Small wildfires break out across region after wild lightning storm

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A powerful lightning storm that moved through the region on July 8, coupled with historically dry forests, have sparked nearly two dozen small wildfires in the Arrow Lakes, Slocan Valley, and North Kootenay Lake regions.

As of press time, about 19 fires were burning in the Valley Voice readership area. While the majority were listed as “out of control,” none were threatening homes or infrastructure.

NACFOR log yard fire

One of the most dangerous wildfires broke out at the NACFOR/Mercer Celgar log yard in Nakusp, when a lightning bolt struck a pile of logs in the converted gravel pit during the spectacular lightning storm, setting them on fire.

“It was a strange place for lightning to strike. It was in the bottom of a bowl, lower than the surrounding area,” said Hugh Watt, the manager for NACFOR. “But lightning does what it does.”

A quick response by the community fire department and the public put the fire down before it could spread too widely.

“The fire was large and there was significant risk that it could have become much larger had it not been attended so quickly by the firefighters and local contracted loggers,” said Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren. “Decks of logs were engulfed when crews arrived with the risk of the fire spreading throughout the yard. The fire was fought all through the night.”

About 18 firefighters and many more volunteers joined the effort to fight the fire.

About a dozen logging trucks’ worth of wood was destroyed or made unusable by the fire, Watt said.

“The wood was destined for the Mercer pulp mill in Castlegar – they were their logs,” said Watt. “They can’t use burned logs because they stain the pulp.”

Watt said the log yard would be closed for about a week while crews cleaned up the mess and removed the damaged wood. He said there wouldn’t likely be any long-term impact to NACFOR’s operations because of the fire.

No one was injured and no infrastructure at the log yard was damaged by the strike.

Busy firefighting

But that fire was just the beginning.

In the space of a day or two, more than a dozen fires flared up in the region, many sparked by the lightning storm. In the hills above Nakusp, a small fire started at Kimbol Lake on Saturday. However, firefighting efforts had to be temporarily halted when someone flew a drone into the airspace.

A half-dozen other fires also started along the shores of Arrow Lakes south of Nakusp, including at Octopus, Hutchinson, and Van Houten Creeks, though none were threatening homes or infrastructure on Monday.

Fires grow in the heat

Nakusp wasn’t the only area keeping firefighters busy after the storm. Near Passmore, a brush fire started Friday, and was put out by the community volunteer fire department. There’s no word what caused that fire. Small spot fires were also listed at the north end of Kootenay Lake, Lower Arrow Lakes, along the south shore of Trout Lake, the Little Slocan Valley, and the Galena Bay area.

On Monday, the heat wave continued, and the scattered spot fires began to grow. On Mount Rupple in the highlands to the east of Appledale, a 6.7-hectare fire burning out of control was in steep terrain in the morning became a 130-hectare burn by evening. A fire on Tazzo Creek, in the hills about four kilometres east of Winlaw also grew quickly in the mid-30s heat. What started as a 19-hectare fire in the morning became a 125-hectare burn by nightfall.

None of the fires were threatening homes or infrastructure. Several more fires were burning in the Castlegar and Nelson areas, as well.

The situation remains dangerously volatile as the Valley Voice goes to press.

If there’s any bright spot, it’s that West Kootenay residents are taking conditions seriously.

“Just wanted to say we are impressed that since the fire bans started, we have not been called out to any fires in our service area!” noted a Facebook post from the Crescent Valley Fire Department on the weekend. “Thank you to our community for not taking risks during this crazy heat wave and drought conditions.”

However, there’s no relief in sight for firefighters. The extended weather forecast Monday called for temperatures consistently in the 35°C range, with no chance of precipitation for the foreseeable future.
Indigenous children were recently discovered in Kamloops and Saskatchewan. Nakusp artist Jadeon Rathgeber (Medicine Bear) just had to do something. That ‘something’ turned out to be a 24’ x 9’ mural, collaboratively created by 14 local residents between National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) and June 30, the day before Canada Day.

“…the vision was to create an art piece that would help people to understand the true history of the people from Turtle Island from our family’s experiences and viewpoints,” said Rathgeber. The mural has four sections, representing pre-contact, contact, present and future.

“The art piece really hit home for us since each family member has lived through the devastating effects of colonization, assimilation and the residential school system,” Rathgeber said. “The injustice part of the art piece was hard; some of our Sinclair family relatives were murdered and some died at the hands of the health care system due to systemic racism.”

Rathgeber said his family experienced many sleepless nights during the creation of the mural. “We would wake up in the middle of the night in tears, and then were unable to get back to sleep,” Rathgeber recounted.

The ‘future’ section, however, is full of hope. “We wanted to share how we will move forward into the future as the human race with true equality, empathy, compassion for one another,” said Rathgeber. “The people of the earth must begin to work together once again to heal Mother Earth from the devastating effects of our unsustainable practices.”

The mural was hung on the exterior wall of ‘Artworks from Turtle Island’ in Nakusp, and the unveiling on July 5 was attended by about 75 people.

In an invitation to the unveiling, Rathgeber said, “This is a necessary time and opportunity for true reconciliation and understanding.”

Rathgeber reports that the mural will be photographed, touched up in Photoshop, and turned into a book.

Rathgeber lives in Nakusp with his mother, sister and daughter. His mother, Pat Bruderer (Halfmoon Woman) is an internationally acclaimed artist, working in birch bark biting.

Sponsored by Susan Yurychuk

A shed in Rosebery burned to the ground on Saturday, July 3. “The New Denver Fire Department was quick to respond and put out the fire, which could have been much worse,” says an RCMP press release. “No neighbouring structures were damaged as a result of the fire.”

The property owner was not home at the time, and no one was hurt. The shed and its contents were destroyed. Local residents report that they went to investigate when they heard explosions. Several were on site when the police and fire department arrived, “doing their best to keep the fire from spreading,” the RCMP press release says.

The BC Wildfire Service was also notified, and a helicopter was brought in from Nakusp to check the surrounding forest. Police report that the helicopter departed after a short time, as the fire wasn’t spreading.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined, according to the New Denver Volunteer Fire Department. “We would like to express the importance of remaining a safe distance from the scene and respecting boundaries set out by emergency services,” said Mercedes Casley of the fire department. “Bystanders play an important role during an emergency in keeping themselves, the emergency services crews and the victims safe. By giving ample space, it helps us help you.”

**You’re at home here**

**FOOD SPECIALS**

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**Help at Home**

**Slocan Valley Co-op**

3024 Hwy 6, Slocan Park
Ph: 250-225-7433

**SIFCo’s Video Spotlight Series**

**This Weeks Video:** The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SSLS) is a non-profit volunteer-run society dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the Slocan Lake watershed.

The SSLS is guided by conservation advocacy, knowledge sharing, science, and ongoing education in the effort to preserve and protect the future of Slocan Lake.

Scan QR code to watch or view @ https://www.sifco.co.videogallery
Old growth continues to be hot button issue, Revelstoke is latest hot spot

by Jan McMurray

Old-growth protests continue in BC, despite the government’s moves to develop a new old-growth strategy, expected to be completed in 2023.

In addition to the ongoing blockade at Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island, a blockade to protect old-growth forest slated for logging and road building was recently set up north of Revelstoke by a group called Revoltation. Three veteran forest defenders from our area – Eloise Charet, Tom Priek and Mic Grabowski – have all gone to the blockade on Bigmouth Forest Service Road about 120 kilometres north of Revelstoke to lend support.

The Splatlin Nation has declared its support for the Bigmouth blockade. A Splatlin press release says: “Ongoing harvesting of these few remaining forest refuges contradicts recommendations by caribou experts for protection of critical habitat as well as the provincial commitments to act on the 14 recommendations of A New Future for Old Forests: A strategic review of how British Columbia manages for old forests within its ancient ecosystems.”

Facing mounting public pressure to act on the issue, the government has recently brought together an independent Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel. One of its members is Garry Merkel, who was also on the Old Growth Strategic Review panel.

Merkel, in a recent interview with The Narwhal, said he was not surprised about the blockade at Fairy Creek and “we will likely see more of these.” He said that while he and Al Gorley, the other member of the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, were out connecting with British Columbians, “people kept telling us about the near and dear places to their hearts that were up for logging.”

“Our timber industry is still very dependent on the old-growth portion of the profile,” he said. “Every part of the industry relies has legal contracts with logging companies and it would cost ‘well into the billions to take it back.’

Although Merkel said he appreciates that it’s easy to be skeptical of government, he feels that the government “is doing its darnedest” to move on the recommendations in the report. They are moving more slowly than expected, but that is largely due to the pandemic, Merkel said.

“I don’t want to tell people to go beat up the government or beat up industry. We all need to work together on this,” he said, although he acknowledged, “Social change doesn’t happen when there’s no pressure.”

Merkel believes we should follow the way that First Nations elders shared with him and Gorley during the review – leave 50% of the forest, and use the rest, but do so in a way that mimics Nature. “One of the problems is the clearcut or variants of the clearcut. That is not the way Nature works… We have to look after the land. Without that, we are done. We believe this is a process of empowering and involving everyone. It can’t be forced on people or we will stay polarized and change will be slow. This is a large systems problem, a big shift. We need to think about it like that to make this change.”

Kawthun house in Silverton. Lytton was destroyed by fire on June 30. Planning for rebuilding the community is underway.

For more information, call Katrina at 250-358-2284.

Algonquin Pine

Spectacular must die sometime

chop

full six feet wide
two hundred high

chop

spectacular must die sometime

worth good money
three thou’ or more

chop

spectacular must die sometime

three hundred years
maybe older

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spectacular must die sometime

could live longer
‘nother hundred

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spectacular must die sometime

so clear and sound
last big pine tree

chop

spectacular must die sometime

could have saved it
want to use it

chop

spectacular must die sometime

by Paul Leet Aird

www.loonsforever.ca

Christmas in July

PLUS Antiques @ Garage Sale!

Dates: July 19 - July 24

Place: Bosun Hall

Time: 9 am - 2 pm

Great buys abound! Come early for best selection!

We still recommend social distancing. Thank you.

Slocan Lakes Community Services, Box 100, Nakusp BC, VOG 1RO, fax: 250-265-3378 or email: tim.payne@aslcs.com

TENANT AMBASSADOR

Job Title: Halcyon House Tenant Ambassador (Nakusp)

Job Type: 6-month Term Position (work schedule and hours to be determined by the Site Manager and successful candidate).

Wage: $19.04 Reports To: Site Manager and provides support to Assisted Living Workers

Job Summary: In accordance with established vision and values of the Society, the Tenant Ambassador will report to the Site Manager and be responsible for assisting the ALWs in being compliant with the Covid-19 orders brought forward by the Provincial Health Officer. They will greet and engage with all individuals entering the building such as visitors and contractors, to ensure they also comply with the health standards. The Tenant Ambassador’s role includes assisting tenants and staff with organizing and ordering needed supplies, as well as communicating and updating information to family members.

Qualifications: Grade 12

Closing Date: July 26th, 2021

Please respond in writing with resume and cover letter to: Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Box 100, Nakusp BC, VOG 1RO, fax: 250-265-3378 or email: tim.payne@aslcs.com

Raising funds for Lytton

by Jan McMurray

If you’d like to contribute to relief efforts in Lytton, now is your chance. The proceeds from bottles and cans collected by Al and Katrina in New Denver-Silverton July 10-24 are going to support the cause in Lytton.

Al’s truck will be set up at the New Denver recycling depot on July 17 and 24. Alternatively, people can drop off their returns at Al’s house behind the liquor store in New Denver or at Katrina’s house in Silverton.

A blockade to protect old-growth forest from logging and road building has been set up about 120 kilometres north of Revelstoke.
Slocan River and Lake

I don’t live in the Slocan Valley. I live just out of it, in Glade. But for me, the Slocan Valley was love at first sight. I fully support Judy McMahon’s campaign to rid the Slocan River of power boats, but I think her effort should be expanded to include Slocan Lake. There are only three towns on the lake, and I think they could convince the provincial government to make the change. If that happened, Slocan Lake would be the largest powerboat-free lake in North America, and the chance to paddle, or sail on it, would be a big draw for people who like to experience the outdoors without the harassment of motorized craft. The alternative is to be overwhelmed by Seadons, and huge motorized vessels, including the new Wave boats that tend to erode the shoreline. Let the big reservoires have the oversized motorized boats; there is plenty of room for them there. I would love to see this one, last, large, natural Kootenay lake devoid of the noisy boats and the tremendously noisy Seadons.

One thing I know for sure – the Slocan Valley is, and always has been, a place that dares to be different.

What a beautiful decision that would be.

Rod Retzlaff

Glade

Who is the 100th monkey?

I’ve just received some very encouraging news that I’d like to share. A recently published study on climate change and waste emissions from spent fuel has demonstrated a paradigm-shifting approach. The study, published in the International Journal of Energy Management, has shown that the Slocan Valley is a prime example of how to utilize their sewage-waste for energy. The study, titled “A Paradigm-Shifting Study: Utilizing Sewage-Waste for Renewable Energy,” demonstrates how the existing sewage infrastructure, close to 100% of carbon emissions from natural gas (and the $10,000/year bill) was eliminated from the test site, a 60-unit condo, by using the SHARC Energy Systems of North Vancouver’s ‘PIRANA’ a furnace-size technology that easily met and surpassed the heating, hot-water and cooling requirements. Requirements such as bringing the climate-warming chaos from fossil fuels and millennia of radioactive waste emissions from spent radioactive uranium and plutonium. Please share this paradigm shift. The 100th monkey is about to reset the corporate economy.

Susan Eyre

Slocan beach

We are frequent visitors to the beach in Slocan. It is so great to have this beautiful area. We are so happy the town bought the mill site, and will hopefully expand the beach, and put in something that will make the area even more amazing. I am always bummed through at the condition of the sandy beach with all the lake debris on it after the winter and spring storms, and I am surprised that the town doesn’t allocate some money for clean-up every year. My understanding is that it is always the same people year after year who come in to remove the debris (often just one person), with little help from the public who use it all the time. Could the town not organize a day of volunteer cleaning (it would actually only take an hour or two), or invest in a rake that could be pulled behind a small ATV to rake it all up? On beaches in the Caribbean, this is what they do every morning before the tourists and locals show up. If you want to attract tourists and locals to the area, making the beach nice and totally usable instead of only small areas that have clean sand would go far in creating a more beautiful space. We are doing our share of picking up and piling this debris. It takes only minutes when we come, and I wish others using it would do the same.

D. Slater

Reconciliation

A number of Canadians are upset that Canadian flags are flying at half-mast. Some even perceive such actions around Canada Day as unpatriotic. While I remain grateful to Ontario and Canada for inviting me to come and live in this country and for providing me with an assisted passage to get here, I never intended to displacce the right of Indigenous people to live and thrive here, too.

Every settler and immigrant needs to reflect on the fact that of approximately 150,000 Indigenous children taken into ‘care’ by the churches, federal and provincial governments, former Truth and Reconciliation Chair Senator Murray Sinclair estimates that up to 40,000 never made it back to their parents and communities.

We each need to reflect on the likely impact on parents and communities, of up to one in four of our settler and immigrant children not coming home from school. Then understand that First Nations parents and communities have lived with this reality for a century and a half. The least we can do is fly our flags at half-mast out of respect for the enormity of the genocide that took place.

Reconciliation requires us, however, to move beyond recognition of past wrongs to actually building a society in which every child and every person is valued as having an equal right to participate in society and thrive. This should include not just First Nations, but all non-Europeans and non-Christians – the diversity that is now Canada.

As an example of the failure to include others, let’s, as an example, look at the decision to build the Site C dam. Successive governments have known that, as a result of building WAC Bennett and Peace River Dams, the food fishery in all the tributaries of Williston reservoir have become contaminated with mercury.

The level of contamination in edible fish is such that the BC Ministry of Health issues a permanent warning to not eat excessive amounts of fish, whatever that means. But where else in BC, we must ask ourselves, do settler and immigrant faces face a permanent health warning against eating fish behind a reserve?

If the answer is nowhere, why then is it still acceptable, in an era of reconciliation, to build a third hydroelectric dam that will only serve to further increase methylmercury contamination in the food fishery in an area of the province where the number of First Nations people are among the highest in the province?

Why is it, in the third decade of the 21st century, an acceptable risk to place in jeopardy the motor-neuron health and well-being of First Nation babies, infants, children, youth and adults? Why do our governments in BC continue to treat the health and well-being of First Nations as being secondary to the health and well-being of the settler and immigrant economy?

When will thisußer form of genocide end? It is not so subtle for the health and well-being of First Nations people when we turn a blind eye to our BC government knowingly increasing the level of methylmercury contamination in the food fishery of the Peace River ecosystem, which runs all the way to the Athabasca River Delta and the Arctic Ocean.

Andy Shadrack

Kaslo
LETTERS

Residential horror
Whose decision is it to bury children on school grounds? How convenient? The grass is the carpet that stolen children are swept under. As a white man, I’ve never myself much less heard any white person, lament over not being Indigenous. Yet so many of the privileged can’t grasp why natives can’t just “get over it.” The people who say this are ignoring that exists as our cognitive dissonance.

If we’ve fooled ourselves into thinking that evil is elsewhere in the world and not here, we now stand corrected. A native friend has told me that among the many abuses the children suffered, the children would have their bare feet candled (Bastinado), a torture common in the Middle East and other regions for centuries. One cannot run away if one cannot walk. I’m reminded of the African American refrain, “If one of us is in chains, we’re all in chains.” My faith has taught me that every woman is my sister, every man my brother. What is it then about five or six months children lying and saw a group that could make some superior and others inferior? A Persian friend told me his father told him, “You must behave better than others, because otherwise you are simply more inferior than anyone.” We demonstrate our love for our Creator in the way we treat His creations, not just those who look like us or think like us. Your God is everyone’s God regardless of one’s colour, race, creed or beliefs.

As a school bus driver retiring at the end of June, I’ve asked the children following: “Take all philosophy, from Socrates to the present, all prophetic revelation from religious history and put it into a nut shell. From all of that wisdom, in one word, what is the meaning of life?” They looked at me confused so I added, “Without this one word, life on earth would be hell on earth.” They responded with, “LOVE.” “Bird,” I replied.

Love is the meaning of life. If your religion, politics, or lack of it is antithetical to this, then you and all of us are better off without them. A true seeker must be brave – brave enough to abandon his worldview when a superior worldview is encountered. A prophet said, “Preferred one hour’s reflection to 70 years pious worship.” Another prophet said, “Reflection is the path of immortality, thoughtlessness the path of death. Those who reflect not die, those who do not reflect are as if dead already.”

As a child growing up in Saskatoon, several times my dad drove us north to Lac La Ronge for fishing. Cree men were guides and one day while we watched these men process the fish, I noticed how unhappy they looked. Then I heard one of the elders tell the story of children and mothers in all tears and the kids about to board a school bus. I asked my dad what their problem was – then he told me, and then he told me again. This is the problem of children and mothers in all tears and the kids about to board a school bus. Dad replied, “Son, they’re going to residential school and won’t see their parents until next year.” I went numb. I thought, “That’s not true, my parents!” At 10 years of age, my intuition understood

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Horgan
It is Canada Day. Here in BC, we’re packing our emergency kits, looking suspiciously at weather sites, and wondering why things have reached this critical point. Both of you campaigned as climate champions. Yet our emissions have gone down. Canada has not once met a single Paris Agreement target.

You’ve both subsidized fossil fuels with our tax dollars instead of investing in green technologies, and have allowed our old growth forests – the biggest carbon sinks we have – to be decimated. As we wear our orange shirts, we see nothing but disparaging and empty words for Canadian aboriginal people as we witness the grief buried in the grounds of residential schools.

Isn’t it time to change? This Canada Day is a time of reflection for many of us. I hope you are both thinking about what you were elected to do. People voted for you because they believed that you would look out for their interests, address climate change, and get on with a just transition to a greener, more livable future.

I hope you’ll both take a hard look at the risks that we in BC, and the rest of the world, are facing. Your actions say something very different from your reassuring words. You can fool some of the people, but you can’t fool your future.

What will next summer look like? How many more towns will be burned to the ground because of climate change?

Please, support genuine green solutions. These solutions do not include “technologies” like tidal energy or pipelines or any other fossil fuels.

We want to see everything electric, and powered with green energy. We need subsidies for households and businesses to make buildings energy efficient. We need green transportation infrastructure and the restoration of our lands and water. And we need the schools, hospitals and public institutions that sustain us. Nothing will change until we want our society to be green and caring.

I can’t speak for aboriginal people, but I’m sure a good start would be getting Canadian aboriginal women and girls stopped being burned, and aboriginal women and girls stopped being ignored, and truly honouring the spirit of UNDRIP in negotiations around land and resources.

This Canada Day should be a turning point. I hope you will both seize this moment and change the terrifying trajectory we’re on. We don’t want to live this way, and there’s no reason we should.

I look forward to your replies.

Diana van Eek

Village council
I would like to acknowledge that I live, work, and play on the traditional lands and unceded territories of the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, and Syilx Peoples. I am deeply grateful for the millennia of care for this land by all Indigenous Peoples. I am writing this letter in response to the social media post that Mayor Susan Hewan wrote with regards to the removal of the Canoe that flies outside the Village Office.

Recently, when the remains of murdered Indigenous children were reported by the media as “discovered,” though Indigenous people had been telling the rest of Canada for decades that these unmarked graves existed, many people were shocked to learn that they were lowered to half-mast across this land. Locally, Canadian flags outside of the RCMP office, the post office and the Village Office were lowered as a mark of respect for this horror. While flags remain lowered outside of the RCMP and post offices, the Village Office raised their flag once again. The cruel implication of this act is incomprehensible to me.

Sometime before July 1st, the one who cut, and this offending flag was removed. Mayor Hewan wrote about this on her personal social media page, and it was shared to a community group. In her post, she called this an act of vandalism and that she was disappointed in the perpetrator. (I am paraphrasing as her post was deleted a few hours later.)

First to call this an act of vandalism is incomprehensible to me. An act of protest Desecrating, burning, dismantling flags has a long tradition in human history. It is a highly effective tool for protest and bringing forth change that has been used all around the world.

Second, to express disappointment over such a small yet powerful nonviolent act was a response to the Village’s decision to raise the flag, therefore demonstrating such disregard for Indigenous people in our community while they grieve, seems misplaced to me. Please take a moment, Mayor Hewan and Village councillors, to reflect on the anger and pain that was felt, while more small bodies were “discovered” and that flag was flying high.

As you think on this, I ask you, wouldn’t an apology for this inconsequential flag-raising be a more fitting response than chastisement for a reaction to the hurt that was caused? Who is truly the one who should be disappointed?

Finally, I would like to request that the Canadian flag not be restored to the Village Office property until the conclusion of an appropriate mourning period for all of us who were abused, raped, neglected, and murdered in the name of Canada by various religious institutions.

The Village of Kaslo must do better.

Susan Chamberlin

Kaslo

Open letter to Kaslo

Tiny homes communal living
Thank you to the Valley Voice for publishing Big Calm in its article about tiny homes and communal living in the last issue.

We had a lot of positive feedback but we also received insults and even some personal threats. The article was clearly a lightning rod for some locals, who understandably are frustrated with the underlying shortage of affordable rental units in the region, an issue much larger than us and what we do with our home acreage. (More on that here: bigalm-the-biggest-piddings.com)

Affordable Housing projects are important and much-needed, and tiny houses (which can be efficiently prefabricated in a few months and eco footprint) could play a key role, but they’re also not financially feasible (at least for us) without serious government and institutional support. If they were, everyone here would already be doing it. Regardless, it’s not the type of operation we are able to run and our location isn’t appropriate for that kind of model that might be required to make it work.

Readers mostly honed in on our cited price, which is reflective of building legality, to a high environmental standard, with very busy local contractors, and in an area generally overlooked by banks and insurers. Nobody begrudges exiting residents from selling at market rates and they’re beheld of similar calls on mills to spearhead “affordable lumber” initiatives. The economics of our modest endeavour are quite different from those beheld of larger, places with finished buildings and existing infrastructure, ventures with work-trade arrangements, exotic and luxury AirBnbs, or limited access sites with no amenities or community. There is a market for all of those things, just as there is for our quality-seeking permaculture + remote work niche. A healthy region has a diversity of options.

Insanity. I’m almost 66 and this memory is burned into my soul.

We replied but the notion of a nation then have the nerve to ask, “What is their problem?” SHAME.

James McKee

Edgewood

We cannot solve the complex problem of a lack of affordable housing but we still strive to have a positive impact. We are well situated for these things with what we have.

才可以 gravel the landscape with grass by gardens share the water, and has remained healthy.

Anne Sherrod

New Denver

The need for shade
With intense heat has come intense danger of wildfires and increased pressure on our homes. Recently SIFCO has been cutting trees around the village to reduce fire transmission. A councillor recently left a BC government pamphlet at my house on fire-safeing property. It simplifies the main issues very well.

A subject that has received far less attention is the need for shade to protect us from heat. The number of sudden and unexpected deaths in BC quadrupled during five days of the heat wave. The rest of us who were left alone were just miserabe and maybe a little less functional than usual.

In New Denver, we are lucky to have a lake to swim in. But I found I could no longer walk along the lake in the afternoon, as the sun was so uncomfortable that it felt dangerous. In fact, I discovered there is not much shade between a number of streets in town. Between noon and 6 pm, the best thing I could do was stay home. Meanwhile, we are being warned that the heat is going to get even worse because of climate change.

Cities have extensive areas where there is not much shade and this is being recognized as a big health problem. The US Forest Service has been using its technology to identify shade-starved areas in cities. Los Angeles has been scrambling for years to plant trees, with a goal of planting 50,000 by 2021.

According to Natural Resources Canada: “Across Canada, community residents are working together to create shade—planting trees, places with finished buildings and existing infrastructure, ventures with work-trade arrangements, exotic and luxury AirBnbs, or limited access sites with no amenities or community. There is a market for all of those things, just as there is for our quality-seeking permaculture + remote work niche. A healthy region has a diversity of options.

On that, it’s worth also clearing up the silly boogyman misconception by some that remote workers are all rich, vain, urban, or even that they’re techies at all. She may be an international fundraiser for artists, a semi-retired midwife who coaches others online, a former high school teacher who grew up on a farm and can now stand with her feet in the city, or a weary doctor fleeing healthcare cuts elsewhere. Half the world worked from a computer for a good part of last year. And in a world where natural, rural regions rely too heavily on extractive industries, weekend party resorts, and opulent vacation homes, it’s often difficult to find a good spot that the Valley is attracting locally- and environmentally-minded greenhands who both their own jobs and simply need some will and peace to quietly make a living.

July 15, 2021

The Valley Voice

Finally, I would like to request that

5

I look forward to your replies.

Diana van Eek

Winlaw
Small grants available for community connectedness

By the Slocan Watershed Society
At our last Official Community Planning (OCP) meeting about 10 years ago, we all agreed that the climate is changing. The Village of Slocan is the epicenter of climate change, with farms and forests giving off more CO₂ than released by the two closest cities. Our emissions need to stay connected with local businesses and residents.

Engaging in the future of our community

Slocan needs a clear and simple vision with clear policies. A self-sustaining vision with clear policies.

• Economy: an Economy in tune with the environment and economic objectives. Looking forward to the future and the shaping of it, and it would be good for all of us to remember why we live here. It was for the natural beauty and fresh air and good kind neighbors.

• Energy: Electric Vehicles; Solar panels on all homes; local jobs to reduce commuting;

• Nature: Create clean air/water/soil; Restore & Bioremediate SRDCK

• Community: A hotel, inn, accommodation; Car free centre; Reliable help for Seniors to keep them and their homes in shape; A Centre meeting place; Arts & Healing centre;

• Youth: expansion of the Valhalla Wilderness Program at WEGCCS Community School;

• Environment: We grow our own food; Greenhouses and farms and feeds its citizens with healthy food. In Peterborough, Ontario, they produce their own food.

- the examples we came up with (please see the box). We need to change our windows to double paneled (they are RDCK and provincial grants and rebates available).

Community gardens were suggested. Glad WECCCS (they are RDCK and provincial grants and rebates available). 

- activity interactive workshop to envision Slocan’s future together, which was well attended by about 40 residents. Mayor Jason Lum opened the event and asked the participants “What kind of future do we want to create?”

- Presenter Dr. Lily Yamaguchi, a Slocan resident with global experience in resilience planning, presented many examples of small villages and towns reinventing themselves in a good way for all.

- Jerome, Arizona lost 97% of its population after the collapse of its mining industry and reinvented itself as a tourist-attracting arts center. Gudvangen, Norway, a remote village is now home to the Viking Valley, one of the “most visited cultural attractions in Norway.”

- Portmeirion Village in Wales, a booming tourist attraction, was developed to show how a naturally beautiful location could be developed without spoiling nature but enhancing it.

- Tolino, BC marketed its cold, wet winter season into a storm- watching season. Leavenworth, Washington a rundown mill-town reinvented itself as a little Bavarian town” and attracts many tourists. Lac Megantic, Quebec, after a devastating train explosion rebuilt as a green, connected, and compassionate community.

- Detroit, USA was a ghost town and compassionate community. New Detroit has hundreds of small gardens and farms and feeds its citizens healthy food. In Peterborough, Ontario, they produce their own food.

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A record-high monthly temperature was also set at 21.3°C this month, breaking the previous record of 20.3°C from 2015. Like most weather analysts, Ellis is loathe to eulogize daily weather with longer-term climate change. But he says the kinds of weather events we’re seeing are consistent with what is expected as global average temperatures rise.

“Could a period of hot, dry weather similar to this occur were it not for a large-scale warming trend? The answer is yes, because the physical processes that led to the upper ridge getting parked over us exists whether our average global temperature is ‘x’, or ‘x’ plus two degrees,” says Ellis. “So the physics behind the long-wave features can sometimes get stalled over our region, resulting in a period of hot and dry weather. Yes, the upper ridge could have remained stalled, and yes, we could have seen really hot temperatures, but when the average temperatures are increasing, then the extremes are even more extreme when they occur.”

“We were nine new daily maximum temperature records set this month, as were nine new daily maximum temperature records,” says Ellis, a fire forecaster with the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar.

The month started off breaking a few daily maximum temperature records under a ridge of high pressure. Then from the 5th to the 15th, a series of mostly weak impulses of Pacific moisture rotating around offshore trough delivered 28.6mm of rain, over half of which came on the 14th. But that didn’t amount to much in the end. The month’s total rainfall was 60% below normal, continuing the spell of drier than average conditions that began in February. The real heat, came of course, at the end of the month. By June 20, an upper ridge began to rebuild over BC. By the 27th, the combined influences of exceptionally strong ridge of high pressure, an associated hot and dry airmass, and the strong surface heating of late June led to a new record maximum temperature of 41.6°C.

Over the next few days, the ridge remained stalled over BC so this historically significant new record didn’t last long - it was beaten on the 28th with a temperature of 42.1°C, which was then beaten again on the 30th with a value of 43.9°C. 43.9°C is the new all-time maximum temperature for Castlegar, at the Southeast Fire Centre headquarters. "[A colleague] told me that he's seen it happen several times where we're watching the thermometer, and it just barely almost hits 40°C, and it's 'well, better luck next year,'" says Ellis. "So the fact we exceeded it by almost four degrees is a really big deal."

The weather is expected to continue hot and dry for the foreseeable future.

**Community**

**Record-smashing June temps likely an indicator of climate change**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It’s not the fact that we hit an historic high temperature one day in June that has weather forecaster Jesse Ellis taking notice. It’s that we broke about two dozen heat records in a single month.

**A part from the climatologically significant new record-maximum temperature of 43.9 degrees, a total of 13 new daily max mean temperatures were set this month, as were nine new daily max temperature records,”** says Ellis, a fire forecaster with the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar.

A record-high monthly temperature was also set at 21.3°C this month, breaking the previous record of 20.3°C from 2015. Like most weather analysts, Ellis is loathe to eulogize daily weather with longer-term climate change. But he says the kinds of weather events we’re seeing are consistent with what is expected as global average temperatures rise.

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The weather is expected to continue hot and dry for the foreseeable future.
New CAO joins “outstanding” staff at Village of New Denver

by Kathy Hartman

The Village of New Denver has a new chief administrative officer (CAO), Lisa Scott.

“Lisa is a perfect fit as the new chief administrative officer, well suited to the corporate culture and community values,” said Acting CAO Darrell Garceau. “The Village is in very good hands and great things will come to happen in the community.”

Before he left, Garceau wanted everyone to know how honoured he felt working with the staff in New Denver. “They are a remarkable group of dedicated, professional and outstanding individuals who are incredible assets to the community,” he said.

Besides the CAO, there are seven other permanent staff at the Village office. Keith Macaulay has worked for the Village the longest, since 2014. When asked to describe his job, he answered, “You name it, from picking up garbage to burying bodies and everything in between.” If it is public land, Macaulay asked to describe his job, he answered, “You name it, from picking up garbage to burying bodies and everything in between.” If it is public land, Macaulay

The newest staff member, Taylor Attwood, who came on board less than a year ago, works in accounting assisting Rebecca Sargent. Sargent is the accounting clerk, the second senior-most member of staff. Between the two of them, they oversee all the revenue and expenses for the Village, including the Nikkei Centre, campground, taxes, utilities, grant projects, and more. Sargent and Attwood both agree what they most love about this job is “helping people and organizing chaos.”

Most people’s first contact with the Village is often through the soft dulcet Louisiana tones of Dianne Shepherd, the administrative assistant. She’ll be the first one to greet you at the front counter or on the phone, along with a wide variety of other catch-all tasks. Shepherd joined the staff two years ago after spending her formative years in Louisiana and Texas.

Theresa Tremaine has been with the Village for about five years. In her current position as the community services coordinator, she manages the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre and works with community organizations and volunteers who steward the Kohan Garden, Knox Hall, Bosun Hall, and Silvery Slocan Museum. She loves her job because, as she says, “There is always something interesting and different going on, whether it’s a new project, hiring summer students, or helping organizations with their facilities. There is never a dull moment!”

Both Jessica Rayner, community planner, and Greg McTaggart, facilities supervisor, joined the Village staff a couple of years ago. McTaggart is originally a Prairie boy from Saskatchewan with decades of commercial and residential construction experience, including his own business in Golden. His job is to supervise capital projects for Village-owned buildings. He loves the challenges the Village throws at him. Everything from “restoring a 130-year-old building or starting a new build from a sketch on a piece of paper and making it real.”

Rayner was thrilled when a planning position was advertised at the Village office. Her education and experience are in planning but she was not expecting the opportunity to be part of the municipality. “Working as community planner for the Village, I get to support and be involved professionally in the community I live in.” Rayner’s role is current and long-range planning, reviewing and processing building permits, development permits, variances and helping coordinate projects like the Centennial Park Plan and Active Transportation Network Plan.

Acting CAO Garceau had nothing but praise for this diverse cast of characters. “They are highly motivated, committed and inspired to provide a high level of service and assistance to council and the community. It has been a delight and pleasure to have worked with the staff and I have been very impressed by their professionalism.”

Diversity was one of the things that attracted the new CAO, Lisa Scott, to New Denver. “I saw the ad for New Denver and did some internet research to see what I could find out about the community, and one of the things that stood out was the description on the website that says ‘New Denver is a home to approximately 500 local colourful characters’ and I loved how the community recognized, embraced and celebrated the diversity of its residents.”

Scott has 22 years of municipal experience under her belt in communities from 600 to 1600 people. She grew up in a farming community in Manitoba, population 100. “I understand the dynamic of smaller communities and how everyone knows everyone or is related to everyone,” writes Scott in an email interview. “I understand how important the volunteer base is and how people are required to sometimes wear multiple hats – for example, the landfill attendant might also be a volunteer paramedic and the president of the Lions Club and the coach of my children’s hockey team. I understand how communities lean on and support each other and care for each other like they are family.”

The Scott family spent the last few summers travelling through the area and had fallen in love with its beauty. They talked about how wonderful it would be to live here. Scott jumped at the chance when the CAO position was advertised in January. She and her partner arrived at the end of June and were lucky enough to find a rental house in the area. They have five kids, one still left at home, Brody, who will be attending grade 10 at Lurene School in September.
COMMUNITY
submitted
Transmitting from the Slocan Valley, ‘The Shed’ features a one-night online extravaganza of live music and poetry fandango. Marking the (perhaps) end of COVID-19 as we know it, ‘The Shed’ takes flight July 30 at 7 pm with the indomitable Carolyn Mark, OK Vancouver OK (Winlaw), Land Band (Vallican), Ali Riley (Nanton, Alberta), and host Larry Woodenarms. Special secret guest from the Castlegar Ghetto.

Headliner Carolyn Mark is Canada’s preeminent alternative country singer-songwriter superstar. She has recorded as a solo artist and as a member of the duo The Corn Sisters with American colleague Neko Case, as well as with the bands the Vinaigrettes, Jr. Gone Wild, Showbusiness Giants, the Fixin’s and the Metronome Cowboys.

In 2009, Carolyn released a collaboration with NQ Arbuckle: Let’s Just Stay Here. The album was received with some of her highest acclaim yet, garnering a Juno nomination for Roots & Traditional Album of The Year and landing in the top 10 on PopMatters’ Best Country Music of 2009 list. Carolyn’s eighth solo release for Mint Records, the cleverly titled The Queen of Vancouver Island, arrived in fall 2012 and showcased her confident and collaborative, yet never too haughty, approach to songwriting.

Ok Vancouver Ok is a three-piece do-it-together lo-fi no-wave experimental pop band, who released their latest album ‘Never Perfect’ in April of 2021. This hardworking Canadian indie rock band formed in Vancouver in 2004 and has had a strong and steady career of international tours and full-length releases ever since. Integrating elements of punk, lo-fi, funk, pop, post punk, folk rock, and avant-garde ideas, Ok Vancouver Ok is sure to keep audiences engaged and excited. The current lineup comprised of Jeff Johnson (lead vocals, guitar, keyboards), KMVP (bass, vocals) and Laura House (drums) has been building a reputation as poetic, thought-provoking and forthright, with captivating live shows.

Astonishing poet of young womanhood and wild feminist angst, Ali Riley is sure to captivate the audience. Riley’s poems have appeared in Geist, The nth Position Anthology, Matrix, This Magazine, Event and the Moosehead Review. Her collection Tear Down was short-listed for the Re-Lit awards, and her first book, Wayward, was short-listed for the Gerald Lampert Award. Her novel-in-progress, Hag, was written on a reality show and took first prize in the Walrus magazine/SLS Fiction Contest. South Valley rockslide legends, the Land Band (Eddie Chavez, Willy Crow) return to the stage for their ten-year reunion at The Shed. Land Band bring Slocan swamp bottom acid prog for one (more) night only. Land Band will puncture the evening as encomic Larry Woodenarms (Clay McCann) negotiates the evening with wit, charm, and a splash of embalming fluid!

Everyone welcome to attend. Admission is free. Register by visiting The Shed’s EventBrite page or contacting bwgreview@gmail.com.

‘The Shed’ is generously supported by Slocan Valley Community Arts Council and the Vancouver Foundation’s Neighbourhood Small Grant initiative.

submitted
Studio Connexion welcomes Maureen Howard back to the gallery with ‘Lost and Found,’ running July 13-31. Maureen now lives in Salmon Arm, where she has a studio in the Sunnybrae sector. She lived in Nakusp for a few years, and then went back to university to complete her Masters in Psychology. After her practice, she decided to paint more seriously. She learned from her grandmother, and her mother and artist, Lois McLean. She has done various workshops with David Langevin, Mike Svob and others.

‘Lost and Found’ is a series of abstract landscapes, about experiences and influences brought to Maureen’s art. Four of the paintings were done in collaboration with her good friend and artist, Mary Cole from Calgary. Maureen loves working with oil and cold wax as well as with acrylic. The artist will be in attendance on Friday, July 16 from 5 to 7 pm for a reception. Everyone is welcome.

Studio Connexion Art Gallery is located at 203 Fifth Avenue NW in the heart of Nakusp. Gallery hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Other times can be arranged by contacting the gallerist, Anne Béliveau – call or text 250-265-8888. The gallery is an official venue of the Columbia Basin Culture Tour. Follow daily posts: www.facebook.com/studioconnexiongallery

SOUNDING THREAD
-by Barbara Sutherland
Come and explore the intersection of sound and textiles in Barbara Sutherland’s new work “Sounding Thread” where ancient and modern technologies, architecture, sound recording, and weaving come together in 81 woven panels. Using data from sound analysis, Sutherland translates the output images from a goniometer into brocade weavings on a Jacquard loom.

7 FLOWERS, 7 MOUNTAINS - By Philip Pedirik
Kaslo oil painter Philip Pedirik’s new work focuses on local flowers and mountainscapes... “All the flowers and mountains? They complement each other – same paint, subject small or big, same glow, same joy.”

Please observe COVID protocols while visiting the galleries. Masks are mandatory.
SEX AND THE SINGLE FERN
Western polypody are small ferns with long, creeping, scaly rhizomes (underground stems) with leaves scattered along the above-ground stems, and round sori along the margins. Spores germinate and grow into a prothallus, which produces sperm and egg cells that unite to form a new fern.

COMMUNITY
‘Let it Flutter’ art project documents pandemic experiences in New Denver-Silverton
by Jan McMurray
The strips of colourful cotton hanging on the fence by the New Denver Friday Market is a community art project in progress – a project that provides an opportunity to reflect on the last year-and-a-half.

“What have you lost? What have you gained?” asked Petra Hekkenberg, who is managing the project along with Margot Baker. “Write down or draw your experience – what has changed for you, what you felt.”

Petra was talking to someone who dropped by the project table, set up at the New Denver recycling depot on July 10. The table is decked out with cotton ribbons and felt markers of many colours. Participants simply choose their ribbon, and draw or write something about their pandemic experience. The ribbons will flutter on the fence like prayer flags until mid-August, and then Margot will piece them together in a quilt.

The idea for the art project started with Therese DesCamp, who was also at the table on July 10. “I was going to host a Wide Spot community conversation about this, but then I realized a lot of us are sick of talking,” she said, “so I thought of an art project instead.”

DesCamp approached the Slocan Lake Arts Council, and Petra and Margot stepped up to carry the project through.

“Our experiences during the pandemic have been really different, so we asked Kathy at Sew Much More to get us lots of different colours of material,” explained DesCamp. “The cotton flags are torn, not cut, because we’re all pretty afraid about this experience. They are all hanging on the fence together – not all agreeing, but together, like the community.”

DesCamp says the quilt will be a symbol of how we’re going to be in relationship with one another after this experience. “We’re kind of stuck with each other here, so we have to figure out how to move forward even when we don’t agree about stuff.”

“The quilt will be documentation of this important time in history,” added Petra.

See the ad on this page for upcoming locations and times for the ‘Let it Flutter’ project table. If you can’t make it but would like to participate, email letitflutter@gmail.com or call 236-979-1560.

Clarence denBok and Colin Ferguson were sworn in to office at a special meeting of Silverton council on July 7. Mayor Colin Ferguson and Councillor Clarence denBok are now officially members of council, after having been elected in the June 19 byelection.

SEX and THE SINGLE FERN
Western polypody are small ferns with long, creeping, scaly rhizomes (underground stems) with leaves scattered along the above-ground stems, and round sori (spore-producing neoplasdes under the fronds) midway between the midrib and leaf margins. Spores germinate and grow into a prothallus, which produces sperm and egg cells that unite to form a new fern.

Come check out our newly renovated store re-open back on Hall Street!

Vince DeVito
SHOES AND ORTHOTICS
411 Hall • Nelson, BC • 250-352-6261
vincedevito.ca
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day at the Vallican Whole

submitted

Forest fires have become a part of summer life in the Slocan Valley. The Talbot Creek fire captured the attention of many families last summer, and fire season started early this year with some dramatic lightning storms and spot fires along valley ridges. Building wildfire resiliency and protection should be a priority for anyone living in the Slocan Valley.

On Saturday, July 24, the Vallican Whole is hosting a Wildfire Preparedness Day, sponsored by FireSmart Canada. Garrett Fishlock and Bree Lillies, local wildfire mitigation specialists with the Regional District of Central Kootenay, will be hosting workshops for residents about how to protect your properties from fire, and create a more wildfire resilient community. Residents can book home consultations with wildfire mitigation specialists, and apply for a subsidy program that can reimburse them for up to $500 in costs associated with making your home firesmart.

Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS) members and friends will be working with Garrett and Bree to carry out an example of a home assessment to reduce fire risk around the Vallican Whole Community Centre. We will also be doing some firesmart labour around the Whole, and welcome volunteers to help with some of that work.

To top it all off, the Passmore Fire Hall Association, along with their fire trucks and hoses, will be in attendance, demonstrating some firefighting skills and sharing information about a new project with the community. The Passmore Fire Hall has been working with RARTS to create the Vallican Whole Smoke Training Centre, a training centre on RARTS property that allows regional firefighters to train on how to conduct rescues in smoky conditions, with no live fire. (They have a smoke machine!)

There will be some refreshments available, and a play area for kids. All are welcome to come, learn something, lend a hand, and connect with community in an effort to become a FireSmart Neighbourhood.

The event runs from 9:30 am to 2 pm on Saturday, July 24 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Little Slocan South Road.

Come armed with a shovel (snow or garden), rake and gloves, as early as 9:30 am around an outdoor coffee/light refreshment bar. For more info, call Dale/Marci at 250-226-7524, Marya at 250-226-7311 or Nance at 250-226-7923. For advance conversation with wildfire specialists, call Bree 250-352-1539 or Garrett 250-572-5993.

Hidden Garden Gallery hosts diverse exhibits

submitted

The walls of New Denver’s Hidden Garden Gallery (HGG) are reverberating with the creativity of local artists. Destanne Norris’ show, Dream Time wraps up on Sunday, July 18. Her exhibition is a combination of acrylic paintings and painted wooden cut outs. Destanne shares that the show’s acrylic paintings are landscapes, dreamscapes derived from imagination, memory and intuition. Can you relate?

From July 20 to 25, visitors will soak up the exhibit of local icon Koko. Her show, titled Seeing the Forest for the Trees is a collection of oils on canvas. As the title suggests, the show is all about trees, featuring over 130 small paintings and several larger canvases. For more than a year, Koko recorded the everyday lives of trees, trying to capture the moment of their moods and feelings, which change according to the atmospheric conditions of the day and the season. Sometimes they are dancing or singing. At other times, they are relaxing or sleeping, conserving their energy, ready for the future…

Born in Steveston, BC in 1937, Koko was raised in Japan. Returning to Canada in her late teens, she studied Fine Arts at Vancouver School of Art to Canada in her late teens, she studied Fine Arts at Vancouver School of Art and continued her studies in the USA. She’s had numerous exhibitions and her paintings are in private collections in Canada, Europe, Japan, Mexico and USA.

Erica Konrad’s exhibit, Everything Became Beautiful runs July 27-Aug 1. A Nelson resident, Erica is mostly self-taught. She draws and paints in mixed media, acrylic and encaustic (beeswax and damar resin). She maintains an active studio presence, creating artwork for public and private collections. Erica says her current body of work is inspired by a period of intense trauma to her body and emotional mindset through a journey of cancer and healing. She explores the connections between art and science. She hopes to engage viewers with the beauty and fragility of her work, highlighting how we are all interconnected. From personal angst to collective healing, Everything Became Beautiful is Erica’s love letter to her cells and the planet.

Visit the Hidden Garden Gallery at 112 Slocan Avenue, New Denver. Look for the big white barn across from the Village office. Gallery hours are 10am-3pm, Tuesdays-Sundays. All welcome!

The Langham presents:

MEET THE ARTIST
A virtual discussion with fibre artist BARBARA SUTHERLAND on Zoom, Sunday July 18 at 1pm

Barbara’s new exhibit SOUNDING THREAD is on display in the Langham galleries now until August 8th. In lieu of a public opening, we are offering this opportunity for everyone to meet Barbara and explore her extraordinary fiber pieces!

Barbara’s work involves installation and object making, deeply grounded and informed by fibre material, history, and processes. The knowledge gained through fibre processes, the development of the idea and the building of the installation is part of her continuing investigation and contemplation of our sensory experience of place.

Barbara’s work has been exhibited across Canada, in Europe and Australia. She received her MFA from the NCSAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and is an Instructor at the Alberta University of the Arts, School of Craft and Emerging Media, Fiber.

Please register by email to langham@netidea.com

You will be sent a Zoom link and event reminder.

Gallery hours Thursday – Sunday 1 – 4pm
447 A Avenue Kaslo, BC - 250-353-2661
www.thelangham.ca • langham@netidea.com

Please observe COVID protocols while visiting the galleries.
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp councillors had their first face-to-face meeting in months, and despite some audio problems, the public was able to join remotely.

Havin’ a heat wave

The record-breaking heat prompted Councillor Susan DeSandoli to ask if the Village should be providing some sort of emergency cooling shelter for the community. While everyone sympathized with the idea, clever second thought raised concerns about opening the arena or taking other steps to help locals beat the heat. Interim CAO Linda Tyman said the Village was in contact with emergency officials about this.

“It’s not necessarily recommended in rural situations where there are natural bodies of water and trees and shade,” she said of the cooling centre idea. “If we do mobilize the arena, it’s difficult to do it halfway. We have to have it staffed; it’s liability issues.

“We should just follow the recommendations of the RDCK emergency operations centre,” agreed Fire Chief Dan Parry.

In the end, staff suggested they’ll look into the issue informally to see if anything could be done that would not cost money or affect the Village’s liability – like continuing to distribute ‘keeping cool’ information online, and having the fire department set up sprinklers or a cooling tent.

ALFA secures old Forestry building for new Nakusp community gallery

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Art lovers in Nakusp are going to get a sneak peek next weekend at the old Forestry building on First Street and Fifth Avenue NW.

“The bones of the building are usable in the community since the 1980s. Then just recently, the 14-member ALFA Guild secured a deal they couldn’t refuse.

“We got a very generous offer from the Province,” says Coon. “We have a 10-year lease, with two five-year options after that. So a total of 20 years if we went for the whole term.”

“Once we walked into the building, we knew it was the space we wanted to be. It’s perfect for our needs with only having to do superficial work. There’s virtually no demolition, no cleanup. It’s in immaculate shape. There’s no mould, no concrete falling down. The structure is sound and overbuilt; the electrical is overbuilt… It’s a dream building and from the aesthetics, it’s amazing.”

But it won’t be easy getting the building ready for public use. It needs to meet modern fire, safety and accessibility standards. It also needs a new roof, new floor, new windows, a paint job outside, new washrooms on both floors, insulation, and drywall. It needs to be re-wired and re-plumbed for gallery use. It will need new kitchen/staff space, gallery lighting, and hanging systems as well.

Despite the work needed, the guild members, says ALFA President Donna Mair.

“The bones of the building are incredible. The main room has 16-foot ceilings, beautiful big open space, perfect for a gallery,” she says. “There’s no other space that’s as wonderful in town. The location, it’s an incredible deal we just couldn’t turn down.”

Doing all those upgrades is going to cost, however. The guild has raised a small fraction of the $150,000 they figure they’ll need to open the gallery. The executive has been busy writing grant proposals and doing fundraisers.

Councillor Joseph Hughes said he was a little frustrated that the only project the Village has ready to go is the last phase of the revitalization project.

“In all my years, I’ve never heard someone ask for an investment in downtown mainstreet,” he said. “It’s frustrating we’re locked down on this. I would love to see more access to the waterfront, or address mobility problems – that’s an actual request from our citizens. I don’t like that phase three is a priority.”

Councillor Hughes and other projects ready, council voted to apply for funds for the project.

Community groups can also apply for this funding, and Tyman recommends that nonprofits look into it.

“The deadline is July 23.

Council cool on urgent land swap

“Fairly straightforward,” says Coon.

But there’s a catch, as usual, with the Province,” says Coon. “We have a legal 150-metre easement through the Village’s property, so he could finalize the deal.

While staff reported receiving Telford’s urgent need, they said they were not in a position to move quickly on this.

“Staff resources are currently very limited due to an increased number of development related applications within Village boundaries,” a report to council stated. “...Staff are looking for direction from council on whether they wish staff to allocate time – on a priority basis – to this report or whether it is an item that will be reviewed when time allows.”

It was a big job, they noted, having to determine whether the use of the easement land, the impact an easement would have on the remaining Village land, and determining costs, liabilities, etc.

Council is looking into the issue informally to see if there’s a catch, as usual, with council continuing to discuss the issue with Telford as time and staffing allow, with him bearing the cost of any review.

Down with hate

A federal MP’s request for support for a private member’s bill banning hate symbols got a ready endorsement from council.

“My Bill C-313 will prevent anyone from selling and displaying symbols that promote hatred and violence against identifiable groups,” BC MP Peter Julian wrote. He said banning symbols of hate like swastikas or KKK Klan insignia “is important for all Canadians to feel safe.

Councilor Hughes Miller said he strongly endorsed the proposal, and council passed a motion directing staff to send a letter of support to the MP.

Black water blues

As summer gets underway, the inadequacy of sanitary dumping facilities in the village is becoming more apparent. Visitors and locals travelling in RVs are finding themselves lined up for long periods to dump their tanks at the municipal sani-dump at the campground.

That is, if they can fit their big rigs into the tight space – something some RVs can’t do, prompting their operators to sometimes dump their waste on the roadside.

That had Mayor Tom Zeleznik calling for a study into what can be done to improve the sani-dump situation.

Staff said they certainly understood the need for an improved facility, but they are unsure whether development projects and other matters.

“If council determines that this is an item which should be prioritized, it is important that a fulsome feasibility report be provided,” they cautioned.

“The impact of sani-dumps on sewer infrastructure must be considered in any decision rendered by council and the cost associated with this impact must be weighed along with the benefit provided to the users.”

In the end, council agreed to add a study of the feasibility of the project to the 2022 priority list.

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

July 15, 2021 The Valley Voice

COMING SOON!

The Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild is hosting an Art Bazaar fundraiser on August 1 on the site of its new art centre, the old Forestry building on First Street and Fifth Avenue NW.

The ALFA Guild has been working on grant proposals and doing fundraisers as we could over the last year.

Karen Coon. “We’ve been doing various things! We have our beautiful, petite “Emerald” and “Jade”, coming soon. ‘Very cute, curious, energetic, ready to make you smile!! If you are interested, please call PALS PAL KITTENS COMING SOON! PALS will soon have kittens ready to be adopted into your home. We have our beautiful, petite “Ruby”, and her two adorable kittens “Emerald” and “Jade”, coming soon. ‘Very cute, curious, energetic, ready to make you smile!! If you are interested, please call PALS at 250-255-3782.

The artists’ group takes possession of the building August 1. That’s why the Art Bazaar on that day is important. Local artists are being asked to donate part or the whole of a work of art to the event, to help raise money for the renos.

There’ll be hot dogs and snacks for people to enjoy.

The event will also give the public a chance to at least peek at the interior space – though you can’t go inside just yet.

“We don’t have an occupancy permit to allow the public actually in the building even to look around,” says Mair. “But we’ll have the big double-doors cut across Village land. He asked for a legal 150-metre easement through the Village’s 39-acre property, so he could finalize the deal.

While staff reported receiving Telford’s urgent need, they said they were not in a position to move quickly on this.

“Staff resources are currently very limited due to an increased number of development related applications within Village boundaries,” a report to council stated. “...Staff are looking for direction from council on whether they wish staff to allocate time – on a priority basis – to this report or whether it is an item that will be reviewed when time allows.”

It was a big job, they noted, having to determine whether the use of the easement land, the impact an easement would have on the remaining Village land, and determining costs, liabilities, etc.

Council is looking into the issue informally to see if there’s a catch, as usual, with council continuing to discuss the issue with Telford as time and staffing allow, with him bearing the cost of any review.

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In the end, council agreed to add a study of the feasibility of the project to the 2022 priority list.
Renos to entice new generation of students to Kaslo school library

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Educators in Kaslo are removing hundreds of books from the library shelves at JV Humphries School in an effort to connect young people back to the space.

JVI has embarked on a program to refresh the library to meet the needs of the latest generation of learners.

“We have this extraordinary space, but it’s gotten a bit stale,” says JVI Principal Victoria McAllister of the school library, which features tall ceilings and great natural lighting. “But kids have been voting with their seats. Young kids still come to read, but older kids don’t. So we are totally updating our collection.”

With a $3,000 grant from the Regional District of Central Kootenay, along with various pots of money from fundraising over the years, McAllister says work will begin this summer to re-invigorate the library.

“We have taken a hard look at what books have been taken out in the last five years, and we have culled hundreds of books from our shelves,” she says.

The plan is to add new books to the collection, create more small learning spaces, a larger computer lab and our shop, for our kids, so they are amongst distinct, separate spaces.”

Bye-bye Katniss?

But to do all those renovations, they need to re-arrange the library space – and that means removing rows of books.

So hundreds of titles have been removed from the shelves – mostly out-of-date non-fiction reference books, and out-of-fashion young adult novels.

“We’re getting rid of a lot of these books,” says McAllister. “Some of the titles are just old stories,” she says. “But we’re keeping the classics. That’s really important still. We have a teacher that teaches The Bluest. So we’ll hold onto those.”

“But honestly, some of our literature was also dated, it was not distinctive. So we’re keeping the classics. That’s one,” she says.

Combining activities

The overall goal will see the library, the computer room, and the shop class share a connected facility, allowing students to move seamlessly from various activities.

“In our school we have an incredible variety of things. So you could want in a shop – welding, woodwork, mechanics – it’s incredibly well-resourced,” she says.

So now the school is working with the district on getting higher-power computers that can work with the school’s 3D printers and laser cutters too.

“We’re trying to create a flow-through from our library, our maker-space computer lab and our shop, for our kids, so they are amongst distinct, separate spaces.”

Changing times

Many of the stale books will be replaced with what kids are attracted to these days – graphic novels, Indigenous literature, and books that touch on social justice and environmental issues.

“They are emerging in our secondary school as something our kids are very passionate about,” says McAllister.

With a busy Strong Start program for pre-schoolers, K-12 students, homeschoolers, and emerging literacy learners, the school is working to make the library a useful resource for a wide section of the community, and staff as well.

“When we are redesigning the library, we are really thinking of our really young kids, our homeschool community, and we do lots of partnerships with the town library as well,” she says.

Bringing the community together for wildfire risk in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

KASLO & DISTRICT

Kevin and his team have also done FireSmart assessments on critical infrastructure in the village, such as the water system, communication towers, emergency services buildings, the school, the arena, and the heritage assets – the Moyie, the Langham, City Hall, the churches. Cathro says the Province is expanding the scope of its wildfire risk reduction funding program, and there may be an upcoming opportunity to get funds for mitigation work on these critical properties.

Fuel treatment loading work is also scheduled in the fall on Village land, along some of the trails stoked by the Kaslo Mountain Bike Club, and in the Kaslo and District Community Forest’s catch area, Cathro reports. “Kevin has been doing some door-to-door talking about that, and we’ll engage with the public as we move into the summer and fall,” he said.

Cathro said funding for the various pieces of Kaslo’s program has come from the provincial Community Resilience Investment program and the Columbia Basin Trust.

Murray Pearson’s siblings donate $20K to Lakeside Museum Valley

The Lardeau Valley Historical Society is pleased to receive a large donation in honour of the late Murray Pearson who died last year in a tragic backcountry accident. Following discussions with the museum board, Murray’s siblings, Nona Flemming and Jim Pearson, are directing this substantial contribution as seed money to create an ongoing endowment to support the museum’s activities and program, which highlights the history of the region.

In Murray’s dedication and hard work at the TDRC, he was a critical embodiment of the mutual respect and collaboration between the public and the Salmon-Trapper Creek Spawning Channel. Multiple organizations, including the Provincial and Federal (DFO) Fisheries and the Elko-Trail Community Forest, invested in the project, states Jim Pearson. “It will not only summarize events and a description of resources in the area but will also be a legacy for Murray, who was involved in the spawning channel for over 30 years. We heard many appreciative comments about Murray Pearson’s work and hard work at the channel and also his character and involvement in the community. We know he enjoyed his lifestyle with all his friends and would not change it for anything. It meant so much to us to meet many of his co-workers and friends at the channel gathering on September 27 last year.”

History is a community activity, and LVHS welcomes all community members to help gather information, materials, and artefacts that relate to the topic.
Quick development approval came with problems, Nakusp CAO reports

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Village of Nakusp’s top bureaucrat says council has to up its game when considering development proposals, after a new housing project ended Nakusp’s downtown core was approved in March without proper review.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Linda Tynan made the comments in a report to council about the housing project being developed at 88 Nelson Avenue.

“This particular development… it came clear pretty soon there was a number of pieces, and there was a step that had been missed in looking at the comprehensive picture, which is a typical thing to do,” said Tynan.

“It is recommended for future developments that a comprehensive approach is taken at the onset of planning for a development of this size so that all of the variables can be discussed as a package. This approach makes the process more transparent for the Village, property owners and the Developer,” her report concludes.

Mis-steps in process

The problem came to light with a development planning project in Nelson Avenue housing development. The builder, James Zeleznik, applied for the rezoning, the development permit and building permit, and the endorsement of a Development Cost Charge bylaw.

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Zeleznik’s brother. The mayor excused himself from the discussion and took no part in the debate or vote approving the rezoning, the development permit (granted in April), or in the discussion of the report.

Tynan said other Village bylaws are all borne by the developer.

Selkirk College president uses pedal power to make connections and raise funds

by Jan McMurray

Selkirk College President Angus Graeme stopped by the Valley Voice office on July 9, to take a break and psyche himself up for the Silverton hill. He was on his bicycle, heading from Nakusp to Slocan City.

Graeme decided to raise funds by doing a bike tour of the communities with Selkirk College campuses, from Grand Forks to Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, Kaslo, Nakusp and back to Nelson – a 500-kilometre trip – from July 5 to 10.

“I wondered if I could contribute while enjoying a week’s vacation,” Graeme said with a laugh. “I wondered to build, to ensure it conforms with size, appearance, location, and other guidelines set up in the Official Community Plan.

The CAO at the time, Cheryl Martin, “given the overall Permit, however it was incomplete, as not all requirements of the OCP were considered before the permit was issued,” the report found.

Among the missing, incomplete or changing pieces to the development include the amount of parking spaces set aside, the building height and property setbacks, drainage, the cost of connecting to sewer and water and the impact that will have on the Village’s systems.

And none of those were reviewed in the context of the bigger picture – how the development will fit into the overall community plan, the report says.

There was no development agreement signed before the permit was let, “so we have to be careful that none of the costs related to this development are borne by the taxpayer,” Tynan warned.

The Village also missed an opportunity to get some community improvements done. The Village has no Development Cost Charge bylaw requiring developers to contribute in some meaningful way to the betterment of the public space around their projects.

Perhaps in another situation we would have discussed a little bit with what improvements they might have helped us with, fronting the building onto the waterfront pathway.

That is passed now, she said. Fixing the problem

Tynan said many of the issues uncovered when the developer’s building plans were submitted to the Village in May can be cleaned up before a building permit is issued.

She also says other Village bylaws are all borne by the developer.

Nakusp CAO reports

The coming year is Graeme’s last year as president of the college, after almost 30 years. “I’m going to stay in the area, so I’m happy to stay in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area, so I’m happy to stay on in whatever area,” he said.

Graeme said he has enjoyed reconnecting with people after a year on Zoom. “It’s been a tough year for everyone in the region,” he said, “but we have a busy year coming up, and we’ll get back to what we’re good at – accessible, in-person, place-based education.”

She suggested council hold a strategic planning session to review its priorities in the “very near future.”

“One of the intents of [this report] is, ‘let’s look at the big picture, so we know what we’re talking about… let’s have it up front, what it looks like, what the bylaws say, and then separate to that, what does the big picture say, and is there something we want to change for the future?’”

Councillor Joseph Hughes told the Valley Voice council is definitely interested in finding out what the “mis-steps in the process were this time,” and how to avoid them in the future.

“Developments of this size are out of the norm for Nakusp,” he said. “So certainly there could be issues with experience and capacity managing that.”

“W e’re pushing the limits for [processing] building permits and developments in the city, so it’s an area we need to focus on.”

“It’s important that we ensure as we encounter this kind of development, that it doesn’t happen again,” he says.

“We don’t want to discourage the development of residential opportunities, but we have to make sure the taxpayer is not picking up the tab for every step of the way,” he said.

Council accepted Tynan’s report as information.

Ongoing service interruptions at RDCK recycling depots

For more information and ways to donate: Selkirk.ca/Graeme-legacy-ride

Selkirk College President Angus Graeme stops at the Valley Voice on his bike tour.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: Award-winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2282.

KIDS CLOTHES BY DONATION: Koots Kids Clothing Store, 222 Lake Ave., Silverton General Store. Used clothing and footwear accepted. Open Wed-Sat. 11am-3pm. Follow ‘Koots Kids Clothing Store’ on Facebook.

SECKING COMMUNE STORIES: If you live communally in the Slocan Valley? Have you been part of a commune, organic farm or free school? Would you like to tell your story? Oxygen Art Centre is seeking commune dwellers to contribute to a research project that maps the history of communal living across the Slocan Valley and BC interior. If you would like to be interviewed about your experience, please email Greta.literayants@oxygenartcentre.org

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY

business can provide a modest living for you and your family and wonderful community connections. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long or as little as you need us. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people! Give us a call t. 833-300-1700 for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Ian.

WORK YOUR DREAM JOB and be your own boss with help from the Self Employment Program at Community Futures! Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you’re eligible you will usually receive financial support for the first year. So make sure to call 265-3674 ext. 211 or email Nakup@futures.bc.ca.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self-Employment Program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 211 or email Nakup@futures.bc.ca.

ACCOUNTING FOR YOU

Need to manage your GST, PST, MRTD, WorkSafe BC, & Wage Deduction remittances?

We provide timely processing of your payroll, A/Ps, A/Rs, and Financial Statements

Sharie Merrifield
25 years experience
Email: sha01@telus.net
(That is a zero, not an ‘0’)
Tel: (250) 358 - 6806

CLASSIFIED ADS

SLOCAN SATURDAY MARKET is happening every Saturday, 10 am-2 pm at Expo Park in the village of Slocan. Come check out our local farmers, artisans, and kids zone. For info, call Christina at 250-355-2835.

ART EXCURSION July 19: “Draw in Ave.” Hike together to Dennis Basin Ridge for a sketching workshop on the mountain! With artist Destanne Norris and Petra Hekkenberg. 500-000 at slocanlakeartscouncil.ca; slocanlakeartscouncil@gmail.com; 250-358-2181.


SLOCAN LAKE ARTS COUNCIL EVENTS: July 14: Live Outdoor Concert featuring the faculty of Mountainside Chamber Strings Program, Slocan Lake Centre. www.slocanlakearts.org.

EDUCATION

SAILING MASTER CLASS: 43 year Instructor Capt Dave only $299 per person add friend/family = $399 no tax. After 3 classes, adults can sail solo. 250-354-9278. Ck our Kootenay Catamaran (Youtube). Boat, pfd, training sheets incl. Slocan City.

ESTATE SALE

Estate sale in Hills. July 31 and Aug 1, 9 am-4 pm. West on Redfin Road, follow the signs. Furniture, tools, collectibles etc.

The Valley Voice July 15, 2021


BRACKENSTETT REAL ESTATE

Hillside – The Valley Voice – July 15, 2021

The Valley Voice July 15, 2021
Bears in the pool? Keep cool, says WildSafeBC

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

“If you think temperatures above 30°C are hard to take as humans, spare a thought for animals in the forest wearing fur coats.

Just like humans, they’re looking for ways to stay cool and stay safe.

“We have to adapt to heat and fire events,” says Kaslo WildsafeBC community co-ordinator Brian Montgomery. “Having said that, these are unprecedented high and prolonged temperatures and may drive wildlife such as bears and deer to seek sources of water.

“Animals will need to cool down just like we do and have plenty of water.”

That drive for water can draw animals out of the forest and into communities. Heat-stressed animals have been known to make themselves a nuisance in the drive for relief from the heat.

“Animals may be heat-stressed and may be attracted to sources of water in our communities – backyard pools, tubs, lawn sprinklers, livestock ponds as well as the lakes, rivers, creeks, and ponds in our region,” says Montgomery. “Wildlife may be showing up in unusual places as they seek out places to cool off with water and shade availability to them.”

As with any wildlife, hot or not, Montgomery says the rule is the same: leave them be. People should ensure there are no animals in the yard when they let their children or pets out to play.

WildsafeBC advises that you take care that smaller animals that may seek shelter and shade under porches and decks or within low bushes or tree branches are left alone.

“You might encounter wildlife out trying to seek relief from the heat in the same areas and water bodies you might be heading to for relief,” he advises. “Please give them space; do not feed or approach them. Best to let them be and move away from the area and find another cooling water spot.”

While you shouldn’t try to provide water for larger wildlife, you can give a helping hand to smaller critters.

“Providing water for birds through bird baths is a way to help smaller animals,” he says. “You can also place small pebbles, marbles and stones in a shallow container like a dish to make a bee bath so bees can also get a sip without drowning or place water in a hummingbird feeder.”

Food sources

While the most extreme temperatures of the first heatwave are passed, they may have had a knock-on effect on food sources for wildlife for the rest of the summer.

Local pickers are noticing fruit trees and berry bushes are thick with fruit, but it’s all ripening up weeks earlier than usual. And that’s a worry, says Montgomery.

“If berries and other food sources do dry up, then we could potentially have more conflicts with wildlife moving into communities seeking food, and potentially more conflict with bears in the fall when they are seeking calories for winter hibernation,” he says.

That kicks in the usual reminders from wildlife watchers: keep human food sources – such as garbage, fruit trees, and bird feeders – well-secured and managed. That means keeping garbage inside and secure, picking fruit before it drops to the ground, and installing electric fencing around fruit trees, honey bee houses, and chicken coops.

“Animals may be heat-seeking or not, Montgomery says the drive for relief from the heat.

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Public hears details of proposed logging road near Burton Elementary

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Residents of Burton got the chance to weigh in last week on a proposal to build a logging road across a corner of the Burton Elementary School property.

At a Burton Lakes District School Board meeting on July 7, 10 trustees and staff held a public consultation meeting at Burton Elementary School on July 7 to gather public input on the proposed plan.

About 15 people showed up in person and online to hear about the proposal from logging company Stella-Jones.

The forester is asking for permission to build 200 metres of access road across the corner of the 70-acre school property to allow logging of fir beetle-damaged forest above the community. In exchange for a 10-year road allowance, the school district would receive some money, the company would gain easier access to difficult cutting areas, and the community would have some further protection from wildfires, officials said.

Stella-Jones foresters Dave Eddy and Veli Krogh said the plans to log several patches of forest above the community of Burton to clear out trees damaged by fir beetles. He said his survey included finding ash-covered logs and spreading above the town.

“I emptied our traps today and I got a peanut butter jar of beetles in the traps…” 1.5 litres of beetles,” said Eddy.

“Experts tell me if I trap 1,200 beetles, I out trees damaged by fir beetles. He said his survey included finding ash-covered logs and spreading above the town.

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Community Foundations

Community Foundations are grantmaking public charities that mobilize the assets of past and current donors to improve the lives of people in a defined geographic area. By pooling charitable gifts of all sizes, we cultivate and grow permanently endowed funds to provide lasting support for local priorities. Income earned on these permanent funds is distributed to support a broad range of charitable programs, while the original investment is left to grow over time.

Across Canada 191 community foundations help guide volunteer efforts and financial support to where it will have the greatest impact. Supporting a local community foundation is easy. Check out the website of the foundation in your area, then start the dialogue today. Whether you wish to create your personal legacy as a monthly donor, with an immediate gift, or with a bequest in your will, we would love to hear from you.

To support your local community foundation:

Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake
www.nkcommunityfund.org
Email: nkcommunityfund@gmail.com
Geographic area covered:
North Kootenay Lake: Kaslo and RDCK Area D

Osprey Community Foundation
www.ospreycommunityfoundation.ca
Email: ed@ospreycommunityfoundation.ca
Geographic area covered:
Nelson and RDCK Areas E & F

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund
www.slocanvalleylegacy.com
Email: svcls.chair@gmail.com
Geographic area covered:
Slocan Valley: New Denver, Silverton, Slocan, Hills and RDCK Area H

Salmo Valley Fund
www.salmovalleyfund.orga
Email: vanwijk.michael@gmail.com
Geographic area covered:
Salmo Valley: Salmo and RDCK Area G