Affordable housing projects approved in Kaslo, New Denver, Slocan

by Jan McMurray

Affordable rental housing projects in Kaslo, New Denver and Slocan have been approved under BC Housing’s Community Housing Fund.

“We did it!” said Erika Bird, Kaslo Housing Society president. “There were some tears around the board table when we got the news. The Kaslo Housing Society has been working on this for more than 20 years.”

The society is planning a three-storey, 10-unit wood frame building on Village-owned property behind the Kemball Memorial Centre. There will be two studio apartments, five one-bedrooms, two two-bedrooms and one three-bedroom apartment. Two of the ground floor units will be wheelchair accessible. Three of the units will be rented at market rates, and seven will be rented to low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

“The Village of Kaslo has offered the site to the society at a nominal cost,” Bird said. “Village staff are in the process of consolidating the three 25-foot lots and reviewing the Purchase and Sale Agreement. The rezoning process will start soon.”

The Kaslo Housing Society has been working with New Commons Development (NCD), a non-profit real estate company whose mission is to increase the supply of affordable housing, and to preserve community-controlled housing assets. The company provides up-front funding during the predevelopment stage. Only if the project moves to the development stage does the company earn a development fee, which it shares with its partners.

The New Denver and Area Housing Society has also been working with New Commons Development on its two-storey, 10-unit building, which will be located where the recycling bins are now.

“Energy efficiency is really important to us, too, so we’re planning a minimum Step Code 4 building,” McMurray said.

Cover Architecture out of Nelson has completed conceptual drawings, McMurray explained, so the next step is to get the more detailed plans done for a building permit application. The society expects occupancy sometime in 2023.

According to a press release issued by MLA Katrine Conroy, the Village of Slocan will build eight units for seniors, families and singles. The Valley Voice wasn’t able to contact anyone from the Village of Slocan for further information before our deadline.

The Columbia Basin Trust has...
Local artist’s work melds painting style with her Indigenous heritage

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Studio Connexion’s latest solo show will feature an artist whose work connects to her heritage and her culture, while reaching out to help teach the wider world.

“I’m excited to show people what I represent,” says Delrée Dumont. “My paintings will have some sort of Indigenous teaching. That’s always been my purpose, to teach people about our culture, traditions, and way of life.”

Dumont has had a relatively short career as a full-time artist – she started in 2014, after a career in Alberta’s oil and gas industry – but has had some impressive achievements in that time. She opened her own gallery, has shown in dozens of shows, both solo and in groups, and has marketed her work around the world.

Dumont’s pointillistic style also echoes traditional First Nations beadwork – something she recognized early on.

“I just love the fact that when you look at it from a distance, it looks like beadwork, but when you go up close, it’s ‘oh, it’s paint!’” she says.

Her work has also become more painstaking to do. A small piece can take 50 hours to paint.

“I started with one layer of dots, and that’s effective – it looks great. But now they contain three, four or five layers of dots, and that’s what really creates that depth now,” she says. “And I’m still learning.”

She’s built on that emerging style to connect even further with her Aboriginal heritage – and introduce others to the rich cultural traditions of the Onion Lake Cree Nation she was born into. She uses modern tools like holding online classes, where she uses seven of her paintings as examples of Seven Sacred Teachings. The program is popular with schools and organizations alike.

She’ll be showing a collection of new and older works at Studio Connexion Fine Art Gallery in Nakusp from June 22 to July 10.

The Healthy Community School Lunch Program wishes to thank all those who have been a part of keeping the program strong and growing:

Lucerne School, Reitmeier Logging and Iron Peak Logging for sponsoring Free Soup Days every month, our wonderful cook, Karin Dodds, Sheri Salo for delivering meals each week for our new Seniors’ Meal Program, our volunteers throughout the years, and for funding support – the Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Savings Credit Union and a special thank you to the United Church group who provided seed money years ago that has allowed us to grow!

The Valley Voice June 17, 2021
BC Heritage Awards for Robert Inwood and Peter Jonker

by Jan McMurray

BC Heritage Awards were announced at Heritage BC’s annual conference last month, and two local residents were on the list of recipients.

Robert Inwood from Winlaw was given the Heritage Professional Lifetime Achievement Award, and Peter Jonker from Meadow Creek received the Distinguished Service Award.

Robert Inwood

Nominated by St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo, Inwood is a Design Professional and Heritage Consultant who has been involved in many heritage projects throughout the region, such as St. Andrew’s Church, Kaslo City Hall building, the Langham, the Nakusp Rail Society’s Brouse Creek Station House, the SS Moyie, and the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

In the 1980s, Inwood managed mainstream projects in Nelson, Rossland and Revelstoke through the Heritage Area Revitalization Program. He has also contributed design guidelines for dozens of communities.

“I feel quite honoured to have been selected for this award for my work in the heritage field and would acknowledge that it has been very enjoyable to work with hundreds of individuals and groups over the years who have a passion for preserving and enhancing our province’s historic resources,” Inwood said.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have made a career-long, cumulative impact and contribution to the practice and understanding of heritage.

Peter Jonker

The Lardeau Valley Historical Society nominated Jonker, the society’s president, for the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes long-time volunteers for their significant contributions and leadership in their communities.

For over 20 years, Jonker has played an active role in the preservation of artifacts and stories in the Lardeau Valley. Key projects he has supported in his presidency include the restoration of the Billy Clark Cabin, the Carson Cabin, and the repatriation of the Carson Steam Donkey.

“Of course I feel honoured to be recognized for providing leadership, but our success in nurturing the Lardeau Valley Museum’s development is to be credited to many people and agencies,” said Jonker. “Not only do we have a dedicated and hard-working board of directors, but there are also numerous other community members who willingly volunteer their time and artifacts. And, to be sure, we can achieve not a single element of our mission without funds and other support so generously provided by several organizations. The museum truly is, and should be, an ongoing community engagement project.”

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THANK YOU, PAT & PEGGY!
We’ll miss you
Welcome to the new owner of Mountain Valley Station in Slocan.
Open letter to Premier Horgan

I listened patiently during your Forestry Revitalization speech hoping to hear some positive news to address the ‘old growth’ forest issue. I heard none. You and your government have missed your opportunity to make positive changes in this regard. Instead you have passed the burden to protect ‘old growth forests’ on to those who are willing to sacrifice being arrested. I wish you would reconsider your government’s position on old growth harvesting.

Michael Jones
Kaslo

Reflecting on what really matters

The last issue of the Valley Voice had several articles and letters which shared a theme: ordinary citizens lamenting the loss of something they value in their lives. seatime is a beautiful landscape above New Denver, an unpaved walking path to Skcama Lake, a clean and dependable water supply for a community in Nakusp, wild animal habitat and the old growth forest in BC). These losses come about from the use of finite resources, more speeding in forests on to those who are willing to sacrifice being arrested. I wish you would reconsider your government’s position on old growth harvesting.

Helen Davis
New Denver

Hey experts, leave those kids alone

Who would vaccinate a beautiful, innocent child with an experimental vaccine, not knowing the long-term side effects? Calling these emergency use vaccines safe and to say the benefits outweigh the risks is misleading and dangerous. Vaccine promoters utilize fear and ignorance rather than informed consent in their efforts to increase vaccine uptake. Their goal is compliance, not consent. The US government has awarded more than $4.2 billion for vaccine injuries since 1989. According to Robert F. Kennedy Jr., founder of Children’s Health Defense, this would represent only 1% of those deserving compensation.

It is right to injure or kill innocent people in order to hypothetically save a greater number of people? In the case of COVID, the greater number is the elderly. Is it right to injure or kill innocent people in order to hypothetically save a greater number of people? In the case of COVID, the greater number is the elderly. How many are actually necessary? Probably none, when considering risk over benefits.

By granting immunity to the vaccine industry from liability for any injury caused by their products, we have not only given a licence to injure and kill, but a licence to print money. Why wouldn’t Big Pharma attempt to vaccinate every living person on the planet with as many vaccines as possible? It makes you wonder of the 16 vaccines (soon to be 17) they give BC children, how many are actually necessary? Probably none, when considering risk over benefits.

The cozy relationship of government and vaccine industry has allowed this assault on our children to materialize. Yet we the masses sit with sleepy eyes allowing this crime against humanity to unfold.

“The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who do nothing about it.” (Albert Einstein)

Bill Black
Passmore

Reply to: Koots statues article correction and clarification

Sexual abuse in our physical form that results in sensitivity to exposed skin surfaces may be a symptom of sexual abuse spiritually. The reason I mention this is that in my life, I used to sleep with my eyes closed because I felt something was watching me. I learned later through this spiritual war, I have become increasingly sensitive to having my skin exposed, especially the lower portion of my body. At times, when I am feeling really sensitive, I walk out of the house thinking I am missing a cover for my eyes. And so, the symptoms are real, in that we experience emotionally what has happened to us not only physically, but also spiritually.

To the Koots artist collective: I suggest that until people become fully aware of what is happening to us spiritually, then any sensitivity towards the exposed skin surfaces of the statues should be deemed as a symptom of what is happening to us, because for some people it may be the only symptom they have. The statues also serve as a reminder of what is happening in our forests.

I would also like to commend the Koots collective member who submitted on May 20 the comments regarding Zuta’s comment about the statues since it cleared me in realizing there is indeed a large safety issue that needs to be fully understood before even considering covering them at this time.

For more information regarding this spiritual war, please visit me at the Kaslo Saturday Market.

Tamara Balla
Kaslo

Open letter to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

I am writing to register my opposition to paving the Kaslo South Road. I live adjacent to the ‘Back Road’ and am subject to the noise and dust from traffic on the road. Over the years, traffic has significantly increased, far too many view the road as a quick shortcut into Kaslo that allows for speeding and tossing of cups and cans, along with other ‘blown’ trash. Although not posted, many, particularly those with loud and poorly installed exhaust systems, believe that the 80 km speed limit is the minimum target regardless of the road condition.

Many of the local residents use the road for pedestrian traffic as well as riding horses and bicycles. Children must be hyper alert when walking or riding. And, those of us whose mobility and hearing are diminishing with age who enjoy walking on the Back Road are in jeopardy from careless drivers, as well. Most residences also have dogs who also use the road. At the south end, by the Aiklinger farm, there is a large herd of elk, numerous deer and many bears who also use the road. Another farm along the road allows their cattle to graze and wander the road. The ministry has not fenced the road to protect the animals. This is a residential street, not an alternate highway.

Recycled asphalt is proposed as the new surfacing material, but conversations with MOTT personnel inform that it is not a surface suitable to high traffic volumes and yet the resurfacing will present an attractive speedway.

Dust control, drainage, roadside vegetation control and maintenance costs can all be controlled through means other than paving.

You are trusted practice of not consulting with the local users is particularly egregious and should be modified or best, discontinued. Good communication, consultation and collaboration with the local community goes a long way in resolving top down bottom up conflicts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and hopefully reconsideration of this proposed project.

M.L. Thomson
Kaslo

It’s always about money

Regarding the Old Growth Massacre currently taking place at Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island, I’ve been reading much commentary from well-informed, concerned citizens wanting the BC NDP to put a stop to this senseless floral carnage. Many have called for a change in government. On this sentiment I can certainly concur. Horgan came in on a promise to protect our old growth and has since knelt full-time to his industry masters… like the Liberals before him.
Michael Huber
Peachland

Big boat blues
Incredibly, this title with its unfinished letter has been ‘on my desk’ for well over a year now. So much mud to ‘wade through!’ Ah, if it were only real mud – cool, squishy, known) when a flashbang hit me from years ago boarding a ferry to Nanaimo from a tiny Carmanah Cacique, my college students. “Don’t rock the boat, Daphne!” a student called out in jest because they knew I was a ‘boat rocker.’ I looked down at my feet. Noe, no rocking this boat. And this enduring surprise and metaphor flooded into my mind when I first saw Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix launch their, ‘Holy shit! This is a crazy place near self-destruction. We have to go to Palm Springs every year or be done for. We don’t have a supertanker at the end of our pipe line. (Yuck.)

But this ‘boat’ was/is a supertanker that they are not making money from a timber harvest, they can still claim it to worry, it was early days. If it was to happen, it won’t. I take it he means to maintain a fire mitigation. It is all in the wording that they are not making money from aerial tourism, like a crop duster. "Would heli-tourism is due north of Talbot Creek where the plane came from. The BC Forest Service would have a full public inquiry needs to be held. True North Forestry and was told not to worry, it was early days. If it was early days, why had seven of the eight assessments already been done? Why had no community consultation?

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan was prepared by NAFCOR and funded by the Province’s Strategic Wildfire Protection Initiative, RDCK, Village of Nakusp, NAFCOR and BCB. This program relies on data from Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps found at www2.gov.bc.ca. If you look closely, it seems to rate almost every area, even the middle of a field with no trees in sight, as moderate to high risk. But the most alarming fact is found in the disclaimer. It is intended to provide a strategic level analysis of many different factors that contribute to wildfire threats, but it is not intended to represent absolute, site specific values. The BC Wildfire Service makes no warranties or guarantees either expressed or implied as to the completeness, accuracy or correctness of data, nor accept any liability arising from any incorrect, incomplete or misleading information contained therein.

Our group, Protectors of Box Mountain Watershed, reached out to Suzanne Simard, author and professional forester, professor of forest ecology at UBC and the author of Finding the Mother Tree. Her assessment of Unit 6 stated dominant trees were 150 to 200 years old, of high value ecologically. The understory is predominantly deep moss layer with no underbrush. The forest was written as a document that goes against what the logging companies require to satisfy the government, for fear of losing further employment in forestry. We need to bring in the ecosystem scientists like Suzanne Simard and the wildlife professionals, who have no conflict of interest. I agree with Terry Skalabina of Forest March BC “that licences cut trees down for the fastest and the most profits, not for safety, goodwill, social licence, but $$$ and certainly not to protect communities or the environment.”

NACOR has no legal arrangements, just informal relationships, with the RDCK and Interfor. That the logging of Box Mountain is not for profit, and that at the end of the day, it’s a community forest and if the community does not want this to happen, it won’t. I take it he means the community of Crescent Bay whose members will be directly affected and could face the loss of their drinking water, not the Village of Nakusp.

If NACOR has only informal arrangements with the RDCK and Interfor and is not for this money, I as a stakeholder will hold you to your word. It is at the end of the day, I do not want you to log Box Mountain Watershed.

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Cindy Schroff
Crescent Bay

Response to T. Orlando
In your June 3 letter to the editor, you’ve cited the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has been reporting 3,410 deaths from the COVID-19 vaccine. You’ve helpfully included a link, which I typed into my browser, one of many numbers you quoted indeed check on that link; however, there is a big disclaimer about how to interpret these data.

It’s important to find good sources (VAERS and the CDC are such), but it’s also important to understand what the data means, how it is collected, what the limitations in mind.”

And so, this is just the first paragraph. The rest of the page is dedicated to a detailed explanation about the potential hazards of using this data to draw any meaningful conclusions about vaccine safety. Here is the link again, for anyone who wishes to verify this. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vacinfo/vaers/ask-questions.html, and drawing conclusions about their population trends. I am not saying anything about the Sasquatch, but it’s the same quality of data – preliminary, unverified, biased, anecdotal, inaccurate and in many cases unverifiable.

Your submission closes with “Look at the numbers and look beyond.” I would second that, and respectfully ask you to practice what you preach.

June 17, 2021 The Valley Voice

Valerie Winslow

Worth more standing
Thank you to Francis Swan, project manager at NAFCOR, who told the Nelson Sun that “some logging was always a possibility under the 2018 Forestry Act and Forest Act Amendment Act.” He also states that NACFOR would be sharing all their data means, how it is collected, what the limitations in mind.”

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Y. Hager
Nakusp
The Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Barbara Whyte
Nakusp
It’s the end of the day and I do not want it
In January, I found out that Box Mountain was to be logged. I visited NAFCOR’s website to look at the proposed fuel management map for Unit 6. Wow, this looked to be a commercial harvest map. 50% stem removal, not picking up pine cones and slash. A fire lookout through Watt from True North Forestry and was told not to worry, it was early days. If it was early days, why had seven of the eight assessments already been done? Why had no community consultation?

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Cindy Schroff
Crescent Bay

Daphne Fields
Slocan

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continued from page 4
So, who shall we vote in next to save the province? The Greens? The Conservatives? It could be a case of ‘the grass is always greener on the other side’. But maybe it is the case that whichever incoming party would in fact uphold the best interests of the people and not those of their corporate masters, a Rhinoceros Party would suffice until 2024.

Unfortunately, when the political system is corrupted from the inside, voting in a new party simply starts a fresh cycle of corporate-funded influence peddling. I am not claiming to have the answer. I am simply pointing out a challenge we all are aware of, need to discuss openly and work to rectify.

I used to be employed as a shack inside this corrupt system in the office of a provincial health minister. From that vantage point I watched revolving door of lobbyists visit to grease the government wheels. It was never about health. It was always about money.

Fairy Creek is no different.

The Valley Voice

5
**Krestova water users face big bill for system upgrades**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Water users in the Krestova Improvement District may have to spend nearly $4 million to upgrade their aging and inadequate water system.

“I know there’s a lot of people who are going to take a step back at the cost,” says KID board chair Joe Shaw. “But the thing they need to know is if we don’t do it our way, sooner or later we’ll have to come in and do it their way and it’s going to be twice as much as our proposal.”

A consultant recommended massive upgrades to the water system in a 2020 report looking into what can be done to get the Crescent Valley community’s system up to modern health standards.

“The KID water system is old and in need of significant improvement,” reads the report, “in order to meet current demand and drinking water quality guidelines,” says a report by WSA Engineering in Castlegar for the Improvement District.

“The challenges faced by the KID are many and varied.”

**Outdated system**

Those problems are indeed numerous. Users have been on an Interior Health-mandated “boil water” tag, he says. “But at the end of the day, if the problems aren’t addressed, Shaw says there’s no choice. If the problems persist, the KID may have to decommission them,” the report states.

“The Deputy Inspector of Dikes with the BC Ministry of the Environment has identified these problems as presenting a hazard to public health and has encouraged the KID to develop a plan to decommission them,” the report continues.

The solution is a new underground water source, better water treatment, and improved distribution system, at a rough estimated cost of more than $3.7 million. But that’s a hefty ticket price for just 74 water users on the system – nearly $50,000 each.

But the chair of the Krestova Improvement District says they really have no choice. If the problems aren’t addressed, Shaw says the local health authority may just impose the work on them. “We have a very very serious price tag,” he says. “But at the end of the day, we are pressured so badly by Interior Health that you have to have potable water, water ready to drink out of the tap, or Interior Health will not leave you alone.”

“It you don’t comply with what they want you to do, they could potentially take over and if you’re not doing anything towards getting it done yourself, they could hire someone to do the work at twice that amount. They’ll just impose a tax to pay for it.”

**Phased approach**

So the KID is taking projects in the phases. The first phase is to drill a test well to see if the underground aquifer has the capacity and quality to use as a source for the system. That will cost about $112,000.

Future phases have been chosen for the test well, which will be drilled sometime this summer. The system is also going to continue to meter water use to get a better handle on demand. Phase two, at $2.3 million, has the big ticket items. The test well would be converted to provide city water, and a second well drilled as a back-up. There would be a well pump-house, above-ground storage reservoir, an access road, and replacement and/or extension of water mains to increase service capability. Fire hydrants would be installed along new distribution mains, and the earthen berms would be decommissioned. Trespassing infrastructure would either be abandoned or easements established to allow for KID access and maintenance.

Phase three would see the completion of phase two upgrades mainly for fire service protection.

The KID has published a notice that it intends to drill the test well this summer. If that’s successful, they’ll start planning the next phase of the project. They’ll look for grants to support the project, and will likely hold community consultations to keep water users up to date with what’s happening with their system.

“I just hope people realize we have everyone’s best interest at heart,” says Shaw. “A lot of community members are going to be put off by the price tag. But it’s this or double, when it’s forced on you.”

**Kaslo daycare raising funds and moving ahead with expansion plans**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo’s Periwinkle daycare has launched a fundraising campaign to start work on the expansion of its facility to allow it to provide childcare to more local families.

“It’s ambitious, but sometimes you have to be ambitious,” says Periwinkle daycare manager and lead Early Childhood Educator Heike Kaschnitzi. “We have had a very much hoping to complete this before the end of construction season this year,” she says. The additional space will allow a reconfiguration of the children’s cubby spaces, safety improvements to the 100-year-old building, and new furniture.

**That scaled-down expansion will allow for a little more capacity – 16 or 20 children, instead of the current 12. That will have permits for the project will have been issued. Like many organizations facing pressure from skyrocketing building supply prices, Periwinkle is hoping to get work done now to keep costs down.”

“On our board we are really hoping to keep this going before the end of construction season this year,” she says. The new addition will allow a reconfiguration of the children’s cubby spaces, safety improvements to the 100-year-old building, and new furniture.

**That scaled-down expansion will allow for a little more capacity – 16 or 20 children, instead of the current 12. That will have**

**Slocan Valley business advisor hired**

Karen Kornelsen is the new Slocan Valley Small Business Support Advisor.

This one-year position will help businesses to implement the Slocan Valley Economic Development Partnership’s Small Business Development Program, alongside Economic Development Coordinator Ron LeBlanc.

Karen LeBlanc, on behalf, we will have a greater capacity to support local businesses, particularly in response to the strange new world we find ourselves in,” she says. Karen’s skills, experience, enthusiasm and big heart makes her a natural fit for the role.”

**Beginning this summer, Karen will be reaching out to businesses owners, following up on a recent business survey. She will help match their specific needs with available programs, and lodge a hand when needed.**

There will be more on-ground work done to advance the Shop Slocan Valley campaign, explore business cross-promotions and find more ways to support home-based businesses and professionals. Karen will also manage the website and social media content for the Slocan Valley Economic Development Partnership.

“The Slocan Valley has a vibrant business ecosystem filled with passionate business owners, artists, makers, remote workers, and people living and working off the land,” adds Karen. “I am thrilled and honoured to put my skills to work to assist Slocan Valley communities and businesses in accessing support, connecting them to resources, bridging gaps and making a difference in their livelihoods.”

Karen is the owner of Peak to Moon Creative, a business focused on helping businesses with digital marketing and copywriting. She most recently worked for the Kootenay Association of Science and Technology (KAST) and the Nelson Innovation Centre, supporting and connecting local businesses. She has called the Slocan Valley her community for over 10 years.

The Small Business Support Advisor position is funded by the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior’s Rural Business and Community Recovery Program.

Karen Kornelsen is the new Slocan Valley Small Business Support Advisor.
VISITOR INFORMATION

GOLF COURSES
Kaslo Golf Course - Kaslo
kaslo.org | 250-333-2647

A meticulously groomed 9-hole course, the Kaslo Golf Club offers challenging fairways for golfers of every skill level. Warm up for your round with a game of mini-golf at the Clubhouse. Tee times at the Clubhouse located close to the clubhouse. Bring friends & family out to enjoy the spectacular views from every tee.

Slocan Lake Golf Course - New Denver
www.golfc.com | 250-358-2408

Enjoy a round of golf at the Slocan Lake Golf Club! Open 7 days a week, no tee times required. The course is open April 1 to October 15 (weather permitting) with a practice green available. A full-service clubhouse offers delicious food on a plated menu with valley views. No tee times required. 9-18 holes 0% - 0% Power cart 1-8. 0% 0% 0%

RESTAURANTS & ACCOMMODATIONS
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HaileyHotSprings.com
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HaileyHotSprings.com is open 7 days a week, rain or shine (booking required prior to arrival). For day visits, enjoy the Spa at Hailey, pamper yourself with a massage. The Krafthaler at Hailey is open for dining and provides a breath-taking view of the valley and the mountains. Hailey is located in the heart of the Okanagan Valley.

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LodgeAtArrowLakes.com
The Lodge at Arrow Lakes is the only full service hotel in Nakusp. We have 42 rooms, all air conditioned, with lake and mountain views. We specialize in corporate retreats and summer lake events.

Lodge at Arrow Lakes

The Paddy Shack - Nakusp
250-625-3235

The Paddy Shack, located on Highway 6, Nakusp is open 6 days a week, 11am-8pm. Enjoy our live music and entertainment, view our menu and book our table online now!

Valhalna Inn - New Denver
www.valhalnainn.com | info@valhalnainn.com | 250-358-7228

Valhalna Inn is a nostalgic character inn with a mix of modern touches, fantastic restaurant & licensed outdoor patio, and Dog’s Pub Off The Square. Open 7 days a week. Located on Hwy 6 & Slocan Avenue, Arrow Lakes. Free Wi-Fi.

William Hunter Cabins - Slocan
www.williamhuntercabin.com | 250-358-3467

We are situated between Kaslo, New Denver and the town of Nakusp. Situated on 2 acres of land, 3 cabins and a large 8000 sq ft lodge. Each cabin contains modern amenities, such as a full kitchen, wood stove, and private bathroom. Our 1 bedroom cabin can accommodate up to 4 guests, while our 2 bedroom cabin can accommodate up to 6 guests.

Karibu Park Cottages & Campground - Winlaw
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Karibu Park is a great place to stay while exploring the Kootenay Lake area. Relax and enjoy our peaceful setting located just outside of Winlaw, next to the Trail and Slocan River. A fully equipped, comfortable cottage with a kitchenette and a fully equipped kitchen is available for rent. The cottage is 4 km north of Arrow Lake Road at Hwy 3. 30 km off Hwy 3 at Thompson Lake. 1 bedroom. Sleeps 5-6. $100-150 per night. Drive or take the ferry to Lake Winlaw.

VISITOR INFORMATION CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE
Should motorboats be banned on the Slocan River? This woman says yes

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Slocan Valley woman’s drive to save the Slocan River from motorized boat traffic started one day when she was on the water with her then 14-year-old son.

“He said, ‘Mom, why are people motorboating on this river? That’s not right.’ And I said, ‘well, we should do something about it.’” says Judy McMahon.

That ‘something’ will likely turn out to be a long struggle with regulators to control how people can use the river. McMahon – who has lived in the valley 16 years – worries that with tourism development and population increase, the river could see more people zooming up and down the shallow river in powerful watercraft.

“It’s not the old ‘timers’ that have been going up and down the river for the last 50 years that’s the problem,” the freelance photographer and homeschooling mom says. “It’s what’s coming, and what they don’t see, what could come and has come in small numbers already that’s the problem.

“I think it is unnecessary to have motorboats, especially high-speed boats, going down the Slocan River,” she adds. “I think many people understand the Slocan River is unique – its hard to describe how special it is. It feels like one of the last rivers with clean water, and lush wildlife on it, and that’s the reason for me wanting to do this.”

McMahon has seen it happen before – on the Elk River near Fernie. There, she says, the local fight to keep powered watercraft off a section of that river took 25 years to get a 10 km/ hour restriction on a section of the Columbia River,” she adds. “Over 200 surveys have been completed, she says, and they are almost unanimous in their concern.

Right now, there are no laws prohibiting any kind of motorized craft on the shallow, winding, 60-kilometre Slocan River – come from the local fight to keep powered watercraft off a section of that river.

While it’s infrequent at this time, there are restrictions, and that’s good – that’s the river quiet till now,” she told the Valley Voice. “But in fact there is no designation for non-motorized. However, the Slocan Valley submitted a application for the Legacy Fund during the pandemic, we can be grateful for good feeling stories, and the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society’s research found such a plan.

As the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society (SVCLS) celebrates its 10th anniversary, it also celebrates the growth of the Legacy Fund.

The society distributes the income from the Legacy Fund to support local community needs, activities and projects, thereby enriching and strengthening our resilient, resourceful and vital community and environment.

2021 grant recipients were announced at the AGM. The projects funded this year highlight the importance of outdoor activity in our home place. Grants were awarded for WE Graham Community School’s pollinator garden; the Slocan Park Hall Society’s outdoor ice rink (sponsored by the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society); the Valhalla Hills Nordic. Ski Club and the North Slocan Trail Society’s ski trail maintenance equipment (sponsored by Hills Recreation); Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society’s trail maintenance equipment (sponsored by the Village of Slocan); the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology’s wetland restoration; and the Healthy Community Society’s community events (sponsored by Zion United Church).

Legacy Fund grants can be given to qualified donees – registered charities, municipalities and churches. This year, five grants were awarded to organizations that matched the Legacy Fund’s qualified donees. To show appreciation for their sponsorship, the SVCLS provided grants to assist the sponsoring organizations with the costs of administering the grants.

The Granting Committee also highlighted in 2020 that the SVCLS was the conduit of funds from the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). CFC also provided emergency funding available for grants.

Now we are preparing to welcome one new councillor and one and councilor, so this is a good opportunity to both reflect back and look forward.

The last six months has seen been full of changes and challenges for Silverton council, headed by the resignation of Mayor Jason Clarke in December and the untimely death of Councillor Kerry Gordon in February. Councillor members – Tanya Gordon, Arlene Yoffee and myself – understood that our job was to keep the Village functioning, to continue with work already planned, and to prepare for the year ahead as required by the Community Charter and Local Government Act, all during the ongoing restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Saying their effort was in support of the community, the mayor and councilors worked tirelessly to serve and support our community,

Silverton is on the eve of a new mayor and one councillor, so this is a good opportunity to both reflect back and look forward.

Message from Silverton’s acting mayor by Leah Main

Silverton has been full of changes and challenges for Silverton council, headed by the resignation of Mayor Jason Clarke in December and the untimely death of Councillor Kerry Gordon in February. Silverton council members – Tanya Gordon, Arlene Yoffzel and myself – understood that our job was to keep the Village functioning, to continue with work already planned, and to prepare for the year ahead as required by the Community Charter and Local Government Act, all during the ongoing restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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## Slocan Valley baseball thrives despite pandemic-shortened season

### by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

To riff off an old baseball-born adage, “If you improve it, they will come.” At least, that’s the experience of the Slocan Valley Baseball Association, who spent the last year in pandemic-induced sports suspension working on improvements to their home diamond in Slocan Park.

“Our goal was to reconstruct a grass infield to help reduce the dust and player injuries,” says Barry Morris of the SVBA.

The refurbishment included leveling out the infield, adding an irrigation system, and reclamiation. Seventeen loads of soil, 700 feet of irrigation pipe, 35 sprinkler heads and over 500 volunteer hours, starting last August, brought new life to the diamond.

“We all felt a good start going into the spring of 2021, if the health restrictions eased up enough to allow the ball program to continue,” says the SVBA’s Craig Sapriken. In May the Association was given the green light to carry out a modified practice-and-play routine.

“Through the season, the season has been shortened, we feel so grateful for the response and positive feedback from the parents and community!”

In fact, the league was able to expand from six teams to seven, adding another rookie/minor co-ed team to meet demand. In all, 75 youth aged 5-14 were participating in two T-ball teams, three rookie/minor teams and two major teams, with eight coaches and parent volunteers.

Teams practiced once a week and played ball on Sundays.

“In many ways, this was a trial and error season and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding while working out the bugs,” says Morris. “Thanks especially for the support while doing our best to follow and implement all the Health and Safety Guidelines to ensure the ball program continues.”

## Rosebery neighbourhood gets FireSmart recognition

### by Jan McMurray

The first neighbourhood in the Slocan Valley to receive FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition is Rosebery south.

The refurbishment included leveling out the infield, adding an irrigation system, and reclamiation. Seventeen loads of soil, 700 feet of irrigation pipe, 35 sprinkler heads and over 500 volunteer hours, starting last August, brought new life to the diamond.

“We all felt a good start going into the spring of 2021, if the health restrictions eased up enough to allow the ball program to continue,” said RDCK H Director Walter Popoff at the celebration, noting the involvement of people of all ages in the day’s activities.

Joel Hamilton, wildfire mitigation supervisor at the RDCK, congratulated the neighbourhood for their “huge achievement.”

At least, that’s the experience of the Slocan Valley Baseball Association, who spent the last year in pandemic-induced sports suspension working on improvements to their home diamond in Slocan Park.

“Our goal was to reconstruct a grass infield to help reduce the dust and player injuries,” says Barry Morris of the SVBA.
Neil Muth scholarship awarded to South Slocan student

submitted

Ti Loran from South Slocan will receive the $2,500 Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship to support his studies.

The scholarship was established in 2017 to honour Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust’s President and Chief Executive Officer from 2005 through 2016, who passed away in November 2016. Neil valued and supported perseverance and continuous learning. He encouraged his children, staff and others to be curious, to seek their own path, and to never give up.

The scholarship is awarded by the Muth family, administered by the Trust and made possible by the generous donations of family, friends, local governments and organizations.

A rising basketball star, Ti Loran’s goals are to play professionally, or become a basketball coach or personal trainer after his post-secondary studies. His love of sport and commitment to basketball brought him to kinesiology studies at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, which he hopes will help him make a positive difference in the world.

First off, I’d like to thank all the amazing people in my life that have helped me get as far as I have over the years. I’d also like to thank the family of Neil Muth and Columbia Basin Trust for this amazing opportunity that will help me pursue my passions in post-secondary and beyond,” said Ti. “With this scholarship, I can focus on my schooling and passion to pursue basketball at the post-secondary level, which has been a dream of mine ever since I was young. I have so many things I want to accomplish after high school, and having this scholarship gets me one step closer to achieving those goals, so I am beyond thankful for this opportunity. I can’t wait to see what life after high school has in store for me.”

Three other Columbia Basin students have shown perseverance and triumphed over adversity will also receive the scholarship: Jet Frost from Cremona, Emjai Deschamps from Revelstoke and Robert Tinney from Creston.

“The stories of resilience from these youth in the Basin are truly inspiring and it has been a challenging year to say the least, but we are grateful to be able to support the ambitions and educational journeys of Jet, Ti, Emjai and Robert,” said Cathy Muth, Neil’s wife. “We wish them well in the years ahead and on their career paths.”

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Colleen Deluca, CH, RHT (CNHC) is seeing clients onsite and online via phone. New clients are welcome.

All classes and programs are hosted onsite and online.

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250-353-2211, s:svendas@telus.net

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On summer’s cusp, Kootenay forests are at record dry levels

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Some Kootenay forests are at their driest levels ever recorded for this time of year, and recent cool wet weather has only slightly eased earlier conditions.

A fire forecaster with the Southeast Fire Centre says four months of unusually dry weather have had their effect on the region’s forests, making them tinder-dry.

“It’s anomalously high for this time of year, though later in the summer we’ll see higher values than we are currently experiencing,” says Jesse Ellis.

“The reason this draws our attention now, and we don’t see significant precipitation, you can see it continue on that trend of remaining very high compared to what we have seen in the past.”

Ellis says he relies on an index called the BUI, or Build-Up Index, as a guide to how dry the forests across the region are. The BUI uses measurements of different kinds of forest materials to determine how much fire fuel is available. It’s not the only guide to fire danger, but it is an important one.

“The higher BUI indicates less moisture in the deeper fuels,” Ellis told the Valley Voice. “Right now, most areas are seeing higher-than-average BUI for this time of year. “Before this little shot of showers we got in the last week or so, we had some areas that were breaking records for BUI for that time of year. However, the showers haven’t been heavy.”

So even the recent “Juneuary” rains, as they are commonly called – a series of cool, wet bands of moisture that commonly rain picnics planned this time of year – only marginally brought down the BUI index.

That leaves the forests starting out very dry, at the baking-hot Kootenay summer gears up.

“Most of the long-range computer weather models are showing the beginning of a hot, dry weather pattern kicking off,” he says. “It could be prolonged… that could initiate the beginning of a more summer-type pattern.”

Drier month in a decade

Ellis made the comments with the release of his weather summary for May 2021.

“This is the fourth consecutive month with drier-than-average conditions and it is also the driest May of the last 10 years,” he notes, adding that only seven Pacific frontal waves reached the area during the month – half of normal. And they were fed by a “relatively weak source of moisture.”

“The month’s total precipitation (21.4 mm) was only 30% of normal, and there were only half as many days with measurable precipitation (eight) as is the norm,” he added.

While May was setting records for lack of moisture, Ellis notes no temperature records were broken during the month, and the monthly temperature average was just about normal.

BC releases plan to prepare for climate change, seeks public input

submitted

The Province is taking action to help British Columbia prepare for the impacts of climate change and is seeking public feedback on future work as part of the draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

“People across British Columbia increasingly understand, first-hand, the severe effects of climate change,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

“Most of the long-range weather models forecast this summer with record-breaking heat and wildfire smoke for people across British Columbia,” Heyman said.

The Province has developed the strategy in collaboration with Indigenous peoples through two working groups and through multiple engagements with Indigenous communities and organizations.

Additional input has come from municipalities and regional districts, academics, businesses, non-profits, youth and others.

The draft strategy includes proposed actions to expand cultural and prescribed burning to reduce wildfire risks, support nature-based climate solutions, support pilot projects for water supply and demand management and establish an ocean acidification plan, among others.

The Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy is part of the Province’s CleanBC plan. CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced and sustainable future. It supports government’s commitment to climate action in meeting B.C.’s emission targets and building a cleaner, stronger economy for everyone.

Kasló girl brings new cop to New Denver

by Kathy Hartman

Constable Nicholas Alpaugh, hired in January to work at New Denver’s RCMP detachment, met his wife, Gabrielle while he was posted in Tuktoyaktuk and she was working with the SPCA.

Powerful storm whips across Kootenays

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The powerful storm that blew across the Kootenays Sunday night featured nearly two hours of continuous flashes of sheet lightning, accompanied by hail and heavy rains in areas. About 330 FortisBC customers in Pass Creek lost power for several hours at the height of the storm, but no other major problems were reported.

“A stream of water vapour originating in the subtropics provided the moisture that fueled last night’s ‘thunderstorms,’” said Southeast Fire Centre fire forecaster Jesse Ellis on Monday. “And a small upper trough originating in the subtropics provided the moisture that fueled last night’s storms, providing the seed for the actual thunderstorms.”

But the scientific explanation doesn’t capture the scale and fury of the storm, which lit up the skies every few seconds.

“The hail last night woke me up out of a dead sleep multiple times,” said one man from Pass Creek on Facebook.

“Not looking forward to a couple more days of it,” he wrote.

The alert from Environment Canada for the West Kootenay said that conditions into Tuesday “are favourable for the development of severe thunderstorms that may be capable of producing strong wind gusts, hail and heavy rain.”

After that, the forecast into the weekend is for generally sunny and warm conditions.

I had dogs I needed to send to the SPCA from Tuktoyaktuk, she would help me out — and the rest is history,” Nicholas said.

Gabrielle Alpaugh went to school in Kaslo, and married Nicholas there in 2019. He took Gabrielle’s last name because she has all sisters and no one wanted to see the Alpaugh name die away.

Nicholas and Gabrielle plan to name their first-born son after Nicholas’ father’s last name, Brrame.

Nicholas became a police officer in 2016 and was sent to Parliament Hill, where he did a two-month deployment prior to going to Tuktoyaktuk.

“I became a police officer because I realized when I was in university that I didn’t want to sit behind a desk, and that I enjoyed being out in the community and working with people. I have always liked working with people, so I am hoping to bring my proactive and go-getter attitude to the community to help people, and that is what I am hoping to do here.”

When asked how he ended up in New Denver, Nicholas replied, “I fought for this posting. This is where we want to be. This is a great community, and we are loving getting to know everyone in it. It is nice for us to move back to a small place where everyone knows each other, and people still wave to each other on the street. We don’t want to just live and work here — we want to be part of the community.”

So, if you see a truck with seven large enthusiastic northern dogs heading to Wilson Creek Road for a romp, say “hi” to our new constable, and Little John, Titan, Daisy, Fleur, Harley, Tam, Atlas and Pandora.
Lucerne Graduates of 2021:

Back row - Jared Jennings, Senna Bahalul, Destiny Mengler.
Front row - Stephanie Smith, Mallory Pellerin, Shanna Wilson.
Thank you all for attending the Lucerne 2021 graduation event. I am honoured to have the opportunity to be standing before you today. We are very grateful to be able to have a commencement with guests present during these circumstances. It has been a challenging year, but with support from each other and Lucerne staff members, we have managed to overcome the challenges we faced as individuals but also as a grad class.

B.R. Ambedkar once said: “Unlike a drop of water which loses its identity when it joins the ocean, man does not lose his being in the society in which he lives. Man’s life is independent. He is born not for the development of the society alone, but for the development of his self.”

I have first hand witnessed my fellow classmates develop as individuals and discover their interests. Unfortunately, the students at the beginning of the year cannot be present today. Instead, we are young adults with endless possibilities at our feet. I hope that we won’t lose our identities when we are pursuing our endeavours.

As a class, we are a cocktail of different but unique flavours. If in a different situation, we might not have been friends, but we have one thing in common – where we come from. Growing up in such a quaint town has its negative aspects but it’s truly a blessing. Now as adults, we can choose to stay in such a caring, unified community or move elsewhere.

There are so many new things to experience and as we move forward in life. I am going to miss Jared’s clever comments, Shanna’s few but insightful inputs, Mallory’s strong independent voice, Stephanie’s funny stories, and Senna’s willingness to lend a hand. Thank you, Mr. Lada, for teaching us how to write scholarship essays – hopeful you taught us well – and thank you, Mr. Kipkie, for teaching us not only the Transformations of Trigonometric Functions but also that the human body produces between 0.5 and 1.5 litres of saliva a day.

We are now graduating students and in the near future we will be signing each other’s yearbooks and saying our goodbyes and best wishes to each other and staff. As we end this chapter of our lives, I wish you the best of luck when starting your new chapter. Thank you all, our small and amazing community, for showing your support to the grads! Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021 – be proud of what you’ve accomplished.

Lucerne Awards and Scholarships

Senna Bahalul: Lane Haywood Memorial Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, Columbia Power Corporation Bursary, Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276 Scholarship.

Jared Jennings: Lane Haywood Memorial Bursary, Lucerne Scholarship Society General Scholarship, Columbia Power Corporation Bursary, Destiny Mengler: Columbia Basin Trust Community Youth Service Award, Legion branch 101 Silverton/New Denver Bursary, Slocan Community Health Care Bursary.

Mallory Pellerin: Lane Haywood Memorial Bursary, Legion Branch 101 Silverton/New Denver Bursary.

Stephanie Smith: Lane Haywood Memorial Bursary, MLA Kootenay West Scholarship, Lucerne Scholarship Society General Scholarship.

Shanna Wilson: Edith J Greer Millennium Scholarship, Cinta Batik Arts Scholarship, District/Authority Award Scholarship, Sandy Harris Scholarship, Chie Kamegaya Memorial Scholarship, 2021 Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Bursary, CUPE 2450 Jo-Lee Bursary, Lucerne Teachers’ & Principals Attitude and Achievement Award, Women Celebrating Women in the Arts Scholarship.

Congratulations to our grads of 2021! You are all such wonderful humans - the greater world beyond here is lucky to have the opportunity to meet you as you carry on your journeys. We wish you all the best!

MLA Katrine Conroy, Kootenay West
1-888-755-0556
Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Best Wishes to the 2021 Graduates!

Amy & Staff would like to congratulate the 2021 graduates of Nakusp Secondary School every success as they move forward into a new stage of life.

2021 Graduating Class:
- Chiara Minchin, Bailey Wallace, Melissa Hascarl, Zhara Moody, Emily Watson, Chloe Sylvain
- Middle Row: Matt LaPlante, Julie Faucher, Trinity Dider, Darian Smith, Shaelynn Groslin

Best wishes from Nakusp Esso!

Nakusp Scholarships, bursaries and awards total over $69,000


Shaggyz Haircare

Amy & Staff would like to congratulate the 2021 graduates! Best Wishes!

92 Broadway, Nakusp
Nakusp Valedictorian Speech

by Darian Smith and Isaac Flamand

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, teachers, staff, and all the wonderful people listening. You all have helped us through our journey of our school lives and pushed us to be here today. Without all of you, we wouldn’t be on this stage representing the Grad Class of 2021, and commemorating our time together.

It all started in the year 2016 when we entered the chambers of B.O. and puberty. Grade 6 was a year of change. All of us were anxious, excited, or even terrified. Most of us asked ourselves if we would fit in, or if we were wearing the right clothes to look good or to make a good impression. But never once did I hear about who owned the coolest Pokemon cards. Luckily, as soon as we got there, we were automatically Mr. Gajda’s favourite class. We quickly got along with the other classes in the school from joining sports teams and grape juice connoisseurship.

As the years went on, more memories were made through weekend shenanigans and being close in classes. But the best memories were made on sports trips. I remember singing as loud as we could with the rest of the team even if everyone always had their window down because I would literally cramp my pants the whole way there and back. Sorry guys. On one of our trips we actually got stuck on the pass from Creston, and Renee had to crack a watermelon over her knee for us to eat with our hands, while I climbed into a snowy creek to get us water.

I’m sure Andrea remembers the time she was dealing with one of our players in the hospital and getting mad at us for wearing the wrong uniforms into the hot tub out there. Lots of other memorable things happened on these trips but we’ll save those memories for ourselves.

To the boys who were recruited, remember the battle it took us to go to soccer provincials in grade 9? Yeah me neither, because we got a by-inv for hosting. I know what most of you are thinking and no, not all sports years were easy to make it without the extra push. But there’s some of us seriously wouldn’t have made it without the extra push to get us water. We would like to thank all of the staff for getting us through high school, because some of us seriously wouldn’t have made it without the extra push. But there’s a couple of teachers who were with our class the most.

So a huge thank you to Ms. Sing for always playing a big role in our classes, high school lives, with sports, and just everyday check-ins. You always reminded us how much you cared and wanted to be involved with our class.

Mr. Biss, honestly I’m so sorry for the amount of sass and backtalk you got from our class. You truly have some good self-control, because I would have lost it if I had a class bully as much as in our class to you.

Ms. Wierman, you played such a big role making sure we were kind and smart enough to go out into the big world, and for helping us plan our way into the world. We also greatly appreciated the multiple in-class birthday parties as well. Those were always a hoot.

Mr. Gajda, thank you for not being stuck up and not making high school suck. With you leading the school, we actually got to wear clothes we liked, and be as loud and expressive as we wanted. If you were an un-fun principal, I assure you that you wouldn’t have lasted at this school. Also, thank you for all the hot dog lunch days we had, because I know those were mainly for me.

Lastly, we would like to thank the people who actually us to get us here today. Whether it was waking us up, helping us while we freaked out over homework (sorry dad), wiping our tears, watching us get ready to move out, or paying for all of our grad essentials, you were the ones who were here until the bitter end. We’re sorry for all the family dinners we missed, weekend outings, or being home to say goodnight. But it’s all a part of growing up, so thank you for putting up with us for so long — not that you had a choice anyways. We wouldn’t have been able to plan and add the finishing touches to our grad if it wasn’t for you. You truly appreciate and love all of you.

Graduates – while you’re out there changing the world, never forget where you came from.

Kal Tire

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! We join with the rest of the community in wishing you great success! Check out employment opportunities @ www.kaltire.com/careers

Graduates of 2021 and as you go into next chapters of your life don’t forget to brush and floss!”

-Nakusp Dental
North Slocan Trails Society makes backcountry accessible

by Moe Lyons

You couldn’t meet a more dedicated and enthusiastic bunch of people than North Slocan Trails Society volunteers. This bunch works tirelessly to improve and maintain hiking and biking trails throughout the New Denver area. Frequently inspired by Abi Marsh’s enthusiasm (and decadent desserts), volunteers such as president Mike Koolen, Phil Whitfield, Gerald Wagner, Heather Dewey, Frank Barnes, ‘Cody Rob’ and many others hit the trails with rakes, shovels, chainsaws and assorted tools to make the backcountry available to all and sundry.

Abi rustles people up personally and by Facebook, and lively crews head into the backcountry as soon as it’s possible to get out there. If it weren’t for these folks, slides and blowdowns would make many of the most popular trails almost impassable. “We mostly do maintenance,” says Koolen, but that requires a lot of time and effort. They work under a formal agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

Recently they have been clearing Butter, Spine, Rolling Thunder and the K&S trails. They are also expanding the Butter network to include a trail called ‘Butter Me Up,’ a much-needed uptrack to access the Butter trailhead. Butter Me Up will be an adaptive downhill trail, which, like Spine, will be accessible to athletes with mobility issues. The group is also looking forward to working on the Telegraph Trail once they receive the go-ahead to do so. To find out more about these trails and how to access them, go to https://www.trailforks.com/region/new-denver/.

This work is becoming more and more complicated as more issues need to be taken into consideration. Indigenous, environmental and liability concerns now enter the picture. For example, this June a biologist will be doing an evaluation of the new Butter Trail for the first time. And, as one of the group observed, “If government thinks something is unsafe, they won’t let you do it.” Koolen says they would like to see a much faster process and response to requests to “unlock” the group.

Right now, they are working on clearing the Wakefield Trail, one of the best accesses to Idaho Peak until whence the road is repaired. In October, they fixed up the road access from Silverton, a task well done by Stuart Nelson. They will now work on the trail itself from the bottom up and once the snow melts up high, they will come down from the top. They expect to finish this project by the end of July.

Butter is an old packing trail for miners that has recently become popular as a downhill mountain bike route. Now, however, the group hopes to re-establish it as a hiking route, although one would probably want to be pretty fit to attempt its steep inclines. It takes about five hours to hike to Idaho Peak and back on the Wakefield Trail.

One really exciting aspect of the society’s work is that since 2019, they have been repairing, maintaining and expanding the trail system into the Valhallas. For this, they have an agreement with BC Parks, modelled after the one they have with Rec Sites and Trails BC. Without this agreement, they would not be able to do anything without violating the Parks Act. With it, they not only can do the work but also covered should there be any mishaps while the work is being done. While ideally this work would be funded by government, Whitfield says that is simply not going to happen. While the Parks system has doubled in size, financial resources have not. So it is up to dedicated volunteers such as this group to make it happen. He says they do have wholehearted support from Parks staff and this is very useful to them.

Two people are key to this effort – ‘Cody Rob,’ for whom it is a true passion, and Phil Whitfield, who was the regional park planner in 1983 when Valhalla Park was originally established. The group hopes to re-establish the system set up in 1983, and to work on other access as well. Rob has been lovingly restoring and maintaining these trails for years on his own, and now is working with the team to do even more. He is particularly dedicated to the rugged Wee Sandy Trail, which in the 1980s provided access to Wee Sandy Lake and the mid-valley cabin, known as the Holt cabin or Iron Creek cabin.

Unfortunately, two bridges on the trail have disintegrated. A single windfall log now serves for the lower crossing point, but at the upper crossing, the fast-flowing creek can only be forded during low water. Even for experienced wilderness hikers, this makes access beyond 4.3km practical only from August to October. Rather than try to rebuild the bridges, the area supervisor has asked the group to explore the potential for a south side route which would get people up to the cabin without having to cross the creek at all, eliminating a serious hazard and extending the use season.

“If you can avoid a bridge, it is better to do that,” Whitfield says, because not only is it difficult and costly to install, it is then in constant danger of being destroyed by snow loading or flooding. They are hoping to identify the right route for this.

Aside from Wee Sandy, the group also works on the Nemo Trail. Nemo goes up past the ‘rock castles’ to Gene’s cabin, named after Gene Hird. Hird used to have a trap line there, which he sold to Parks.

Of particular interest to those of us who want to go a bit wild but perhaps are not so vertically inclined, the group is keen to re-establish an old trail that goes from Wee Sandy beach to Sharp Creek, along the lake. This would add considerably to day use of the park and would be literally, as Whitfield says, “a walk in the park.”

Both Koolen and Whitfield point out trail associations across the province are pushing for funding for maintenance. While there have been new funds announced lately, they don’t amount to much when spread out over the province. They acknowledged how fortunate we are to have the Columbia Basin Trust, and they can sometimes call on the private sector to help out. But for the most part, money is scarce. Enthusiasm and commitment, which these folks have in spades, keep the trails clear and the backcountry open. Enjoy.
COMMUNITY

GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL ALTRUISM

Golden-mantled ground squirrels are usually solitary, but will risk their lives with alarm calls to warn kin of predators. After emerging from hibernation, they most often mate March to May, give birth to ± 4–6 kits in May and June. Young emerge from dens around July. Use rock piles for food caches and safe refuge.

by Jan McMurray

The New Denver and Area Housing Society held an event – including two contests – at the Eldorado Square on New Denver’s main street on June 11.

“The art project contest was a great success, with 20 entries,” said Hartman. Prenatal and postpartum support now available in Slocan

by Jan McMurray

A new business offering prenatal and postpartum support has started up in Slocan. Elena Harder, who has doula training in labour support, has recently moved to Slocan and provides both online and in-person consultations, as well as a podcast about health and parenting.

“What I get passionate about is a mother’s mental health,” Harder says. “We’re meant to feel vital and alive and healthy as moms. If mothers are feeling exhausted or overwhelmed or drained or like they can’t do it anymore, learning to ask for help and how to receive it is an important step to take.”

Harder went through seven years of depression after her first child was born. During that time, she went searching for tools to help her “get out of the suicidal mindset and into a place where living was an exciting thing again,” she said. “I tried many things, and my work now is sharing the things that really worked for me.”

Harder offers mental health support as well as nutritional and physical recovery support to women going through pregnancy. She can also help women who are having trouble conceiving, using wholistic and natural, plant-based solutions.

“The nutritional demands of pregnancy can be debilitating,” Harder says. “Good nutrition and rest are so important, and so are community connections. When we have community support, we can really thrive.”

She plans to organize prenatal groups, both online and in person, with guest experts. “It will be an opportunity to talk about things and to build that community support,” she says.

Harder is certified in neurolinguistic programming – “to reframe old stories, to make changes in our habits and behaviors,” she explains. She also offers vaginal steaming, a traditional practice in many cultures around the world, which assists with conception by cleansing and preparing the womb, and can alleviate some symptoms of menstruation, such as cramping.

Harder is originally from Winnipeg, was raised in Calgary, and travelled for 10 years before following “a magical trail” to Slocan. She does consultations in her own home or will come to yours. Visit freebirthsupport.com for more information.

Prenatal and postpartum support now available in Slocan

Elena Harder is offering prenatal and postpartum support in Slocan.

"A huge thank you to the teachers at the school who got the kids excited about this."

Prizes were donated by Silverton Building Supplies and were given to Hector, Charlotte, Alex and Mia in the 5-6 year old category; Austin for “In the Forest” in the 7-8 year old category; Jonah and LBM & Co. (Levi, Bodhin and Moss) in the 9-11 year old category; and Yauko in the adult category. Jasmin was given an honourable mention for her logo creation, presented via Youtube.

“Nearly a lot of people stopped by and showed a lot of interest,” says Hartman. “It was a great day.”

The society has been working on the project for about five years, and has so far received funding from Columbia Basin Trust, BC Rural Dividend, Turner Zion United Church, New Denver Community Pharmacy, Silverton Building Supplies, New Market Foods, Valley Voice, Jesse Oldham Fine Homes, New Commons Development and several individual donors.

by Jan McMurray

The New Denver and Area Housing Society held an event – including two contests – at the Eldorado Square on New Denver’s main street on June 11.
by Moe Lyons

• Acting Mayor Leah Main opened the meeting with the standard territorial acknowledgment, and then said she wanted to make a personal acknowledgment that council was meeting on unceded Sinixt territory. This is the first time that this acknowledgment has been made at a Silverton council meeting.
• Main requested that the Village’s flags, currently at half mast in honour of the 215 children found in a mass grave at the former Kamloops Residential School, remain lowered until National Indigenous Day on June 21. Council approved this motion. Slocan will also be doing this.
• Main told council about an anonymous offering she found at the door to council chambers the day before. “A person who identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin left a pair of shoes to Kamloops, to honour the children who never made it home,” she said.

Main arranged for a friend in Kamloops to retrieve them by mail, with a promise to deliver them to the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc band to ask them to “return them to us to see that the shoes got sent on to Kamloops, to honour the children who never made it home,” she said.

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Valley of the Springs Winery looks forward to easing of travel restrictions

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Officials with BC Parks briefly closed the Halfway Hotsprings earlier this month after the spring runoff damaged the popular facility. The department has called in geo-engineers to determine if the hot springs park and campground remain in jeopardy.

“The recreation officer received a report on Thursday (June 3) from the site operator at Halfway River Hot Springs that a log jam upstream of the site redirected the Halfway River towards the lower bench of the site, including the developed hot springs,” says a report from ministry officials.

“A spurt of this new channel is slowly carving a braided section of the river, directing it towards the lower hot springs site. Halfway Hot Springs is one of the few natural hot springs still accessible to the public in the Nakusp area. It has several natural and handmade pools that are popular with travellers.”

While sitting in the hot pool next to one another, it is picturesque, it also happens to be a bit precarious. During spring freshet, about half a hectare (a little more than one acre) of the site was washed away, and three large cedar trees undermined by the floodwaters fell, but just missed the hot pools. The access trail was also washed away, along with two picnic tables and a couple of the campsites closest to the river.

“While the campsite and are monitoring the river carefully. If the water hits a certain level, the site will be closed, officials say. Meanwhile, the ministry is trying to get a handle on what steps to take next.”

The BC Tourism Resiliency Network was created by the BC Regional Tourism Secretariat as a means of more formally supporting businesses through the pandemic, and through which a team of experts in health and safety, human resources, finance, and strategic planning were enlisted to provide advice and assistance. The other important function of the Network is to ensure that communities are able to, and are comfortable with, welcoming visitors.

Support is delivered through five tourism regions, in this case Kootenay Rockies Tourism. CEO Kathy Cooper says, “The past 16 months have presented significant challenges for tourism operators, like the Scott family who have poured their heart and soul and financial resources into their business. It’s satisfying to see that the Tourism Resiliency Network has played a role and had such a significant impact, and we wish Valley of the Springs and the region continued success.”

For more information about the BC Tourism Resiliency Network, visit https://tourismresiliency.ca/.

For more information about Valley of the Springs Winery, visit https://valleyofthespringswinery.com.

Halfway Hot Springs campground damaged in spring freshet

Nakusp and area have new economic development coordinator

Aidan McLaren-Caux is the new economic development coordinator for Nakusp and area.

McLaren-Caux was a strong candidate among the 42 applicants for the position. His history of hospitality management and entrepreneurship, combined with extensive community involvement – serving on numerous volunteer boards and Village council – offers a bridge between local needs and broader programs and resources. The Nakusp and Area Development Board (NADB) considers Aidan’s local presence key, too. He has lived in Nakusp since 2010, raising a family here, and has a passion for making Nakusp an even better place to live.

Aidan’s work will involve coordinating economic strategy and action with the NADB, filling the business recovery advisor role funded by ET$-BC (see VV May 20, ALN May 13), being a point person for Imagine Kootenay (https://imaginekootenay.com), and other activities. NADB is supporting Aidan in this role with coaching by Mike Stolte of Nelson, a veteran of local community economic development.

This approach will grow local capacity. With McLaren-Caux, NADB can give systematic attention to matching local priorities to resource opportunities, something volunteer board members cannot sustain on their own.

Thanks to funding from five sources, NADB was able to launch this three-quarter time role. Funders include Regional District of Central Kootenay, Village of Nakusp, Imagine Kootenay Capacity Fund, ET$-BC Business Advisory Program and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). Aidan can be reached at nakuspareadevelopment@gmail.com.

I would like to thank everyone who turned out to the Garage Sale for PALS in Bev McClintock’s name. The sale was an astounding success and PALS received 100% of the profits – Mom would have been very proud of her community and very thankful.

Many thanks to Flo, Kathy, Jen, Mark, Joe and Diane – I couldn’t have done it without you all.

Linda & Brent Metcalfe

Secretariat

June 17, 2021

PHOTO CREDIT: JD MAH

Brenda and Jody Scott (centre) and family, Valley of the Springs Winery.
Trish Smillie is the new superintendent of School District 8 (Kootenay Lake), effective August 1.

Currently, Smillie serves as assistant superintendent for School District 73 (Kamloops-Thompson). Smillie has experience in both elementary and secondary school leadership and has served in a senior administrative position in the Yukon. She has prior experience as a district principal, principal and teacher in School District 19 (Revelstoke). She has a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership and two Bachelor degrees, in Education and Recreation Administration.

Smillie plans to build strong and productive relationships with SD 8’s students, parents and guardians, the Lower Kootenay Band, CUPE and all district support staff, the district’s educators, KLITF, principals and vice-principals, the district’s administrative team, and with the board of education.

“I am honoured to be coming to live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the First Nations where School District 8 operates,” said Smillie. “I am committed to helping the board meet all of its goals, including its literacy, numeracy, inclusion and indigenization learning goals, as well as to enhancing equity and focusing on success for all learners in all of the district’s diverse communities.”

The RDCK has mailed out a newsletter to all homes about the draft RRP, and it is available online at www.rdck.ca/rrp.

The draft RRP provides a good overview of what’s in the draft plan, and it includes more detailed information on the idea of a collection service for food scraps and garbage in the electoral areas. To get this information and a link to the survey, visit www.rdck.ca/rrp.

The RDCK wants to make the survey accessible for people who can’t fill it out online. “RDCK residents can give us a call and we will fill out the survey with them over the phone. With COVID, we didn’t want to have to figure out the logistics and safety protocols of distributing and returning paper surveys, so between having the survey online and the phone option, we think we have everyone covered,” says Johnston.

The RDCK’s New Plan is a plan that all BC Regional Districts must prepare and update every ten years. The RDCK calls it a Resource Recovery Plan, because when “waste” products can be used for something else, such as growing food, then they become a “resource.”

“We’ve been working with consultants and a great advisory committee with representation from municipal government, business, and the general public to come up with a plan that we think is progressive but do-able,” said Johnston.

### Upcoming events with WildSafeBC in New Denver, Nakusp and Burton

WildSafeBC is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions and is delivered by the IUC Conservation Foundation in communities across BC. One of the many activities WildSafeBC performs is the delivery of workshops for electric fencing and the proper use of bear spray.

Properly installed and maintained electric fencing is effective to deter bears from fruit trees, chicken coops, and livestock. Bear spray is effective in preventing 90-92% of bear attacks, with preventing injuries 98% of the time, making it the most effective deterrent to keep you safe from attacks by wildlife.

The WildSafeBC program in New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and RDCK Areas H and K has numerous workshops coming up, including electric fencing workshops with Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions in New Denver (June 29, 6:30-8 pm) and Nakusp (August 17, 6:30-8 pm), and a bear spray workshop in Burton (July 4, 2:15-3:30 pm) right after the Burton Farmers Market.

These events require advance registration by e-mailing Cora, the community coordinator, at newdenver@wildsafebc.com.

Cora will also be hosting numerous booths at local businesses, campgrounds and trailheads to discuss management attractant in relation to rats, bears and other wildlife species. Additional workshops on how to avoid food waste will also be hosted throughout the season, which you can find out more about by following our Facebook page at ‘WildSafeBC New Denver – Nakusp.’

Cora is also available to present the WildSafe Rangers program to K-7 students in school and camp settings. For more information about these events and other opportunities for education programs in the New Denver - Nakusp region, contact Cora, at newdenver@wildsafebc.com or 778-987-3652.

Other WildSafeBC activities this season include garbage tagging throughout the summer to note garbage disposal practices in community bylaws within each municipality, and door-to-door campaigns in which informative door hangers will be left at homes.

Please report wildlife in conflict with people or property to the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 at 1-877-952-7277.

Residents can also report sightings of bear, cougar, coyote or wolf in an urban area. These reports are uploaded daily to WildSafeBC’s Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP), available at www.wildsafebc.com/warp.

This program allows the public to see what wildlife has been reported in their neighbourhood and be alerted of new sightings.

WildSafeBC activities are also happening in New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Areas H and K. Please visit www.wildsafebc.com for more information and visit www.rdck.ca/rrp along with www.wildsafebc.com to stay up to date on the WildSafeBC website.

Trish Smillie is the new superintendent of School District 8 (Kootenay Lake), effective August 1.

Bruno Burgermeister

1952 – 2021

It is with profound sadness that I announce that my husband Bruno died very suddenly of cancer.

Bruno was born in Zürich, Switzerland and we were together for 50 years. We settled in Silverton in 1991 and opened the Blue Sky Resort in 1994.

Bruno trained in Switzerland as a graphic artist, and was well known for his photography, his love of music and his enjoyment of a glass of red wine.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous support during this difficult time. And special thanks go the clinic in New Denver, and the nursing staff and doctors in the Nelson Hospital.

Karin Burgermeister

June is the month of the Canada-wide ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge, and the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council is helping to get local parents and children involved. With a ParticipACTION grant, the organization is hosting four fitness classes on Fridays in June. Parents and caregivers can attend the outdoor exercise class for free, and get free childcare at the same time. Here, Charlotte Dills participates in the class in Slocan City, and her son, Oscar, joins in! For more info: svaecac.org or Facebook @VECCAC.
West Koots has ‘ideal’ 2021 freshet so far, forecaster says

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While this year’s spring runoff caused few problems around the West Kootenay, the region could have been much worse if the weather hadn’t co-operated, says a river forecaster.

“I would describe it as an ideal year,” says Jonathan Boyd, a hydrologist with the BC River Forecast Centre. “The snowpack was essentially around normal... and it was actually quite dry, and has continued to be. From a drought and wildfire perspective that might be a concern, but a dry time is ideal for freshet.”

The spring runoff to date has been nothing like 2020, when high water forced several communities in the RDCK to evacuate or to put on standby to evacuate.

“There were a few minor events throughout the region, but thankfully flows were modest this season,” said Chris Johnson, RDCK emergency program manager. “We have not received any reports of widespread flooding, or damage to any structures.

“Barring a significant rain event, it appears that we have made it through freshet 2021.”

Johnson said emergency personnel were watching the freshet carefully as it developed.

“After any significant flood event, there is always concern going into the following year. Not just because it’s top of mind, but also because of the drastic changes that occur during large events. Water courses change, log jams appear or disappear, and banks erode,” he said. “And the following freshet will be the first time these changes are exposed to high flows and the changes are experienced. In many ways, it’s like having new systems.”

While the River Forecast Centre did issue a general high streamflow advisory this year, the concern wasn’t as high as last year.

This year, there was a torrential rainstorm at the end of May that damaged water systems and roads across the area. Some minor damage was also reported near the Halfway Hot Spring near Nakusp (see ‘Halfway Hot Springs campground damaged in spring freshet,’ page 19), and on Highway 31 about 30 kilometres north of Lardeau. The road was closed off for several days.

Hidden Garden Gallery summer about to start

The installation of a vibrant bike stand/sculpture for visitor use is a welcome new addition. It was made possible by a generous donation from the estate of much beloved HGG supporter, Betty Daniels. The installation ensures her community spirit remains strongly linked to the HGG. Thanks to Chris Fox for his dedication to detail and extra time donated to create a practical resource that is also eye catching.

The 2021 season proudly opens with the retrospective show of local resident, Linda Mennie. Her show, Work in Progress, will be featured at the HGG from June 29 to July 4. Linda has been a practising artist for over four decades and has participated in solo and group shows from Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson to Kaslo, Silverton and Nelson to Kaslo. Sydney has been a practising artist for four decades and has participated in solo and group shows from Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson to Kaslo, Silverton and Nelson. Sydney has an undeniable passion to create beautiful things, using many art mediums. This show will exhibit pieces from her Dream Paintings series, with some old and others new. Since 1995, Sydney has created these colorful, intricate mandala paintings. Inspired by bits and pieces of dreams with intertwined themes, each unique painting takes many months of daily painting to complete. "Can I know you at the inviting Hidden Garden Gallery at 112 Slocan Avenue, New Denver. Look for the big white barn across from the Village office. Gallery hours are 10 am-3 pm, Tuesdays-Sundays. All welcome! "

Hidden Garden Gallery summer about to start

submitted

The upcoming Hidden Garden Gallery (HGG) season is sure to delight residents and visitors alike. Running from June 29 to Sept 12, the volunteer board is proud to host 11 shows of local and regional artists. Diverse artists will showcase their talents through painting, prints, sculpture, photography, mixed media and more.

Water conservation measures for RDCK water systems

submitted

Stage 1 Water Conservation Measures are now in effect for all Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) water systems. Water conservation measures run annually across the RDCK from June 1 through September 30.

Stage 1 restrictions were put in place June 1 and may increase to one of three additional stages should demand increase significantly, hot and dry weather persists, or if reservoirs decline to critically low levels.

Stage 1 conservation measures include watering of lawns (Including new lawns), gardens, trees, and shrubs only between the hours of 7 pm and 10 am. Watering using drip irrigation, a watering can, and or hand-held hose is permitted at any time.

RDCK water systems in the Valley Voice coverage area include Burton, Denver Siding, Edgewood, Faquier, McDonald Creek and Rosebery Highlnds.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

College, Sydney moved to the Kootenays and attended a one-year course in commercial graphics at David Thompson University in Nelson since 1990, and is now living in the area. She is very passionate about creating beautiful things, using many art mediums. This show will exhibit pieces from her Dream Paintings series, with some old and others new. Since 1995, Sydney has created these colorful, intricate mandala paintings. Inspired by bits and pieces of dreams with intertwined themes, each unique painting takes many months of daily painting to complete. "Can I know you at the inviting Hidden Garden Gallery at 112 Slocan Avenue, New Denver. Look for the big white barn across from the Village office. Gallery hours are 10 am-3 pm, Tuesdays-Sundays. All welcome!"
Plastic lining may save Village money The Village of Kaslo has a problem with its A Avenue watermain.

When they put 100 gallons of water in at one end, only 85 gallons comes out the other. The original plan was to install a whole new line. But that was going to cost close to $1 million – and possibly more, given the uncertainties about what crews might find underground that could complicate the project.

That had the town looking for other ideas – and it learned about re-lining.

"Even though the pipe is in poor condition, linings have very good success rates," Danl op told council. Essentially, the old waterline would be inspected by camera, and if it is in good enough condition (i.e. no major bends), then the lining is inserted inside the six-inch pipe. It then expands to seal the pipe. The camera inspection just years to the infrastructure’s life.

The biggest benefit is the project can be done at one-third the cost and in two weeks, instead of two months. But, there is some risk, Danl op admitted. They will have to spend about $50,000-$60,000 for the camera inspection just to see if the project is feasible. That could be money – wait for it – down the drain, if they can’t proceed to the next stage.

"But if it works, it would be much less expensive, much less disruptive," Danl op told the Village leader.

Council decided to give staff the discretion to move forward on the project, and report back to council.

Gazebo goes ahead Plans to build a new picnic structure at the Kaslo Family Bike Park are moving ahead, now that the project has a long-term sponsor in the form of the Kaslo and District Outdoor Recreation Society. KORTS has committed to maintaining the gazebo after it’s been built. Council passed a motion to approve the construction of the gazebo.

Paving Kaslo Back Road A motion to support a provincial paving initiative hit a bump on the road at the council meeting when councillors rejected the idea of sending a letter to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure supporting the paving of Kaslo South Road.

The Province has announced plans to pave the old “Back Road” into town. Many people look forward to the reduced dust and wear and tear on vehicles. But some residents feel strongly if we can do it, we should be meddling in the jurisdiction outside of Village limits.

"Well I don’t support that," he said. "I don’t think we have any jurisdiction outside of Village limits. Nor should we be meddling in affairs of the Back Road. And I do feel strongly if we can do it, we should be given a letter from Kaslo, and we should be given a letter from the Ministry of the Environment."

Lang got enough votes to stop the letter from being sent. He then introduced a new motion to send a letter saying they support the project within Kaslo South Road.

But it was then pointed out the motion might impact the Village getting a long stretch of road paved at a much reduced price, as the Province plans to use recycled asphalt from the old Hwy 31 re-paving project a few years back.

What that portion of the project still has to be negotiated, staff noted that not sending a letter of support might help “rob the project, and thus jeopardize some cheap infrastructure.”

"Does that change council’s thinking?” asked the mayor, who had voted with Lang.

After a short discussion on the ramifications of their decision, council asked staff instead to look into the cost of the Village paving the stretch of road itself, and referred the item for further debate at the June meeting.

In memory of Michael Lind

Two villages a thousand kilometres apart are going to share memories – and memorials – to a person who loved both communities.

When Michael Lind died suddenly of cancer in July 2020, his co-workers pitched in to have a bench dedicated in his memory. Lind was the public works foreman at the Village of Kaslo for several years before falling ill.

"He was the type who would always bend over backwards to help people. He was great to get along with," remembers Dunlop.

Lind’s bench actually has two crests on it – one for the Village of Kaslo, and one for the Village of Port Alice, a community on north Vancouver Island.

Lind has family there and while he loved Kaslo, he also missed Port Alice.

“When your bench is installed, would you be able to send us a photo and your coat of arms so that we could make a similar memorial bench as the Kaslo Bench?” she wrote to council.

“We thought a twin bench in Port Alice would be appropriate given his passing for both communities and I feel strongly if we can do it, we can have a family as we have been wrestling with what to do to honor our loved one.”

Dunlop says the information will be forwarded soon to Lind’s relatives.

Argenta’s Tenise Marie releases new single

On June 18, Tenise Marie of Argenta will release her brand new single, ‘Give Me A Chance,’ from her upcoming full-length album.

A singer-songwriter who has emerged from the mystical forests of Argenta, Tenise is inspired by nature and friends from all corners of the world. Her adventures climbing mountains, riding waves, and watching sunsets soak into her enticing melodies and raw lyrics. She’s a self-described nomad and a “dreamer in a world on fire” – her music offers a shot of campfire folklore, infusing jazz and church influences to craft an irresistible cocktail of creativity – to be stirred, served over ice, sipped, and savoured all night.

“Like so many of my songs, ‘Give Me A Chance’ was born from a small spark of inspiration, and has grown like a wildfire into one of the defining anthems in the soundtrack of my life. In the past, I often used blanket statements to describe myself: my nature and friends from all corners of the world. Her adventures climbing mountains, riding waves, and watching sunsets soak into her enticing melodies and raw lyrics. She’s a self-described nomad and a "dreamer in a world on fire" – her music offers a shot of campfire folklore, infusing jazz and church influences to craft an irresistible cocktail of creativity – to be stirred, served over ice, sipped, and savoured all night.

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**SPECTRUM HOME AND FAMILY CARE**

The New Denver and Area Youth Network is seeking a back-up supervisor for casual shifts. This position requires a criminal record check. Please submit expression of interest to youthworker@nfyn.com.

**COMING EVENTS**

**BARTHA CASKET COMPANY**, July 1 and 2. *Support for Your Spirit*

**HEALTH**

**SHADE TREE MASSAGE THERAPY**


**YOGA WITH TYSON + ONLINE!**


**YOGA WITH MARTHA**

at Bindi Community Studio in Winlaw, Gentle Hatha Yoga. Meditation. Wednesday mornings at 9:15. For more information or to register call/text 250-882-1362. www.ravensperch.co or bindustudio.ca

**HELP WANTED**

**NEED CAGE ATTENDANTS** for our cage in Winlaw, 8am-12pm. Email flachmori@yahoo.com.

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Invasive Asian clams found in Central Kootenay waterbody

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) confirmed that invasive Asian clams (Corbicula fluminea) were found in the Pend D’Oreille River this spring. This is the first confirmed presence of live invasive freshwater clams in Central Kootenay region. However, this is not the first confirmation of these clams in BC. They exist in the lower Kootenay region. The MOE is assessing distribution and have conducted preliminary surveys near the Salmo River confluence.

The non-native clams are a concern to the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS), a local non-profit that works to prevent the spread of invasive species in the region. The clams can clog water treatment systems, contaminate drinking water, and negatively alter aquatic ecosystems by competing with native species for food and habitat.

In response to the recent discovery, CKISS is urging watercraft users and anglers to Clean, Drain, and Dry all gear and watercraft every time they leave a lake or river. The larvae of this species are microscopic and could hitchhike in the smallest amount of water in your watercraft, surviving to populate another lake. A single clam can create a new population due to self-fertilization, producing up to 70,000 eggs per year.

Asian clams are found in the pet trade as an aquarium species, which is another potential pathway for this invasive species to spread. CKISS wants to remind aquarium owners to never dump the contents of their aquariums (animals and plants) into natural places including waterways. CKISS has a program called ‘Don’t Let It Loose,’ which promotes responsible pet and aquarium ownership. Tips on what to do with an unwanted aquarium pet can be found here: https://ckiss.ca/action/pet-and-aquarium-owners/

Unfortunately, once established, eradication of these invasive clams from a waterbody is highly unlikely due to limited management options. This is why prevention is the best tool we have,” states Laurie Frankcom, CKISS Education Program Coordinator.

In addition, the CKISS wants members to be on the lookout for, and report any sightings of, Asian clams. The shells are triangular shaped, usually less than 2.5 cm but up to 6.5 cm in length. They can be yellow-green to light-brown in colour with elevated growth rings. They are found in freshwater at the sediment surface or slightly buried in silt, sand, or gravel substrates.

Reports can be made through the ‘Report Invasive Species’ app, the provincial website, or by calling the B.C. Conservation Officer Services Hotline: 1 877 952-7277.

The CKISS is also monitoring the region’s major waterbodies for invasive zebra and quagga mussels, a different invasive aquatic mollusc, and to-date, they have not been detected anywhere in BC waters.

COMMUNITY

June 17, 2021 — The Valley Voice

Invasive Asian clams found in Central Kootenay waterbody

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) confirmed that invasive Asian clams (Corbicula fluminea) were found in the Pend D’Oreille River this spring.
Slocan Valley artists chosen to show in international exhibition

Strouhal and Barbara Brown are two Slocan Valley artists chosen to show in international exhibition. The purpose of this exhibition is to promote extraordinary nature-inspired artists; and to raise awareness about the importance of honouring, preserving and protecting our natural environment.

Strouhal’s ‘The Tree of Life’ was chosen for the exhibition. “Once I discovered my connection with Nature, the Universe turned into my divine home,” says the artist’s statement. “My treasure and wealth are the burning sky at twilight, the blue halo of the ascending moon, the fragrance of the wildflowers, and the chatter of the birds. These are my home, the calmness and warmth in which my soul rests peacefully. As Nature’s patience is eternal, She is the one that is my real home. So that at every moment of the day, I find rest in my Mother’s divine nest.”

Renee Phillips, Director of Manhattan Art International, says of Strouhal: “You know immediately his art comes from a deep spiritual connection. You expect a visual journey where you will connect to a different level of consciousness.”

Barbara Brown’s piece chosen for the exhibition is ‘Stone Portal to Beyond.’ “I am blessed to live on a wild forested mountainside in British Columbia, Canada, where I walk daily and am awed by the beauty. Gratitude overflows, and I try to capture it in paint so others might experience nature connection too. Much of humankind has forgotten we are ourselves Nature. We mistakenly hold ourselves separate, and consequently experience feelings of loss and lostness. Nature suffers badly too, from our disrespect. Let us fall back in love with her, and begin the healing,” she says in her artist’s statement.

The exhibition can be seen at https://www.healing-power-of-art.org/the-healing-power-of-art-in-honor-of-nature-exhibition/


Janet Mary McLean
December 14, 1944 – March 5, 2021

Janet was born and raised in the lower mainland of BC, the third of five children of Doris and Laurie Knight. Her family lived at various times in Richmond, New Westminster and Surrey. As a child, Janet excelled in school sports. But as she couldn’t sit still for very long in the classroom, she had to leave school at an early age. Janet began her working life as a waitress. She worked as a maid and then attended the New Westminster Hair Dressing Academy. After completing the program, Janet became a successful hairdresser in Vancouver. In 1965, Janet and her sister Iris moved to Revelstoke, where Janet married her first husband, Wayne Pavol.

She managed the business aspects of their logging company. While living in Malakwa with her husband, Janet suffered a bout of cancer, which she fought and ultimately defeated. After her marriage with Wayne ended, Janet moved to Burton, where she met and later married Dave McLean. While they lived in Burton, Janet and Dave made several holiday trips to the southwest in their converted school bus. They were accompanied on these trips by half a dozen pet dogs. In 2006, Janet and Dave relocated to Nakusp, where Janet could better care for her husband after he developed Parkinson’s disease. When Dave passed away in 2008, Janet moved to Hills and New Denver. She and Bob Moyer became constant companions.

Janet had a big heart. She often bought flowers for those she learned of loss and lostness. Nature suffers consequently experience feelings of loss and lostness. Nature suffers badly too, from our disrespect. Let us fall back in love with her, and begin the healing,” she says in her artist’s statement.

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A ‘notice on title’ will be placed on the Silverton Inn property due to noncompliance with the building code.

The Valley Voice June 17, 2021

Notice on title placed on Silverton Inn

Janet was married and raised in the lower mainland of BC, the third of five children of Doris and Laurie Knight. Her family lived at various times in Richmond, New Westminster and Surrey. As a child, Janet excelled in school sports. But as she couldn’t sit still for very long in the classroom, she had to leave school at an early age. Janet began her working life as a waitress. She worked as a maid and then attended the New Westminster Hair Dressing Academy. After completing the program, Janet became a successful hairdresser in Vancouver. In 1965, Janet and her sister Iris moved to Revelstoke, where Janet married her first husband, Wayne Pavol.

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Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program grand prize winner

The grand prize winner of the Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program final draw is Eugene Volokhov of Balfour. He has won a sleek 18’ Kingfisher boat equipped with a 115hp Yamaha engine, valued at over $50,000, from Jones Boys Boats & Marina.

The draw marks the successful completion of the first year of the Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program. The program, a tremendous local success, has been extended for a second year with a new youth program and a set of fantastic prizes for fishermen of all ages.

“This program reduced rainbow trout and bull trout abundance faster than any other recovery action implemented to date. In the absence of these predators, kokanee will likely have a better opportunity to survive to maturity and reproduce. We anticipate this last year has made significant steps towards the goal of recovering kokanee and the Kootenay Lake trophy trout fishery,” says Molly Teather, Fish Biologist, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development.

So, get outdoors and help save BC’s iconic kokanee salmon while hooking yourself a delicious dinner and maybe even some great prizes in year two of the Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program!

Wilson Creek Retreat provides camping for first responders

by Jan McMurray

A new privately owned campground in Rosebery, north of New Denver, was designed as a retreat for people working on the front lines.

Wilson Creek Retreat is a place for people who serve, or have served, in the armed forces; in emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance; and for those who serve their communities, such as nurses and educators. The campground is also available to private user groups who want to book the whole site.

Ron and Krista Lyver have both worked in the military and in policing, and use providing camping space for people with similar career backgrounds.

“It’s a way for us to bring people to the Kootenays, and to give something back. We’ve both had great careers,” said Krista.

The campground is on a property owned by John Lyver, Ron’s father. John moved to Rosebery in 1963 and bought the property soon after, but it has remained undeveloped until now. “It would be nice to build on it someday, but in the meantime, we wanted to find a way to utilize the property,” Krista said, adding that the campground also provides space for the family to continue coming back to Rosebery.

Ron was born in the old New Denver hospital and grew up in Rosebery and Penticton. He served in the army for six years, and in the RCMP for 24 years. Krista’s parents were in the air force, so she grew up on military bases throughout Canada and in Germany. The couple lives in Summerland.

Silverton Transport did the excavating and campground design work, and Wired by Alex out of Rosebery did the electrical. Krista’s sister created the logo and website, and her parents helped out as well. “And of course we are in debt to John Lyver for providing the space,” Krista said. “It’s been a fun project, from getting an address to putting in power, with lots of help from family.”

Located on West Wilson Creek Road and Hwy 6, Wilson Creek Retreat has five sites, all with power and water, and a picnic table and fire ring. Next year, one of the sites will have a large canvas tent for those who don’t have RVs or tents, Krista says.

Bookings are done through the website or by email. A brochure at the entrance orients campers, and an attendant comes by every day.

For more information: www.wilsoncreekretreat.ca.
Linda Mennie presents four decades of art at the Hidden Garden Gallery

**Submitted**
Linda Mennie’s retrospective show titled *Work in Progress* will be featured at the Hidden Garden Gallery from June 29 to July 4. Well-known locally, Linda has been a practising artist for over four decades and has participated in solo and group shows from Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson to Kaslo, Silverton and New Denver. Linda studied art in high school but when she met Berute Macijauskas, an inspiring teacher at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in Vancouver, her ideas about art expanded and took off. Berute organized a class trip to the old Vancouver Art Gallery to view the work of pop artist and rising star Robert Rauschenberg, who, speaking to the students, awakened Linda to new possibilities of art making. It was said of Rauschenberg at the time, “Like a composer making music out of the noises of everyday life, he constructed visual art from the trash of urban civilization.” Linda’s interests in assemblages, collages and conceptual art were born even though clay, drawing and fibre arts were still compelling media for her. As a feminist, Linda followed the work of Eva Hesse and Judy Chicago and was fortunate to view Judy’s famous installation called the Dinner Party in Montreal.

Further study at Langara College in 1979 and Emily Carr School of Art in 1980 plus an exciting gallery-hopping trip to Europe in 1989 deepened her theories about the material of art, its concepts and physicality. The degradation of the environment became a serious concern for Mennie and armed with her camera and artist’s eye, she produced Where the Smokestacks Walk, a photo-dragging trip of driving and hitchhiking across the country collecting photos of smokestacks. She photocopied and reworked the images adding text – images that we will see in slides during the upcoming show.

Linda and her partner Richard moved to Nelson over 30 years ago and their rich and hectic life centred on the making of more art and being part of the co-operative Blue Moon Gallery. Always energetic, Linda took not only her shows but the collective’s group shows to the grunt gallery in Vancouver.

When Linda was diagnosed with MS in 1995, the use of camera, brushes and other technologies gave way to even more creative approaches to art making. Richard and Linda had relocated to New Denver at this point. For 15 years, Mennie worked weekly with clay artist Elly Scheepens in Artel Studio. Elly says of that time, “When Linda makes up her mind, nobody can stop her.”

Another nod to Linda’s love of the environment was her significant outdoor installation, The Moss Trail 2007, which we will see memories of in this retrospective. The lovely mossy walking path in the woods behind her house became an exhibition space for her clay sculptures and provided a challenging place for daily walks. It was these walks that kept her mobile.

*Work in Progress* not only exemplifies the continuing dedication that Linda brings to her art practice, it also embodies her enormous spirit and desire to spread her light to all. It speaks to the need for residuary in all of our lives.

Linda looks forward to meeting with family, friends and visitors at her lively show and especially welcomes us all to celebrate Canada Day with her in small groups.

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**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@nakuscommunityforest.com

FireSmart

To book a free FireSmart home assessment: www.rdkc.ca/firesmart (250)352-6665 info@rdkc.ca

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**Interior region care homes awarded national grant**

This funding will support the 70+ care homes in the Interior to build on what has been learned through COVID-19, and strengthen their pandemic response in six key areas of practice readiness, prevention, people in the workforce, surge capacity, care planning, and the presence of family.

The grant funding will benefit all 70+ owned and operated care homes, including the homes in New Denver, Nakusp and Kaslo. Each of the 70 IH owned homes will receive $10,000.