, Kalabis said. Instead, access to the highway will be closed and a hammerhead turnaround will be constructed at the end of River Lane closest to the highway. A concrete wall will be constructed between the highway and the hammerhead turnaround. Before the wall can be built, the Village’s watermain needs to be relocated to the north bank and suitably accessed for future maintenance.

Kalabis said the project is in line with the ministry’s Active Transportation initiative, which provides better accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists. “People will definitely feel safer crossing this bridge by whichever means they prefer once construction is complete,” he said.

For more information, contact Robbie Kalabis, regional project manager at robbie.kalabis@gov.bc.ca or 778-671-9286.
The Studio Connexion Gallery in Nakusp launches its sophomore event of the 2021 season this week with the magnificent, engaging works of Calgary artist Janet B. Armstrong. Armstrong has been painting for more than 35 years in studio and ‘en plein air,’ or on location in nature. Landscapes, animals and vintage scenes are some of her favourites. She works with oils on surfaces large and small. Some of her works have been seen in various publications including Arabella magazine.

Calgary artist’s works on display at Studio Connexion in Nakusp

Submitted

Fay Irene Mys October 24, 1942 – May 22, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Fay Irene Mys (Kunce). Fay passed peacefully into the arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ on Saturday, May 22, 2021. She is no longer in pain and is rejoicing and dancing in the presence of her Lord.

Fay was born October 24, 1942 to Hal & Pauline Kunce in High Prairie, Alberta, the oldest of 5 children and was raised in White Rock, BC. Fay moved to the interior in 1966. Fay put herself through nursing school while raising her 4 children. She worked at Kelowna General Hospital and Vernon Jubilee hospital as well as caring for autistic children at home and worked as a midwife during her years in Cherryville. Fay married Mike Mys in the summer of 1980. Pappy for Jesus with everyone she knew. Fay was very creative and well known in the Nakusp/Fauquier area and small. Some of her works have included

Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary’s Pavilion Garden Committee presents

A Silent Art Auction

At The Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver at 112 Slocan Avenue

June 22nd to June 27th from 10 am until 3 pm each day

Bids will be accepted until June 27th at noon

Beautiful pieces by Les Weisbrich, Anita Duminis, Denyse Marshall, Jesse Schapowski & many more

All proceeds to the preservation of the gardens

For more info, contact gallerist Anne Béliveau at 250-265-8888, or visit studioconnexiongallery.com or the Facebook page.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $5-$50

Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 150
This year's theme at the Whole School is interconnectedness. The students expressed what this meant to them by creating these tiled mosaics as part of their art class. The tiles were glued into the students' personal design then each piece was grouted and prepared for hanging before they were sent home.

The Kaslo May Days parade on Monday, May 24 wound through many streets in lower and upper Kaslo, lasting almost an hour. The pouring rain did not stop residents from watching from street corners. The tradition of soaking the grads with water balloons, etc., was adhered to, and the grads had an even wetter experience than usual!

PHOTO CREDIT: FOREVER NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

This year’s May Days parade in New Denver on Sunday, May 23 was small and energetic. The fire trucks led the way, and the rear was brought up by Kathy Hartman and Leah Main (and Fennec the dog) in a garishly decorated Karmann Ghia. When asked about the celebration, Rhonda Bouillet from the May Days Committee said they just felt they needed to do it for continuity, even though they knew it would be small. “This is 114 years of May Days parades,” she said. “We really didn’t want to break the chain.”

PHOTO CREDIT: MOE LYONS

Nakusp Tirecraft is now TRAIL TIRE!

Same People, Same Great Service!

AUTOMOTIVE • COMMERCIAL • LOGGING • INDUSTRIAL

720 10th Ave NW Nakusp BC
250-265-4438
The Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP) is a wildfire planning initiative that is being delivered by SIFCo on behalf of the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver. The first year of the program was focused on developing a comprehensive long-term planning strategy to create more fire resilient communities in the Slocan Valley, with the following years focused on the implementation of that strategy.

The program focuses on the following aspects; education and outreach, emergency and landscape planning, cross-training, interagency cooperation, and vegetation and fuel management.

What does a wildfire resilient community look like?

Wildfire resiliency means the necessary planning and preparedness measures have been implemented by involves agencies and municipalities to ensure the community is prepared and has a plan for before, during, and after a wildfire event. The residents of the community are informed and have taken measures to prepare themselves and their homes to better withstand a wildfire event. Landscape-level planning has been implemented in the wildland-urban interface around communities to create fuel breaks to slow the movement of fire during a wildfire event.

How the SVWRP is preparing the Slocan Valley for wildfire?

The SVWRP is preparing for wildfire through the implementation of a strategy that incorporates; landscape level and emergency planning, education and outreach, interagency cooperation, local fire departments, fuel management, and support services for private landowners. This multifaceted strategy includes many different aspects that include working with local fire departments to evaluate training and protection capacity for wildfire, working with involved agencies to ensure preparedness and coordination during a wildfire event, vegetation management to reduce fuel loads around communities, and community education and engagement through open house presentations, social media posts and resource sharing online to reduce wildfire risk.

To find out more about the components of the program please visit our website @ www.sifco.ca/fire
SIFCo’s continued work in reducing wildfire risk in the Slocan Valley

To mitigate and prepare for wildfire SIFCo has been implementing a Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan for the Slocan Valley for the past 12 years, during this time over 4.5 million dollars have been invested and close to 950 hectares of land have been treated in the Slocan Valley. The purpose of this work is to reduce fuel loads in key areas identified as major wildfire corridors to reduce the wildfire risk in these areas and to slow the movement of fire during a wildfire event. The plan utilizes five different treatment types, including the thinning of second-growth trees to reduce fuel loads and latter fuels, and the re-introduction of prescribed burns in historically fire-maintained ecosystems.

How can you reduce the wildfire risk on your property?

1. Get Informed
   Access tips, video’s, a self home assessment form and resources on how to make your property FireSmart and how to reduce your wildfire risk, go to www.firesmartbc.ca
   To learn more about the SVWRP and to check out news updates, homeowner resources and to view our educational film on preparing your home for wildfire ‘Living with fire’ visit: www.sifco.ca/fire

2. Get a free FireSmart Home Assessment
   Get a free FireSmart Home Assessment to address the specific wildfire risks on your property and a detailed wildfire mitigation plan for your property. If you are located within Village boundaries contact SIFCo @ 250 226-7012 or wildfire@sifco.ca to schedule an assessment.

3. Take action!
   Mitigate the wildfire risks present on your property identified in your home assessment. For homeowner resources and a list of local contractors go to www.sifco.ca/homeowners.
   Spread the word, talk to your friends and neighbors about how they can protect their homes, and get involved.
   Want to do more? get your neighborhood involved in FireSmart Canada’s Neighborhood Recognition Program. To find out more contact SIFCo @ 226-7012 or wildfire@sifco.ca
Tiny clam may play big role in protecting wetland

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Slocan Valley conservation group says the discovery of a rare, tiny species of clam may help aid efforts to protect a valuable wetland in the north Slocan Valley.

“It’s a key indicator of the health of our watershed,” says Wendy Herrington, president of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) and the lead on the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor study.

Researchers working for SLSS stumbled across the tiny Herrington’s fingernail clam in April while guiding visitors on a tour of the wetland area around Summit Lake, between Hills and Nakusp.

“Our chief biologist, or ecologist, Ryan Durand was just walking along, and he’s our Species at Risk expert. He saw this little clam and picked it up and recorded his discovery,” says King.

The Herrington’s fingernail clam is the size of a child’s fingernail. At less than eight millimetres (about 1/3 of an inch), the clam is blue-listed, meaning it is thought to be vulnerable in its locale.

“It’s typically found in more coastal areas, and the registry has only recorded nine occurrences in BC,” says King. “So it’s either not really discovered, or there hasn’t been a lot of confirmation.”

(There have recently been other sightings of the clam, further south in the valley, so it may be more widely distributed in BC than realized.)

The clam has a fascinating life, thriving in temporary creeks and ponds created by spring runoff. As summer dries the land, the clams bury themselves in the wet sub-soil, awaiting the next freshet.

The clam isn’t the only rare species found in the Bonanza Corridor. King says in the last three years of their survey, assessment, and restoration work, they’ve confirmed at least one ‘red-listed’ species, 8 other blue-listed ones, and 400 yellow-listed species, from lichen to invertebrates to mammals.

The discoveries haven’t been made by luck alone. SLSS has been working on trying to restore habitat, improve the water flow and identify areas of particular need of protection.

But the tiny clam may help the stewardship society to convince governments to create further protections for the corridor. The society’s project ends this year, and a report will be drawn up this fall. Then work begins with the provincial, local and aboriginal governments and the local community to try to come up with a strategy and protective framework for the wetlands.

King feels the discovery of the clam should also redouble efforts to protect the area from invasive species being carried into the corridor, which is popular for recreational boaters, fishers, hikers and bikers.

“It’s really important we understand aquatic invasives could upset this balance extremely quickly, and that’s why we have to be even more alert about even kayaks going into those waters,” she says.

“We’re in a pristine environment and the water quality is really good because of the filtering in the Bonanza Corridor. It’s the highest concentration of wetlands in the Slocan watershed. They are our big filter.”

This little clam, even though you’d likely overlook it if you were just walking by, may help shelter other creatures in the corridor – rare or not.

“Right now, the environmental and conservation community is in a state of flux, because we’re starting to see we need to represent not just one species, but have a suite of species, because they all represent something about the health of that watershed or that drainage,” says King.

Lois “Joelene” Curr (Gorrell)
February 1942 – June 2020

On this, the 1st anniversary of your passing, you live on in our hearts and our minds.

 Wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, nurse, mentor, friend.

“If I had my life to live over, I’d dare to make more mistakes, relax, be sillier than I have been this trip, take more chances, eat more ice cream and less beans, ride more merry-go-rounds, and pick more daisies.”

How I want to be remembered?

“What you see is what you get. I would remember you the same way.”

“Laugh and the world laughs with you, sing and the hills will answer, be glad and your friends are many, succeed and give as it helps you live.”

Thanks for the memories.

Appreciate each other, Celebrate Gratitude

Smile, Laugh and Say Thank You!

The blue-listed Herrington’s fingernail clam was recently discovered in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor in the north Slocan Valley.
Organizers cancel Hills Garlic Festival for 2021

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Hills Garlic Festival will not be taking place this summer.

“This decision was made with the best interests of our small community in mind,” says a notice on the festival website. “We look forward to welcoming vendors, patrons, and volunteers in 2022.”

The Hills Recreation Society’s board of directors chose to cancel the popular annual event in New Denver despite the easing of COVID-related restrictions on gatherings and events, says Ellen Kinsel, treasurer.

“The directors anguished over the decision,” she says. “But we had a course of action we decided to take in the winter… the directors decided that May would be our ‘drop-dead’ decision point, because already in terms of in the province overall, April 30 was the deadline for…”

While Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry indicated earlier in May that the Pacific National Exhibition would not be allowed to take place this year, Kinsel said she knew the course of action they had to take.

Heather Hall, the other groups the Recreation Society supports are out of luck for a second year.

“Nobody was ranting and raving,” she chuckles. “They all said they looked forward to being back in 2022. So we’re very much hoping we’ll be able to do this.”

Even if they had decided to go ahead, it would have been a very limited event, she says, with strict limits to the number of vendors and tickets sold to visitors.

“In addition to ticketing, we were not going to have food or music, because those are two things that keep people on site,” says Kinsel. “We wanted to have a system where people would come, move in a flow past the vendors and do their shopping, and not have things that encourage them to stay.”

Which sort of defeats the purpose of a community festival, she acknowledges.

“We feel very committed to our vendors and we know many of them are struggling, and we were hoping we could provide them with a marketplace, but it’s not going to happen.”

The festival was cancelled in 2020 as well, when the first wave of the pandemic was well underway.

The festival is an important revenue generator for the tiny Hills Recreation Society, raising up to $15,000 annually to fund youth recreation and other community activities throughout the year. They managed to hang in last year with reserves they had in store, says Kinsel, and help from the Slocan Valley Legacy Society and RDCK Area H Director Walter Popoff.

While Popoff’s grant will keep the lights on in the Hills Community Hall, the other groups the Recreation Society supports are out of luck for a second year.

“We feel really badly that we are not going to be able to contribute to other organizations again this year,” she says. “That’s a great loss, we feel, but there’s not much we can do about it.”

Using other funding sources, the society has managed to continue to support the community and its vendors by visiting the festival website vendors page (www.hillsgarlicfest.ca) and making purchases from its member vendors directly.

Kinsel says the festival board will meet next December to start planning the next festival – depending, of course, on where the virus is taking the world by then.

Kaslo Power Equipment opens in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

What happens when an entrepreneur meets a power equipment repairman on the street in Kaslo?

They open up Kaslo Power Equipment – a parts and repair service for chainsaws, lawn mowers, trimmers, snow blowers, generators, ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes and more.

Larry Chambers, entrepreneur, was walking down the road near his house on Arena Avenue when he bumped into an experienced power equipment repairman. “I knew there was a need for this in town, so I rolled up in my mind,” he says.

He has lived in Smithers and 100 Mile House. He went to Kaslo for a couple months of months,” Chambers said. “That’s how it got started.”

It certainly seems like a good match. Chambers has a shop on his property at 602 Arena Avenue, and the repairman has all the tools and equipment he needs to do the job.

“We have a good working relationship and we’re slowly drumming up business,” Chambers commented.

The repairman has 40 years’ experience, and specializes in Stihl and Husqvarna chainsaws, Chambers says. He is fairly new to Kaslo and has lived in Smithers and 100 Mile House.

Chambers moved to Kaslo with his wife, Lora Bourassa, four years ago. They have recently opened Driftwood Arts and Crafts in the old Pennywise space downtown. Chambers has owned several businesses since he was in his 20s, he says.

“To make an appointment at Kaslo Power Equipment, you can call 250-353-3041 or drop by. ‘We have very friendly customer service,’” said Chambers.
Funding jeopardized for program that helps cannabis growers get legal

by Jan McMurray

Hundreds of marijuana growers in the Kootenays have benefited from the Cannabis Business Initiative Transition program of Community Futures Central Kootenay, but the funding for the program may dry up when the two-year contract with the Province comes to an end on July 9.

“We were hoping for an extension given the success of the project, but we were recently informed that COVID recovery priorities for the funding pool would likely take priority,” said Paul Kelly, manager of the initiative.

Kelly explained that Community Futures applied for Labour Market Project funding from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction in 2019. The application was successful, and the Cannabis Business Transition Initiative was launched in July 2019 with $675,000 from the provincial government. The proposal had support from the local MLA (Michelle Mungall) and key government officials, Kelly said. “We could all see that the impact of legalization could be a blessing or a curse for our 2,500 or so local producers – approximately 3,700 jobs – in the Regional District of Central Kootenay,” Kelly says.

“We saw how critical small business start-up support would be to the successful economic transition of the industry – which would all depend on how many growers were able to create a viable niche for themselves in the legal market before ramp-up of social cannabis and illicit production.”

The program has provided guidance to hundreds of growers and has had 55 individual clients. Kelly reports. Eleven of those are now licenced, with another five outdoor micro cultivation licences expected soon. “Most of our clients are micro cultivation businesses,”

In addition to business and licencing and operations support, Community Futures has issued $1.7 million in construction and operating loans to seven businesses in the sector.

Kelly says Community Futures Central Kootenay is working with the Province on funding solutions, and has approached the federal government. “We are not sure at this juncture whether either pitch will catch, but we have our fingers crossed,” he said. “We would love to hear from other funders who are keen to see the transition of our cannabis community under the new legal regime.”

For long-term growth in the sector, Kelly says project partners who can step in for three to five years would be ideal.

Although a fee for service model is an option, it would create another financial barrier to entering the legal route, Kelly said. “If our Kootenay growers are going to play the legal game, they need to save every penny for efficient, compliant facility construction to be viable and competitive.”

He says it’s a critical time for Kootenay cannabis growers to move toward licensing. “Police are starting to crack down on illegal growing and selling, and the price difference between legal and illicit cannabis has narrowed significantly.”

“Illicit cannabis sales provided the economic diversity that propped up our local economy and allowed us to seize this opportunity to maximize its contribution now that weed is legal, we simply won’t have that buffer in coming decades,” Kelly said.

The local Community Futures office has helped support licencing for over 20% of the micro cultivation facilities, which Kelly says is “pretty impressive start for our small region,” Kelly says. “What would be more impressive is if the majority of 2,500 cultivation sites in our district that are producing right now could transition to the legal market. We could once again become the epicentre of Canadian cannabis production instead of losing this economic crown now that it’s finally legal.”

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC NOTICES

Home Owner Grant Applications

Starting May 1st, 2021 Home Owner Grant (HOG) applications are to be made directly to the Province of BC.

Program eligibility remains unchanged; however, municipalities are NO LONGER accepting applications for the HOG. Learn more & apply: www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or Phone 1-888-355-2700.

Wildlife Attractions

The warmer weather has shown an increase of bear (or other wildlife species) sightings in and around the Village. A reminder for all of us to do our part in keeping wildlife safe by managing the wildlife attractions around our homes. This includes keeping garbage in a secure location before morning collection in accordance with the Village of New Denver Solid Waste Management Bylaw No. 581, 2004.

If you see a bear in your area:

• Go indoors. Stay calm and do not run or taunt the animal.
• Alert your neighbours.
• For more tips on a “wildsafe” yard, and for information on options such as electric fencing, go to www.wildsafebc.ca.
• Report human-wildlife conflicts to the BC Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277.

Sprinkling Regulations

Residents are reminded that Stage 1 sprinkling restrictions in the Village of New Denver are implemented annually. Effective June 1st through September 15th of each year, there shall be no sprinkling between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Open Burning Regulations

Residents are reminded that open burning is prohibited within the Village of New Denver from May 15th to September 30th except for cooking fires contained within a barbeque pit or fire pit having a surface area not greater than four (4) square feet; or within a manufactured gas, coal or electric barbeque. Please note that during periods of extreme fire hazard, campfire bans may be in effect. For more information contact the Village Office.

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

Lemon Creek fuel spill class action suit gets second go-ahead

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The class action lawsuit launched by residents of the Slocan Valley after the 2013 fuel spill in Lemon Creek has been given the go-ahead to go to trial...again.

Judge D.M. Masushara ruled on May 21 the lawsuit could go ahead after changing some of the specifics of the suit to reflect a higher court decision.

The lawsuit stems from the July 2013 spill of 35,000 litres of jet fuel into Lemon Creek by a transport driver making a delivery to a firefighting operation. The spill forced thousands of people up to 40 kilometres downstream in the Slocan Valley to evacuate the area. The spill also killed fish and forced residents to go without drinking water for themselves and livestock for days. Residents who were affected by the spill launched the lawsuit.

Masushara, the chambers judge reviewing the certification, ruled in 2017 the class action could go ahead – the first time such a class action environmental lawsuit had been approved in British Columbia. But the defendants in the case – the helicopter company, fuel-delivery company, truck driver, and provincial government – appealed. The BC Court of Appeal found issue with some of the particulars of the suit, primarily that the class members were not “common issues”, and remitted, or sent the matter back, to Masushara for a re-determination according to the higher court’s judgement.

After implementing the changes outlined by the Court of Appeal, Masushara re-certified the lawsuit as a class proceeding.

“I find that a class proceeding would be highly inefficient for there to be thousands of individual trials each determining the same question of who is at fault for the transgressions, if any, that resulted in the fuel spill,” Masushara wrote. “Now that question is going to be determined in one action, in one court, on behalf of all class members.”

The latest hurdle cleared is a big one, but it is very far from being over. The defendants may appeal this latest decision. Even if they don’t, it may be years before a decision is rendered, and that decision could face its own appeal.

Public to be consulted on possible Burton logging plan

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The chair of the board of education for Arrow Lakes School District 10 says the district will consult with the public before entering into any agreement with a company looking at logging near Burton.

Christine Dixon announced at the board meeting on May 18 that the district had been approached by a logging company with which has forest tenure rights in the Burton area. Part of its tenure includes an area up the mountain slope from Burton Elementary School.

“Stella-Jones has requested that the board of education for School District 10 consider granting them the opportunity to construct a road up the existing Ruby Ridge Road and to further construct a road across school district property in order to access timber that has experienced fire beetle kill and infestation in recent years,” Dixon said, noting the matter was discussed in camera by the board in April. At that meeting, Dixon said, the logging company shared maps of the proposed road construction across SD 10 property and also identified the proposed cutblocks up the mountain in areas to the east above the school as well as proposed cutblocks located to the northeast on slopes above the community of Burton.

“At the time, the board also made a motion that public consultation on the logging plan and proposed road access be sought given the importance of this issue to the public, and relevance to the Burton community,” she said.

Dixon stressed the board has not made a decision on the matter of road access across the Burton School property, and, in order to comply with ministry requirements, will engage in a form of public consultation. In later questioning, Dixon said a date for that consultation had not been set.

“Should anyone wish to provide comment ahead of time, please contact one of your SD 10 trustees,” she concluded.
Five groups join to form new rail trail society

Submitted

Five Slocan Valley non-profit organizations are working together and have formed a new society to partner with Rec Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) to manage the Rosebery-Bonanza-Summit Lake rail trail in the north end of the valley.

The trail hugs the shorelines of Slocan Lake, Bonanza Creek and Summit Lake. At both ends, it connects to already established trails that were also part of the original CPR rail line laid in the 1890s to haul ore from Silvery Slocan mines to Nakusp for shipment south on the Columbia River. The rails and ties were removed in the late 1980s.

Prior to the CPR, in 1889, surveyor George Dawson documented a First Nations foot trail that followed much the same route.

The new society is registered as the Rosebery-Bonanza-Summit (RBS) Trail Alliance with an initial board of directors. They include the co-chairs of the former Rosebery-Summit Lake Trail Steering Committee and representatives of each of the founding organizations: the North Slocan Trails Society, Hills Recreation Society, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club and the Rosebery Parklands Development Society.

The constitution gives the five founding organizations the right to board representation into the future, and up to four more directors can be elected by the membership. Along with managing the rail trail, the purposes cited in the constitution are “to protect and build appreciation for the trail’s ecological biodiversity and Indigenous and historical values, through education and other means,” and “to ensure the rail trail corridor remains in the public domain in perpetuity.”

The new society has been established in preparation for October 31, 2021, the date Rec Sites and Trails BC has set to designate the rail trail a provincially recognized, non-motorized trail. This decision came in January, 2020, after multi-year discussions, environmental impact assessments and other studies that led to agreement between trail user groups.

Each of the founding organizations has been actively involved with the lakeside and/or Bonanza Creek sections of the trail over the years, and several have projects ongoing this year. North Slocan Trails Society will complete work on two bridges over tributaries to Bonanza Creek and a short bypass and bridge over Cadden Creek in Hills. Slocan Lake Stewardship Society will be implementing wetland restorations at the Summit Lake marsh and at the upper Bonanza Creek wetland complex in the fall. Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club will be building a seasonal detour around the same wetland complex, an active beaver area, and, from this detour, eventually will have a marked winter-only route to the club’s base ski area on Highway 6. Construction detours or temporary closures may be in effect from time to time.

Other work happening along the rail trail this year includes Valhalla Foundation for Ecology’s wetland restoration at Smtp Marsh Sanctuary at the north end of Slocan Lake.

Trail conditions are generally good this spring on the rail trail with a few exceptions. Rosebery to Hills has a few muddy spots and rough sections, and there is significant flooding midway along Bonanza Creek north of Hills and along the marsh at the south end of Summit Lake. A rough, flagged detour leads hikers around the Bonanza Creek flooding, but cyclists should consider out-and-back trips from either end of Bonanza Creek and the rail trail’s ecological biodiversity and build appreciation for the local species breed along this section of the rail trail with its diverse habitat.

Walkers should remain in the middle of the trail and not wander off into the shrubbery. If you do see a bird flush from a nest, move along quickly; eggs can get chilled if left exposed for any length of time. Dogs should be kept under control.

In the coming months, as the new RBS Trail Alliance gets established, membership will be available to individuals and non-profit organizations to join in support of operation and maintenance of the trail. Plans are also in progress for a website and a Facebook page.

Restorative Justice program seeks volunteers

Submitted

A program that seeks to heal the community rather than punish first-time offenders is looking for volunteers. Kootenay Restorative Justice has just received $20,750 from the federal government to launch its new regional program, encompassing the RCMP detachments of Nelson, Castlegar, Salmo, Nakusp and New Denver.

This money will be used to hire a coordinator for a full year of expanding the program, training new volunteers and building capacity in the organization. This job will be posted in local job boards and newspapers soon, officials say. The KRI was launched in the area in 2002, but restorative justice principles have been practiced in Canada’s prisons system for the past 40 years. The idea has its roots in ancient Indigenous teachings.

Restorative justice aims to repair what has been broken after a crime occurs, supporters say. This process considers the factors that have contributed to the incident of harm, and seeks to find an understanding between the involved parties to fix what has been damaged. It then implements solutions to restore the “right relationship” and prevent further harm.

Restorative Justice is available to first-time youth offenders and sometimes adult first-time offenders, depending on the crime.

The KRI is looking for a few more volunteers in Salmo, Castlegar, Nakusp and Nelson for its new initiative. If you have a keen interest in restorative justice and preferably a background in social service work, find out more by emailing KRCordinator@kootenayrj.ca
Seeking local contractors

The ground has been broken for the new Nakusp Child Care Centre at Nakusp Elementary, and the general contractor – Arrow Lakes Redi-Mix, Trilar Sprinklers of New Denver, and the Nakusp Home Hardware – Taylor says anyone with skills or services for the project should reach out to the local site manager.

“There have been a number of RFPs that have gone out, and sometimes our locals are coming in at bids that are higher than out-of-towners,” she told the board. “The work is here, but sometimes the price can be a little bit lower for local folks to get it.”

$2 million surplus

Chair Christine Dixon said it best about the district’s finances: “We look pretty rich.”

That’s because the board has more than $1 million in unrestricted funds to spend – and a surplus overall of $3.6 million.

The district’s operational spending is also down, about 9% less than at the same point last year. Obviously this year is not the same as previous years. There’s been a lot of volatility month to month,” said assistant secretary-treasurer Sue Woolf. “Even though our budgets went up, our spending is only about $14,000 more than last year. So that’s where the gap is happening.”

Woolf says she thinks overall the more than $2.5 million surplus is good news, as it “sets us up for any unexpected things that might come up for next year’s budget.” “So nothing to worry about there.”
Wide spot: Moral proximity by Therese DesCamp

I am an avid reader. Unlike my high-minded family and friends, however, I prefer novels to non-fiction. A well-written novel can introduce me to a whole new way of understanding the world, like Richard Powers’ The Overstory. Even the deceptively simple novels of the ethicist Alexander McColl Smith – such as The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series – manage to slip in considerable ethical reflection. Another reason I love novels is that they encourage me to imagine myself into the life of another. I treasure this as an escape. But it’s also a moral exercise, according to the novelist/essayist David James Duncan. He points out that “…the ability to love neighbour as self is beyond the reach of most people. But the attempt to imagine thy neighbour as thyself is the daily work of every literary writer and reader I know.

Film discovery unearths near-forgotten Silverton connection to marine disaster by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Historians say they found a Kootenay connection in the chance discovery of some long-lost film footage of Canada’s worst maritime disaster. Of the two Silverton survivors of the 1914 sinking of the Empress of Ireland, were found in the ancient newsreel footage by Quebec media historians Sébastien Hudon and Louis Bélanger. The film, sold at an auction in 2020, shows images of the arrival of a ship carrying the bodies of several of the disaster’s victims, and the unloading of bodies from the Empress of Ireland to Quebec City.

Filmed by an early pioneer of film news photography, it also contains unique images of one of the disaster’s heroes, Robert Crellin. He’s seen posing in front of Chateau Frontenac with Florence Barbour, the young girl he rescued from the glacial waters of the St. Lawrence River.

Crellin, from Silverton, saved Florence, his neighbour’s young daughter, who was on the boat with her mother and sister. Left an orphan by the sinking, she clung to Crellin in the frigid waters of the St. Lawrence River until they reached a lifeboat. He then proceeded to rescue others. Florence was one of only a handful of children to survive.

The newly unearthed footage testifies to the strong bond between the young orphan and her rescuer.

“Florence went to live with her paternal grandmother in England, much to her dismay,” writes Kootenay historian GREG NESTEROFF. “She wanted Crellin – whom she referred to as her Uncle Bob – to raise her.”

At First in the First World War, Crellin married in England and returned to Silverton, where he lived out his days.

“I don’t know if they ever saw each other again, or remained in touch at all, but she finally returned to visit Silverton in 1964. 20 years after his death, and 50 years after the disaster,” says Nesteroff.

The recently unearthed footage proves that humans can thrive on moral proximity (and that’s what they say we are) – if they don’t like, often with surprising results and frequently without clear resolution other than the growth of their compassion.

I think that poor rural communities (and that’s what they say we are) that can thrive on moral proximity. When I think about this simply because I’ve been reading Alexander McColl Smith. Rather, having knackeder my knee, I find myself heading into surgical repair. One of the reasons I fell in love with this community was that it felt like a place where people were trying hard to sort out how to love” those annoying buffoons, our neighbours.”

One of the reasons I fell in love with this community was that it felt like a place where people were trying hard to sort out how to love “those annoying buffoons, our neighbours.”

I will change the details – we all know a story just like this – but many years ago, someone I knew messed with someone else’s water. It was icy cold on the property line between their homes for years until one neighbour experienced a tragedy – and the other stepped in to help.

In McColl Smith’s books, he often makes reference to moral proximity, a concept implying that we have a responsibility to those in our presence: presence being defined as sharing a family, relationship, community, or simply physical space. This ethical principal causes his characters to ponder their duty to strangers and those they don’t like, often with surprising results and frequently without clear resolution other than the growth of their compassion.

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Fairtrade products worth buying, Nakusp Fair Trade champions say by Oriah Leeson, for the Fair Trade Committee and Nakusak Interact Club

Nakusp became a Fair Trade Town in 2009, thanks to the efforts of students from Nakusp Secondary School. Nakusp was the first Fair Trade community in BC and the fourth in Canada.

Fairtrade is an internationally recognized certification system dedicated to ensuring better prices, decent working conditions, sound environmental practices, and strong business relationships for producers.

“Fairtrade is much more than merely an environmental certification,” says Enrique Calderon, a Fairtrade coffee farmer from Costa Rica. “It is the only and best ethical and social certification that really ensures social, environmental, ethical and economic impact, and therefore human impact.”

Buying Fairtrade-certified products is a way to guarantee that the products we purchase are produced and sold fairly. It ensures that everyone involved in the process of buying and selling an item benefits in the way that they should.

For a business to partner with Fairtrade, they must abide by the principles and use only products that are also Fairtrade-certified. There are ten major principles of Fairtrade. Partners must provide opportunities for disadvantaged producers, be entirely transparent and accountable in their communication, conduct trade fairly and honestly, use mutually fair prices, ensure the absence of forced or child labour, be totally non-discriminatory, ensure positive working conditions, provide capacity building for employees, promote Fairtrade, and act respectfully towards the environment.

Today, there are around 30,000 unique Fairtrade products and over 660,000 certified farmers.

One of the best-known Fairtrade products is coffee. Quality is always assured as Fairtrade farmers spend at least 25% of their Fairtrade premium to enhance their coffee annually. In 2014, Fairtrade coffee won 14 great taste awards. Though it is true that Fairtrade coffee can be slightly more expensive, we must ask ourselves if it’s worth saving a few bucks if we are endorsing unfair labour conditions. Our purchasing choices could change someone’s life.

For more information, visit with www.fairtrade.ca.
by Jan McMurray

Kaslo South Road (Back Road) and Zwicky Road are scheduled for paving, starting July 5, even though many local residents are opposed to the project.

“We are strongly opposed to the proposed plan to pave the Back Road this summer,” said resident Barb Cyr. “We, like many residents on the Back Road, choose to live here because it is just that: a ‘back road’.”

Local citizens’ main concerns are speed, traffic, safety, noise and a lack of consultation. “I am concerned about the safety of my children and pets as well as the increase in traffic and noise,” Cyr said. “This road is well travelled by many people who like to walk on a quiet road and plenty of people ride horses here, too. Right now as we speak, my 10-year-old daughter is riding a horse on the Back Road.”

Carla Aldinger, who grew up on the farm at the south end of the back road, says she is concerned about wildlife. “On our farm, we have a herd of 60 elk and some bear families. If the road is paved, I’m afraid of the consequences of speed combined with wildlife.”

In response to the speeding concern, a Ministry of Transportation spokesperson said residents should contact the RCMP if they believe speeding is occurring. Residents, however, say they rarely see the RCMP in the area. “I don’t believe that this road will be patrolled nearly enough for people speeding,” said Cyr.

Another nearby resident, Bill Wells, points out in his letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and other officials that there was a lot of consultation ahead of the Back Road paving project, but none about this paving project. “Why is that different? There are ~30 people who live along this road from a farm near Balfour Avenue in the Village of Kaslo. The population of the north arm of Kootenay Lake is not a large one. It is possible to actually deal with the people who live here. I believe this is one of those times that consultation is definitely in order,” he wrote.

When asked if there had been any consultation with residents, a Ministry of Transportation spokesperson said the school district and regional district were consulted. The school district supports the project, as it is a school bus route, and the RDCK rural director was notified in detail of the planned improvements. Signs will be posted ahead of the paving job to communicate the plan and ensure residents are aware of the traffic control that will be in place. We remind drivers to obey all signs and traffic control personnel.”

The ministry says paved roads have a number of advantages over gravel roads, such as: “improving safety by making the driving experience more comfortable; supporting the reliability of the highway system in terms of the movement of goods and services; minimizing delay times caused by maintenance activities and generally enhancing tourism and the aesthetics of the area, which helps generate localized economic benefits.”

The road is being resurfaced with a material called reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP). The ministry spokesperson explained that RAP is produced by grinding existing asphalt pavement surfaces and is regularly generated in ministry resurfacing and construction projects. RAP is recognized within the paving industry as a high-value product, and as it is recycled, so there is environmental benefit. The placement and location of this material was carefully considered among all our roads, and Kaslo South Road and Zwicky Road are both ideal candidates for this improvement.

It seems that few local residents would concur. “In addition to significant concerns about speed and safety, I just like living on a dirt road,” said Cyr. “It’s cooler, smells better, feels better and it seems many neighbours agree.”

Kaslo council, May 25: Public dock space to be reserved for day use

Kaslo council at its May 18 meeting approved a motion to approve the signage as presented in the application, but was ruled out of order, as council members agreed to follow the process outlined in the current OCP.

Kaslo council, May 25: Public dock space to be reserved for day use

The council directed staff to order the proposed planning application. The planner in the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure would have to come before council within 60 days, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure would have to make a decision. The council also approved the installation of the temporary signs.

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June 3, 2021
The Valley Voice

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BUD'S PIZZA, KASLO: Award-winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-355-2282.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
WHAT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY to live your dream and own your own business. Become the proud owner of the Valley Voice and a quaint building on 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 or as little as you need. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people! Give us a call at 835-501-1700 for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan. WORK YOUR DREAM 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 are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long as or as little as you need. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people! Give us a call at 835-501-1700 for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST YEAR. To learn if you're eligible you will usually also receive more info in a letter at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakiap@futures.bc.ca.

CARD OF THANKS

TO THE CAREGIVERS LAST WISHES GROUP AGM to be held Thursday June 17 at the Gazebo in Centennial Park at 7 pm. For more info, call 250-358-7991.

THE FRIDAY MARKET opens on June 11 in downtown New Denver. 9:30am to 1pm. This market offers a bounty of local produce, food products, flowers, herbs and handmade artisan wares. Find us on Facebook for weekly vendor updates. Email: nrdfridaymarket@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADS
NOTICE OF AGM FOR KASLO TO SANDON RAILS TO TRAILS SOCIETY (AKA Wagon Road): Thursday June 17, 7pm. This event will be hosted over a live video call. All are welcome, please RSVP. Contact Dustin East, 250-505-8159 for more information and email dustin.east@gmail.com and to receive the livestream link.

FOR SALE
AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes. Kootenay Containers Sales & Rentals, Castlegar. 250-955-3014.

SHADE TREE MASSAGE THERAPY now welcoming new and returning clients for therapeutic and relaxation treatments. Clean, quiet, professional office located in Winlaw. Jessica Coonen RMT 250 226-6887 shadeatemassagedis theory@gmail.com.

MASSAGE

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MEETING HALLS

CENTRAL HALL

LATE WISHES AGM

For information & links, contact descamp@heartsrest.com

פרטונות


NOTICES

Business Classifieds start at $10.00

Call 1-835-501-1700 for details

Bikes, Skis, Snowshoes

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SANDON RAILS TO TRAILS SOCIETY

NOTICE OF AGM is being held this Saturday for an open meeting to elect officers for the next term. This year’s AGM will be held at 2pm on Saturday June 12 at the Blue Heron Centre located at 539 Sander Road. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are not able to attend in person, please attend online via Zoom at the following URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84631710320?pwd=V21Na3lJOWtKbG5MRG9MUGU1T2J6UT09. If you have any questions, concerns or would like to offer commentary at the meeting please contact Taran Neaves at 250-850-5161 or email info@sandonsratrails.com.

DOMESTIC WORKER

Needed for home care in Castlegar. 250-365-3014.

HOME CARE PROVIDERS

Your ad could be here for only $12.00 + GST

WANTED

LIVE-IN CARE PROVIDER(S), for 32-year-old disabled person. Please feel free to private message me for more details about the position. E-mail your resumes to jwheight25@hotmail.com and bab_360_white@hotmail.com. Full-time, part-time and on-call positions available.

THE COFFEE BEAN

105 Main Street, Silverton, BC

250-498-7974

Shimmel E-bee charger lost between Slocan & South Slocan rail trail parking lot on Sunday May 16. If found, please call 250-498-7974.

STEEL TOE JOE’S

Automotive Repair

Joe Shaw

Owner & Journeyman Technician

360-5th Avenue, Silverton, BC

778.454.0180

stjautomotive@gmail.com

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Weekly book study, bi-weekly group discussion, meditations, workshops and retreats.

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 Land use planning requested for our region

by Jan McMurray

A group of local citizens is calling for a modernized land use plan for our region and is requesting an interim moratorium on all proposed commercial and industrial ventures along the New Denver-Kaslo corridor.

A letter to Kaslo and District MLA, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, from the local citizens’ group, The Wild Connection, was included in the agenda packages of recent Kaslo and Silverton council meetings. The letter says that The Wild Connection formed to oppose the Zincton All-Seasons Resort proposal.

The group notes that the 1997 Kootenay Boundary land use plan is outdated.

The Kaslo and Silverton Village councils received the letter for information.
Planning key to managing recreation values in public forests

submitted

Managing recreation resources on public forest land outside of parks is the subject of a special report released by the Forest Practices Board.

The report identified issues and improvements needed and said better planning is key.

“Forest recreation is important in BC, both as a valued part of residents’ lifestyles and for the economic benefits derived from tourism,” said Kevin Kriese, board chair, Forest Practices Board. “Almost 80% of BC’s public forest land outside of parks. These areas provide significant recreation and tourism opportunities, including hiking, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, backcountry skiing and more.”

The board identified three improvements BC can make to better manage its recreation resources:

1. Better information about recreation resources: conduct planning for recreation resources; conduct planning for recreation resources that involves First Nations stakeholders; and set objectives for specific recreation resource values to ensure they are adequately protected from the impacts of forestry activities.

2. Better planning: “The Province has a new program that will begin to modernize land use plans in BC, in partnership with First Nations,” Kriese said. “In addition, the Province has committed to introduce a new forest landscape planning process under the Forest and Range Practices Act. These planning processes are opportunities to better plan for recreation resources.”

3. Better investment opportunity: “A mill at the Harrop-Procter community forest was always a part of the initial proposal for the community forest. It provides local employment, a decrease in our ecological footprint, and adds a real face to the forestry business,” says Rami Rothkop, co-founder of the Harrop-Procter Community Forest.

Susan Mulkey, BCFFA Manager of Communications and Extension and lead author of the report said, “With a steady log supply coming from a community forest, micro mills present a potential opportunity for local jobs. We hope that the report will plant a seed that can grow into a valuable local asset.”

COMMUNITY

Micro sawmills for community forests in BC

The BC Community Forest Association (BCFFA) is announcing the publication of a new guide in partnership with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to assist community forests in assessing the feasibility of operating a micro sawmill.

Air Canada resumes flights to and from Castlegar

Air Canada will return to the West Kootenay Regional Airport with flights to and from Vancouver starting June 28, 2021.

Travellers can now book the Air Canada Express flights, which are operated by Jazz Aviation LP, at aircanada.com on Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoon, with travel on upgraded Dash 8-Q400 aircraft for the first time.

The board wrote this report after receiving many concerns and complaints over the last few years about forest recreation activities and how they are affected by forestry activity.
Harry P.
Perepolkin
Dec. 30, 1938 – May 8, 2021
It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Harry Perepolkin. He is survived by his loving wife Katie of 60 years, daughter Donna, son Ken, grandchildren Selena (Pedro), Katrina (Garry) and great grandchildren Noah and Lorenzo. He is also survived by his sister Olga (George) as well as many nieces and nephews.

Harry was born in New Denver and resided in Hills his entire life. Harry had a strong work ethic. He worked as a faller for most of his life. Harry’s passions were gardening and tending to his meticulously cared for property. He was also an avid hiker and forager of wild mushrooms, huckleberries and suziki. He could often be seen with his fishing line cast in one of the local lakes, reeling in his and Katie’s dinner. His love of fishing was passed on to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Above everything else, his family was most important to him. He was generous, selfless and put everyone before himself. He will be greatly missed by everyone. A private service was held in Nakusp on May 15. A celebration of life will be held once restrictions are lifted.

New Denver Hospice offers Nav-CARE home visit program
by Jan McMurray
New Denver Hospice is now offering Nav-CARE, a program where volunteers visit seniors regularly in their homes with a focus on enhancing their quality of life.

The program has been developed over 10 years through research in rural New Denver Hospice offers Nav-CARE home visit program

Ana Bokstrom, New Denver Hospice administrator, reports that eight local volunteer navigators have been trained, and there will be more trained as the program expands.

“Volunteers are trained to address quality of life concerns, advocate for clients and families, facilitate community connections, promote active engagement, and support virtual navigation,” Bokstrom said.

Bokstrom learned about the program from Erin Thompson of Kalei Hospice in Nelson, which has been piloting the Nav-CARE program.

“Since Nav-CARE was very similar to our long-term palliative companioning program, it was obvious that the community would benefit from it,” Bokstrom said.

New Denver Hospice began the companioning program in the Pavilion to support the residents who could benefit from more social contact. Hospice had decided to expand the program into the community, but then the COVID restrictions were put in place. “That made it even clearer how important it is to support those individuals in the community who are isolated and dealing with chronic or life-limiting illness,” she said.

New Denver Hospice will receive funding for the program for the next eight months to pay for setup and coordination. After that, the organization will be looking for other funding sources.

People interested in receiving support from Nav-CARE volunteers can contact New Denver Hospice: 250-551-6190 or admin@newdenverhospice.ca

CORRECTION:
The image that accompanied the #BuyBasin Festival story in our last edition was provided to us in error. The image was supposed to represent the Slocan Valley’s Raven Roast coffee alternative business, but instead was a photo from a California business.
**Fundraiser to help double transplant patient from Kaslo area**

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

A couple from Meadow Creek north of Kaslo is reaching out to their friends and neighbours for support in receiving life-saving surgery.

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up for Rachel Dugdale and Daniel Fitzgibbon to help pay expenses when Daniel (known as ‘Fritz’ to his friends) goes for a double lung transplant.

“We just don’t have the funds for me not to be working, and to be living in Vancouver,” says Rachel. “The Ministry of Health will help to a certain degree, but we can’t pay for two houses.”

Fitzgibbon’s trouble started with a blood clot in his lungs in 2016. It left him unable to work when the clot spurred an advanced case of cardio-pulmonary obstructive disorder, then emphysema. Large nodes that have developing on his lungs have made the situation even worse. It’s left him breathless and unable to do most normal things around the farm.

“At this point the damage is done, there isn’t the littlest thing I can do,” he says. “I can run around the lawnmower a bit, but after an hour or so, getting back into the house, I have to get right to the oxygen tank.”

The couple got great news in mid-May, when doctors in Vancouver decided Fritz would be a good candidate for a double lung transplant. They’re now awaiting word of a donor organ to arrive in Vancouver. When that happens, things will move quickly.

“We’re ecstatic. It’s both exciting and scary too,” says Fritz. “It’s a major procedure and it has inherent risks.”

“And the transplant surgeons, when you meet them, they give you the worst possible scenarios,” adds Rachel. “So that you’re prepared for it. It’s good news and it’s potentially one of those scary situations.”

But the opportunity for a second shot at living comes at a heavy personal price. Not only does it mean at least three to six months of recovery after surgery, but the couple has to move down to Vancouver during that time to stay close to advanced medical care. Rachel has to provide 24/7 nursing care for her partner in that time too, and few of her expenses are covered.

They say it’s been frustrating getting information on where they’ll be able to stay or what services they’ll be able to access in Vancouver.

“We don’t know what they’re setting up. We don’t have access to the information or anyone there, so we’re not entirely certain what they’ll do for us, or what I’m expected to do… and I don’t think even they know,” says Rachel. “It’s tough relying on the government.”

Rachel, a farmer who grows vegetables and provides a weekly box of fresh produce to about 30 subscribers, is going to be unable to run her business while she’s away. But she says her customers have been amazingly supportive.

“I sent out an email earlier this year that said, ‘I’m starting a garden, but I may have to leave in June,’” she recalls. “Almost every one of them sent the full payment anyway and said ‘here’s our money, we’ll take the vegetables as you can supply.’”

So far, $8,930 has been raised of the $50,000 goal in just a few days. The couple says they’re deeply grateful for the support they’re receiving.

“So a lot of the names of the donors I recognize,” says Rachel. “And I think I know they struggle too. It’s really hard to accept money from people I know are in exactly the same boat I’m in. But I don’t know what else to do. Here we are.”

Right now it’s a waiting game – the double lung transplant could take place anytime in the next few months. If you would like to support the couple, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-fritz-his-number-has-been-called.

The couple say if you can’t help them directly, they would appreciate people registering to be an organ donor. It’s easy to do online.

“There’s only one thing we can do to pay this back, and that’s to spread the word about the transplant donor registry,” says Fritz. “It’s such a simple thing in British Columbia, and has a very high donor level, but for a guy like me with a rare blood type, that could be quite a wait.

“So please register.”

**Second dose vaccine clinics coming soon**

**by Jan McMurray**

Interior Health is rolling out second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and ‘whole community’ clinics will once again be coming to our small communities. People 12 and older will be eligible to get the second dose at the clinics.

Clinic dates for second doses in rural and remote communities will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information, visit https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news-taking-a-community-approach/
Azaleas and rhododendrons in the Kohan Reflection Garden have just burst into bloom. Once the azalea buds open, Slocan Lake Garden Society volunteers take down the deer fencing, let the shrubs out of their cages (so to speak), and allow visitors to experience the fragrance and beauty of the clusters of gold, pink and orange blossoms. This is your chance to get a free aromatherapy session as the azalea perfumes are released, filling the garden pathways.

This is the season when the garden shows off the most, with many plants in full spring regalia. For example, on First Avenue, before entering the garden, you will find two bright pink crab apple trees. Look up and you will see clouds of pink blossom on the last two, venerable, flowering cherry trees planted by the Japanese Canadian Women’s Association or Funjinkai, over 60 years ago. There is a highly fragrant Viburnum carlesii or Korean spice bush near the teahouse and, always a favourite, the charming yellow-orange pompons of the Kerria japonica can be sighted behind the red-leaved Japanese maple (Acer palmatum ‘Rubrum’), just as you come through the entrance gate.

Preparing for glorious bloom later in the season, the Itoh peonies, Japanese anemones and ornamental grasses are flourishing in the cool wet weather we typically experience in late spring. Be sure to visit again during the summer to catch these Kohan attractions when they are at their best.

SLGS volunteers and contributions from visitors and the local community have managed and maintained the Kohan Garden ever since the planting of that first Japanese maple by Mrs. Chie Kamegaya in 1989. New members and helping hands are always welcome. Entrance is free, but donations are much appreciated. For more information, contact SLGS at: slugskohangarden@gmail.com.

Nakusp Wildfire Community Preparedness Day
Free Wood Chipping Event
Sunday June 27th, 9am-4pm
Drop off location: NACFOR yard, 1305 Hotsprings Rd

The chipper will be accepting:
✔ Branches
✔ Tree limbs
✔ Woody vegetation up to 10” diameter.

The chipping day is designed for residential use for property owners in Nakusp and area.
For more info, contact:
250-265-3656
info@nakuspcommunityforest.com

To book a free FireSmart home assessment
www.rdck.ca/firesmart | (250)352-1539

SAFETY TIPS FOR RIVER FUN

With high water just around the corner, the Slocan River Streamkeepers would like to remind and encourage recreationalists to stay safe and have fun this season while out on the river. Sadly, in the past few years there have been several avoidable deaths from boating accidents on the Slocan River.

✔ Be informed on safety basics such as what gear you need and common natural river hazards.
✔ Know before you go. River conditions can change from year to year. Scout out the section you plan to paddle ahead of time. Look for hazards such as submerged snags, logs, and other sub-surface hazards.
✔ Avoid paddling alone. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
✔ Check the weather forecast. Be prepared for it to change.
✔ Wear a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD) and be visible. PFD’s save lives but only when worn, make them mandatory. Wear bright colors- red, yellow, or orange.
✔ Learn to swim well. Cold water can quickly render you hypothermic.
✔ Know basic self-rescue techniques. Take a course or familiarize yourself with the ‘15 Swiftwater Absolutes’. 
✔ Do not drink and boat. Alcohol is among the leading causes for fatal boating accidents.

Safety Risks on the Slocan River

Sweepers: Overhanging obstacles such as limbs and branches

Strainers: Current pulls you into underwater sieve-like obstacles

Unercut banks or rock ledges can trap victim.