Hundreds forced from homes, fires grow as historic heat wave continues

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The unpredictability of forest fire was in full evidence in the West Kootenay last week, as wildfires threatened communities, then backed off a few days later.

On Wednesday night, the region was on the knife-edge of disaster, with winds whipping up fires in the south Arrow Lakes region and Slocan Valley.

Hundreds of residents between Fauquier, Edgewood, and Needles in the Arrow Lakes, and Appledale and Lemon Creek in the Slocan, were first put on evacuation alert, then ordered out of their homes.

The fires prompted officials to close Highway 6 between Edgewood and Vernon, and set up a pilot-car guided controlled zone for 10 kilometres on Hwy 6 south of the Village of Slocan. Ferry service was shut down at Needles. A Slocan Valley internet provider took down some equipment from a tower before fire destroyed it, so many people’s internet was down until it was safe to reinstall the components 24 hours later.

Emergency centres were organized to deal with evacuees, and people sent as far away as Castlegar and Kelowna for emergency support. Then the winds died down, and by the weekend many residents were being allowed to return to their homes on the west shore of Arrow Lakes (Edgewood and area) and the Slocan Valley. However, dozens remain on evacuation order, and the ones who can return are still on evacuation alert.

Crews used the pause in fire growth to build containment lines and try to redirect the flames away from homes and infrastructure.

While expressing guarded optimism about the situation on the fires, officials didn’t expect the change of luck to last: the region was expected to return to temperatures in the high 30s by early in the week.

And residents were growing used to having sore throats, burning eyes and shortness of breath, as the skies filled with smoke — some towns, like Castlegar, achieving the dubious distinction of having Canada’s worst air quality for several days.

Officials say none of these fires will be put out by human effort. They can only look to the sky, hope for a change in weather, and keep losses to a minimum.

Arrow Lakes Complex

Three large fires burning in the southern Arrow Lakes region are now being considered a single unit, for firefighting purposes.

The largest in the Arrow Lakes Complex is the monster Octopus Creek fire burning south of Fauquier. At 14,238 hectares (142 sq. km), firefighters have been dealing with aggressive fire behaviour that prompted evaevations and road closures. On the north flank, firefighters are attempting to shift the wildfire upslope into the alpine and away from the community of Fauquier.

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Hundreds forced from homes, fires grow as historic heat wave continues

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by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

People living along the shore of north Kootenay Lake or Slocan Lake may see a slow-moving boat filled with people passing by their properties at some point later this summer.

The people in the boat won’t be trolling for lake trout, however – they’ll be doing a detailed survey of the condition of the natural shoreline, and the human activity that’s affecting it.

It’s all part of an inventory being done by Living Lakes Canada to update the characteristics of shoreline habitats and human development on lakes in the region.

“The survey identifies land use, such as industrial vs residential vs commercial,” says Georgia Peck, the acting program manager for the Foreshore Integrated Management Planning (FIMP) project. “You’ll have someone identifying shore type, you have one person counting the number of docks, weirs, or other man-made developments, one person making note of any wildlife, emergent vs underwater vegetation, etc.

“There’s a lot of criterion that are looked at when we are doing the actual boat work. So it’s a pretty comprehensive process.

Living Lakes Canada is halfway through a four-year agreement with the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans to review and revise the FIMP methodology, and map (or re-map) six to eight lakes in the Columbia Basin. The goal is to assess the rate of change in ecological and urban development along the land-water interface.

Using the information gathered in the survey, Living Lakes will re-map shoreline habitat, assesses habitat value and establish shoreline development guidelines. Those guidelines are used to help conserve ecosystems, support climate resiliency, and protect species of concern. Having that information will allow decision makers to choose the best management practices to protect the delicate ecosystems.

Foreshore surveys have been done before on the lakes, but it’s been at least a decade since the last one. This latest survey will update, expand and improve on the quality of the research, to make it more useful for groups, individuals and government planners, says Peck. She says an initial project last year on the East Kootenay’s Lake Windermere did just that.

“It allows us to re-assess the landscape-level changes over a ten-year time frame,” she says. “Ideally the results we get from that will allow for updating mapping, zoning by-laws, and help protect sensitive parts of the shoreline, and assist with property owner outreach and education.”

The new project, FIMP v2, however, is very complex, and part of the project is also to train up FIMP surveyors to be able to do surveys on their own.

“The updated methodology was designed to train more people,” Peck told the Valley Voice. “More people need to be able to do this work, and we view these proposals to allow this work to take place on as many lakes as possible. That was really the objective to updating the methodology.”

The contract for the surveys of Slocan and North Kootenay Lakes should be let by the end of June, with work on the taking place later this summer.

One important new aspect to the data collection and reporting is that the project will also review archaeological and Kuurna Nation cultural values. Living Lakes says this will set a precedent to meaningfully recognize and protect Indigenous values in the area.

“That is something that has been newly added to the methodology,” says Peck. “Archaeological and cultural values, including knowledge related to historical species at risk, as selected by the First Nation, is held confidently by the First Nation and then applied for decision making.

“It really supplants the present data we’re collecting.”

While the public will have access to the data, it says it will be a very technical document, and not easily accessible to the lay person who may live along the lakeshore.

“It’s very water weighted, and it has to be, there are so many moving parts of the foreshore, to get a snapshot of the foreshore health that much work has to go into it.

“The guidance documents for development would be used by local and provincial governments when applications for development come in,” she adds, though property owners can also gain insight from it.

It’s not threatening any homes or homes in the near term. The 980-hectare Mt. Ruppel fire is burning in the highlands east of Slocan, and is listed as out-of-control, though it’s not threatening any homes.

Seven smaller fires (the largest is 100 hectares) burn along the south shore of Trout Lake and the far north end of Kootenay Lake, and scattered spot fires are being watched or held in the southern Arrow Lakes, north of New Denver (on Wilson Creek) and west of Nakusp.

The West Kootenay is only a small part of the larger fire picture, which is seeing record high temperatures forcing out-of-control wildfires from BC to Ontario, and deep into the US.

It gives property owners a good idea of how, say, they should build a retaining wall. ‘Should I leave vegetation as a buffer? Can the access to my property, would they be impacted if I built a dock or what have you?’”

As the project develops, Living Lakes Canada said it’s already begun FIMP work in Lac La Biche in Alberta and southern Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba.

People under evacuation order asked to register with Canadian Red Cross submitted

The Canadian Red Cross is encouraging people under evacuation order by a local authority or through a Band Council Resolution due to wildfires in British Columbia to register with Red Cross by calling 1-800-863-6582, between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. PST.

People who have already registered with British Columbia Emergency Support Services (ESS), or are staying with family and friends, are also encouraged to register with Red Cross. Registration with Red Cross ensures people can be contacted while away from home, and can also be reached with information on further Red Cross services and assistance that may become available to them during this time of need.

Canadians wishing to help people impacted by the wildfires in BC are encouraged to contribute to the British Columbia Fires Appeal online at redcross.ca, by calling 1-800-4-HA-1111, or by texting FIRES to 45678. The Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia will each match donations to the Canadian Red Cross Fires Appeal.

Donated funds will be used for immediate and ongoing relief efforts, infrastructure rebuilding, and preparedness for future events in British Columbia and impacted regions, including consequential events related to the fires.
ALR housing rule changes delight landowners, confound administrators

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The news that the provincial Agricultural Land Commission is relaxing the rules to allow more secondary housing on ALR lands is welcome news to one notable Slocan Valley farmer.

“I am thrilled,” said Winlaw-area farmer (and former MLA and Agriculture Minister) Corky Evans. “We never wanted special treatment from the Land Commission. What we thought was reasonable for us is reasonable for all farmers of our age group, so a policy change that works for everyone is just what we had hoped would someday happen.”

That policy change, called “profound” by some local politicians, will see far more flexibility in the kinds of secondary housing allowed on ALR lands. It was announced in an August 2020 meeting of the RDCK, a day after the announcement was made. “The impact on official community planning now... the potential implications are profound.”

Another director worried that the policy may change again, causing people to rush into the approval process in order to get their applications in while they could.

“This kind of changing back-and-forth on policies is highly disruptive to communities,” said Garry Jackman. “In the very short term, I anticipate this is going to create another disruption in work flows, because it’s going to trigger a mass of applications.”

But staff couldn’t offer much light on the subject. “It’s too recent and we have to digest it to see how it fits into our jurisdiction,” said CAO Stuart Horn.

The land commission rule change opens all sorts of opportunities for people on ALR land to make additional money off their property. The additional residence can be used for housing extended family, agriculture accommodation, housing for farm labour, or just as a rental property for supplemental income.

There is no longer a requirement that the additional residence be used by the landowner or immediate family members.

The application process has been simplified as well, with permissions needed only from local governments and/or First Nations.

Evans, 72, and his partner had applied to the RDCK’s Rural Affairs Committee in March for permission to build a tiny home on their Slocan River Road farm. He said they wanted to continue to live there and let the next generation of their family take over operation of the property.

The Rural Affairs Committee approved the request going forward to the Agricultural Land Commission, despite concerns from staff it did not meet regulations and policies of the regional government or the provincial body.

Directors at the time said they felt the rules had to change, and Evans’ case would make a good example.

Now that the rules have changed, Evans says it looks like the Province was listening.

For the Government of BC and the Ministry of Agriculture and the ALCC-held community meetings all over the province a few years ago,” he told the Valley Voice. “I think this change is a result of the input they received from farmers and landowners. It is good to see public process and dialogue actually turn into real change.”

Questions at the RDCK

But change isn’t easy, especially when it’s sprung on regional officials who have to apply the decision and administer the process. Regional District of Central Kootenay directors, who had earlier in the year said they would support exactly this kind of change, said they had many questions about the decision.

“That is a download on us – the streamlined approval process,” said Area I Director Andy Daviddoff at the Rural Affairs Committee meeting of the RDCK, a day after the announcement was made. “The impact on official community planning now... the potential implications are profound.”

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Abra Brynne, says she doesn’t see it that clear-cut, and the rule change is an example of the tightrope that government walks trying to regulate agricultural land.

“As soon as you add additional residential dwellings or infrastructure onto it, you drive up the cost of that farmland. We know we need more and more and more farmers because our farmers are aging out, and food security is more critical these days, but we have this dilemma of farm prices going up,” she says. “But the flip side of that is if we can figure out how to enable multi-generational families to cohabitate on a property, or work cooperative farms, it’d be really great.

“It’s a paradox for trying to make it work because farm prices have been driven up so high. Despite the ALR mechanism to keep them low, they’re still out of reach for most people who want to farm. So there’s no easy answer.”

And Brynne notes removing the ALR from the process actually goes back to an earlier practice, which was discontinued when it created problems.

“It was delegated to local authorities to make the decision, and it was counter-productive to the intent of preserving farmland because of the political pressure,” she says. “There was a lot of farmland lost under that model.

“I can understand why they cycled back to that, but it’s not without its dangers.”

Still, back in the Slocan Valley, Evans agrees it’s good for the future of farming.

“There’s lots of unused farmland and good soils in our region that is in need of housing to allow folks to live and work on the land,” he told the Valley Voice. “My age group, especially, will benefit by allowing younger people to live and work here.”

July 29, 2021
The Valley Voice

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RECREATION GRANT APPLICATIONS
RECREATION COMMITTEE NO. 6

Recreation Committee No. 6 is requesting grant applications for our 2021 Fall Grant opportunities. All interested organizations and community groups must apply to receive funds, including those that have received funds in the past.

All Grant applications must be received by August 27, 2021.

Applications and final reports can be found online at: https://rdck.ca/EN/main/administration/grants/recreation-grants.html

Application enquiries may be emailed to: acarmichael@rdck.bc.ca

All previous grant recipients are asked to submit their final report.

Alanna Carmichael
Secretary – Recreation Committee No. 6
Email: accarmichael@rdck.bc.ca Web: www.rdck.ca

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Protection from wildfire

The recent wildfire event in Lytton, in the Lillooet area, has caught the attention of many rural communities in BC and elsewhere. The District of Lillooet has a detailed, professionally written Community Wildfire Protection Plan (updated in 2016). It is a 58-page document and available on the internet. You may find it interesting in that the plan is oriented to carry out activities which would protect the area from a serious wildfire event. Yet despite this plan, Lytton is now in ruins and its residents face serious financial consequences.

Many communities in the Regional District of Central Kootenay have Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). I wonder how well these communities are protected? If you wish to be informed about your community’s protection, read the Lillooet plan and then read your local Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Ask yourself if you feel safe, especially those who reside in the Box Mountain area.

Greg Lay
Kaslo

Act now on blanket cell coverage

Not only could cell coverage have arguably prevented the Lemon Creek fuel spill, but it certainly would have arguably prevented the Lemon Creek fire.

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news. Please mark your letters with “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.

OPINION

Trevor Holsworth case

I attended Trevor’s hearing to provide witness to his case before the court. I attended primarily because I suspected there was a spiritual thread in the background of this case. As the case proceeded, the content and the issues raised led me to be relatively certain that there were spiritually violent people vested in the background.

Other than openly stating my concerns, I do not know how those who are non-violent spiritually will have their rights heard.

Our system was not designed to address or handle people who are different spiritually from us. Because of this, fairness is not a part of our system and those who are non-violent spiritually continue to be used and abused in a manner we would not imagine is possible. However, the impact of their violence can be seen in those diagnosed with mental health disorders and can explain drug abuse as well as many unexplainable medical disorders such as multiple sclerosis or even Alzheimer’s. Because of this, I suggest we have a change in our system so that spiritually violent people are vested in the background.

What can we do to get those who hold power to implement policies to help us survive the environmental crisis we’re facing? And I don’t mean getting them to make promises they won’t keep. We’ve seen enough talk and log, talk and frack, talk and buy pipelines, and talk and subsidize fossil fuel companies.

We need to figure this out and find the levers that will change our direction if we have any hope of a livable future.

Diana van Eyk
Widlaw

Struggling to see a better future

I struggle to understand how the power to create a better future is in the hands of people who behave as though they don’t care. And what we can do to change that.

Running a country or a province is a sacred duty to represent citizens’ interests. And that isn’t sacred enough, what about the duty to the kids in their lives? What do they tell four-year-olds what about the duty to the kids in their lives? What do they tell four-year-olds what about the duty to the kids in their lives? What do they tell four-year-olds what about the duty to the kids in their lives? What do they tell four-year-olds?

Even people we know are committed to environmental ideals, once elected to government, remain silent – even as the last of BC’s old growth is clearcut, as fracking continues, and as our tax dollars are given to the very companies that are destroying our life support systems.

This is due to party discipline? Or the power of industry lobbyists? Maybe it’s trade agreements that give large corporations the ability to sue our government if policies that protect our environment harm their bottom line. What will it take for our politicians to wake up and make the changes we need?

Chris Dawson
Winlaw

Temporary foreign workers

The idea of having temporary foreign workers in Canada is 60 years old. This was at a time when Canadians believed in democracy, the wealth of OUR nation and SHARING! The concept: Temporary foreign workers would come to Canada and do all the work. Canadians would not have to work. Canadians would not have to work. Canadians would not have to work. Canadians would not have to work. Canadians would not have to work. Canadians would not have to work.

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Occasionally you meet someone who remembers this.

This idea scared the hell out of the ‘money pigs’ (people who, no matter how much money they have, have to have more; also, they do not want anyone else to have money because it should be theirs) and our government, who works for these people. Our governments now help to create a billionaire every 17 hours, down from one every 25 hours – while one in three schoolchildren in Canada go to school hungry. In the last 50 years, the money pigs and government have done everything under the sun to make sure no one ever came up with that idea again. Governments legislate people to work for crappy wages under crappy conditions and Canadians courts echo the sentiment. Uniform and union ideals are a thing of the past. The fate of Canadians has been clearly legislated. Either you work for crappy wages under crappy conditions or you can be homeless on the streets and temporary foreign workers will be brought into Canada to work for crappy wages under crappy conditions.

Some Canadians have not seen a raise in 30 or 40 years.

So much for a life for young Canadians. No hope of being able to own a home. No hope of employment to earn a living wage in Canada to support themselves. It is no wonder we have the increase in gangs and drug abuse. If you cannot live by legal means, you live by illegal means. Given the plight of Canadian workers and the dismal reality they face, when Canadian workers are legislated back to work, it should be deemed to be an act of domestic terrorism! Also, God says: “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” The MPs who legislated these workers back to work should be paid what those workers were paid with their benefits and pensions. The workers should be paid what the MPs get paid and their benefits and pensions. And as an election looms, we see a drive by the people “working for us” to get these hopeless, homeless people out of sight and out of mind.

Ed Varney
Vallican
Priorities

The climate isn’t waiting for us to get it together and the stakes are about as high as it gets for the living. And yeah, there’s lots of love and beauty left to share but we have to learn the language of the non-human species because they can’t rescue themselves and our sorry asses depend on all the rest. As well, we must connect more efficiently over fire prevention in our neighbourhoods. I’ll be contacting Walter Popoff, our RDCK director, to ask about subsidies for sprinklers on our roofs like many other communities in the province have been able to get. Maybe you will too? Speaking of which, in Nelson yesterday at the large Home Hardware store, there were no sprinklers at all and they’d be out for quite a while. It would suit our situation better if they were all out of snow shovels, eh?

Another high priority is to keep water flowing, protected and properly directed. I wonder how can we stop the quantity of flow from decreasing. I suppose that if there are 100 users on a creek that flows into the river and all are being extravagant, that would be different if all 100 users were frugal. Numbers make a difference, and of course keeping what the water there in the first place. Trees – I hear that six inches and fatter will be okay in a fire. Sure gotta keep the biggest and the best. Another priority: proper connection for good communication includes good internet. That’s fibre optic, which is happening – hooyah! But for the ‘last mile,’ we should be getting the superior cable method (not wireless). However, the biggest priority is to make winter in Nelson as safe as it happens, and to do something caring every day going forward. We need to insist. We need to be ‘the squeaky wheel that gets the oil’ in getting the water where it should be.

For the commons,

Daphne Fields
Slocan/Passmore

What we have here is a failure to communicate

The more research I do on the proposed wildlife risk reduction project of Box Mountain NACF, the more evident it becomes apparent that due diligence has not been done and this whole project does not add up.

We have been told yet again that this is a not-for-profit project. How can they say that when unit six is divided up to 26% red cedar, 31% Douglas fir and 33% hemlock and the other volume consists mostly of Sitka Spruce and western hemlock?
The quote of 450 trackdogs is a far cry from the 1,500 trackdogs that is available in volume. They probably forgot to mention that the wildlife risk reduction program is not counted in their annual allowable cut. Found that out, too. So no money or significant harvest in volume in this… Sure. So no money or significant harvest in volume in this… Sure. And as far as this plan protecting what little wildlife we still have left. Are they going to ignore the fact that Box Mountain is more than likely a wildlife corridor for many species? Their Fish and Wildlife Impact Assessment was very limited and did not mention the presence of bears, eagles, elk and wolves.

NACF’s ‘environmental pillar’ states that they will leave environmental priorities into all decisions and activities, protecting biodiversity, wildlife, fish, water and visual amenity. We know how the heck does Box Mountain hold its present park-like state meet any of those goals?

One of our members recently contacted NACF in the hopes that they would agree to meet with the public that now COVID restrictions have lifted. Their reply was no.

This project has been in place since 2018 and all of us have been kept in the dark. No communication until 2021. The total disregard of our personal rights and the handling of this project has resulted in an environment in which you have lost public trust. As far as you wanting to gain social license – it isn’t going to happen.

We may move to work together for appropriate changes, to raise awareness, increase safety, and prevent more tragic events.

Pamela Nagley Stevenson and family

Fatality on Slocan River Road/Perry’s Back Road, Winlaw

Today, July 15, 2021 at 8:30am, our lovely family friend was struck and killed by a speeding pickup truck and flattened trailer, at Bond Road, Perry’s Back Road, and our driveway. We were there. My grandson, age 10, is heartbroken, we are all traumatized. The driver did not stop. He would have felt the impact of hitting this big dog and heard her cries of agony as she ached away. If only drivers would slow down and take more care navigating our narrow, residential Back Road neighbourhoods. If you are in a hurry, please take the highway.

I have lived here 45 years. The high percentage of speeding drivers has become a much more serious problem for residents. The speed limit is 60 km/hour; vehicles far exceeding the speed limit include delivery and construction vehicles, and heavy equipment traffic, as well as use of access to the Slocan River for boating and floating in summertime. These drivers are careless of the safety of children, and of the many joggers, cyclists, and persons on lounge chairs, sailboards, kayaks, and with strollers, dogs, horses and horse carts.

A neighborhood’s dog died nearby at an intersection, and two beloved poodles were hit and killed at a notoriously dangerous, steep section of S-curve blind corners from Perry’s Bridge to Powell road. That short section has precipitous banks on both sides with no margin to escape traffic. Dump trucks, delivery vans, heavy equipment and trailers must expect to meet up and get pulled into the oncoming vehicles but with horses, cyclists and the children of this community on the edge of the road with no room to spare.

After my phone calls reporting the hit and run accident, and my requests for help, Highways added a new 60 km/hour sign at our driveway where our dog died, and the RCMP also added a radar digital speed sign. Thank you for the swift and caring response.

Please, please, drive the speed limit or less, and slow down MUCH more to pass horses, dogs, cats, bikes and children. Perhaps the suffering and death of our dog will help to save a life in the future. What can we do to keep our area safe? We need help from the RCMP, Highways, and our MLA, to ask to reduce the speed limit to 50 km/hour on our Back Road, as it is in Winlaw. This change would only add several minutes of time at the most for a driver, but would greatly increase the enjoyment and safety of travelling through the beauty of our neighborhood.

May we work to advocate for positive changes, to raise awareness, increase safety, and prevent more tragic events.

Barbara Whyte

Nakusp

Food for thought

How is Canada’s carbon fight going? For a country that contributes so little carbon to the planet that it can’t be measured, I would say we are doing pretty well. How is Canada’s prosperity? One of the G7 group. So Canada is a rich nation.

How are the Eastern countries doing? Some are doing well, and some are so poor they pay to sort through garbage looking for food in their local dump. This is how people can have a problem. The Paris Climate Accord, led by the United Nations, says we have to reduce our carbon output to save the planet. Fossil fuel, especially coal use, has to stop. Imagine all the carbon dioxide that is being released today to produce electricity. Power. The UN has directed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stop lending money to countries to produce coal-fired power plants. (China has taken over this lending.) In turn, world banks have had to follow the IMF in not lending money for any fossil fuel projects. (The US is back to importing oil, by the way.

The G7 countries, the richest on the planet, lead the charge to protect the planet. In 1971, those nations had 20 years had been burning coal for power and got rich doing so (we still burn it). Without electricity, we are back in the bronze age. (What absolute necessity do we do every day that does not require electricity or required electricity to make it?)

The rich countries are telling poor countries they cannot come into the modern world the same way the West did.

India’s power minister, Raj Kumar Singh, pointed out that in the developing world, “you have 800 million people who don’t have access to electricity.”

No access to electricity means no education, no refrigerators, no cell phones, no TV, no social media, no indoor plumbing, no electric cook stove (open fires in the one-room house), no electricity, no real hospitals. The things we are telling people they can’t have. Unimaginable.

But our government and others tell them that they may not burn coal to produce power that will produce reliable manufacturing work to pull individuals out of poverty in the one-room house, no electricity, no heat, no real hospitals. The things we are telling people they can’t have. Unimaginable.

And as far as this plan protecting the corridor for many species? Their Fish and Wildlife Impact Assessment was very limited and did not mention the presence of bears, eagles, elk and wolves.

The politics of fear uses the narrative about ‘catastrophic wildfire’ asapolitical tool and weapon to promote commercial logging to the public with no standards or accountability. Truth is always a casualty in this atmosphere driven by fear and dollars. Why do you think the Tsilhqot’in Nation’s report in 2017 was ignored? Lytton is located in an area of second growth young forest with no biodiversity to resist fire or cool temperatures and fire is used once again. Not for protection but for economics. Fear affects our ability to overcome the climate crisis, protect biodiversity, and help human communities adapt to climate change.

Government and Forestry use words like ‘revitalization,’ ‘enhancement’ to promote more logging under the guise of making things better. Their latest term, ‘social license to operate,’ is another political tool and weapon used as a guise to convince you they are making decisions that the majority of people in BC want. Thousands and thousands of people in BC are standing up to protect their province by saying NO to these political tools and weapons of myths, guises, and lies. They are creating more global warming and wildfires near our communities.

NO mandate = TRUTH. Take action and FireSmart your home and community, your best protection.

Barbara Whyte

Nakusp

5
To SIN or not to SIN? The following is an email I sent on June 27, 2021 to Selina Robinson (BC Minister of Finance) and Katrine Conroy (MLA, Kootenay West). To date I have received no response from the minister and what I would term a very limited response from our MLA.

Dear Selina Robinson (& Katrine Conroy),

I recently went to pay my rural property tax at the Government Agent’s office in Nelson. They requested my Social Insurance Number, which I declined to give them. They advised that without my SIN number, they could not process my homeowners and the additional grant (seniors). In other words, unless I provided that information, I would have to pay the taxes without either grant: an amount that is double what it is for my rural property tax at the Ministry of Finance, who is NOT entitled! However, I recently went to pay my income tax, a mere $2,600 million away. At the same time, the CRA would get 408 years to reach Pluto, the farthest planet in our solar system.

In my situation presents for the legal system (and other public service and political structures) an impact on my charter of rights and my life.

The elements that I wanted to establish were:

1. The withholding of my income tax statements from the CRA was an act of political protest empowered by the freedom of expression provisions in the constitution. It was an act of protest of the public from the powers of the government.

2. The oppressiveness of the legislation providing for a term of imprisonment for an administrative procedure, although I understand their resistance to remove this, in order to threaten those who seek to evade contributing to our society.

3. The refusal of those within the legal structure to take action to resolve the matter internally, or to protect those affected by their abuses of power.

And to report my story to the court and the public, in the hope for some eventual resolution for myself personally, and for the better protection of the public from the powers of the government.

I was pretty happy with my presentation and the judge allowing my freedom of speech. I didn’t cover everything I could say, but Jason Sicotte pointed out and I knew beforehand, there wasn’t much that he could do without admitting some problem for my situation presents for the administration of justice and the administration of government.

The court security staff were very supportive of me and one of them informed me that he had provided the judge with my letter. The editor from the June 21 Valley Voice to better inform and prepare him for the hearing. I thanked him for that, as I feel it helped the judge see my situation as to next steps at this time but will continue to keep everyone informed at www.fundamentaljustice.com.

Thank you to those who wrote letters of support, or otherwise personally contributed in a small, or in a large way, for your stand for the principles of democracy. United we stand. Divided we fall.

Thanks to the Valley Voice for presenting this story to the public.

Trevor Holsworth

The stars tell the story

A jet leaving one of our world’s airports travelling at 1,800 mph would take 10.6 years to reach the sun, a mere 93 million miles away. At the same time, this would take 408 years to reach Pluto, the farthest planet in our solar system.

So far in our short travels and slow speeds, we have only been dealing in miles per hour. We now shift into light years, which is 186,000 miles per second. At this speed, we could pass the moon in 1 1/3 seconds, the sun in 8.3 minutes, Pluto in 5.15 hours, the nearest star in 4 1/3 years, the big dipper in 70 years. There are stars and galaxies millions of light years away. Don’t be footed by the smaller numbers in time because our speed has increased drastically. In one hour, we travel 670,752,200 miles, a staggering distance and yet we have just scratched the surface.

Jupiter, our largest planet, is 86,800 miles in diameter. Others vary in size. Our sun is 700 times heavier than all the planets combined. Our sun’s diameter is 860,000 – that’s 2.7 million miles in circumference.

And yet the star sun Antares has a diameter 390 times our sun; that’s 335 million miles in diameter. The size of these stars is staggering; never mind the distances.

Everything is moving. Our earth travels around the sun 584 million miles at 66,000 mph. As it moves, it spins at about 1,000 mph. All of our planets orbit around the sun, all spin as well as orbit. Some of the planets have moons that orbit the planets – some in one direction, some in the opposite direction.

All of the planets have a length of day and year compared to Earth, some long, some short. So we have a picture of everything moving and orbiting – some fast, some slow, some in one direction, some in not, some huge, some small – all on exact time. Take the star sun Antares, moving through space at a size of 335 million miles in diameter.

We have a theory that a big bang formed everything we see today. All of the explosions I’ve seen were only disasters. The other theory is evolution, that life formed over millions of years, or as someone said, from dust to dust. Life is very complex and is beyond our grasp to understand even the simplest life forms. If I wanted to make a guess, I’d do a designer, but I also need a builder. How long would I wait for that jet plane to come about by chance or evolution? By accepting this theory, we betray our own rational reasoning.

We have no witnesses to these two theories but must accept by faith. Take the idea that God created these things. Not only do we have living proof of His creation before us but we have a history book that says in Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Just in case there was any doubt, it says in Genesis 1:16 that He made the stars also.

Take a quiet moment to read Genesis 1 and 2 and go out to the sea and see the beauty of the ocean and the creatures in the sea. Think about the time it took to create those wonders; it took thousands of years. And as Scripture says, it was a “wonderful” creation. Genesis 1:9 says, “And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and fowl that may fly above the earth through the air.”

May God bless.

Rocky Isbell

Nakusp

Why do they do it in the road? (part 2)

So New Denver has a new crosswalk across its main street. Not an ordinary utilitarian crosswalk but one with a social justice message, a moral, an urgent lesson that we apparently need to be reminded of constantly.

It used to be you could walk down that street just minding your own business, thinking your own thoughts, enjoying the scenery. Not anymore. Your business, thoughts and the whole process of evolution must include the message, the lesson. Constantly.

What message? It’s vast and various so I’ll just try to figure it out for yourself but it’s definitely trendy. Council wants to be trendy. And preachy, too.

Our streets are now pulpit from which sermons can be delivered in order to make you a better person. Bit of a drag for those who like to be left undisturbed about their harmless private daily routines through town while the Village council wants you to stand up and take a complimentary. Where they got that mandate from, I don’t know. They’ve seen the light, or a light a urgently and now want to shine it in your face.

Even if you go along with the validity and goal of the sermon, there still remains the very objectionable fact of the permanent appropriation of public property to spread a particular gospel, any gospel. Village councils could, after all, use the same means as the rest of us to express their pressing humanitarian concerns. No need to hijack public property for permanent political messaging. I know we’re going through a period of racial political correctness in which we feel increasingly obliged, often just to keep their jobs or to safeguard their reputations, to make a public show of support for fashionable causes: a form of self-supportive virtue-signaling to prove they’re on board with contemporary goodthink. But right in the centre of town like that? Wasn’t there anywhere more discreet and more respectful of the feelings of others than now anyway, thoroughly enjoyed the traditional, historical peace and unobtrusiveness of the town center.

Thankfully they only got worked up about one cause because, man, this cruel cruel world of ours is loaded with so many things to keep our attention. I bet there aren’t even enough intersections in New Denver to paint them all up.

And leaving all that aside, the aesthetics themselves are questionable. Not everybody thinks this thing is pretty or blends in with the surroundings. Sorry.

You know a crosswalk message I’d like to see? One that stands for the end of everybody preaching in our public spaces. What would that look like? Simple: flat grey asphalt.

Now, whenever I come across an intersection with no sociopolitical message stamped on it, I see it as a celebration of the sanctity of our private non-commercial spaces. I enjoy the leisurely enjoyment of an environment uncluttered and unobscured by faddish sloganizing and moral exhortation. Better celebrate that while we still can.

Dom Tassel

Red Mountain Road
Slocan evacuees thankful, but want to be able to do more

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

People affected by evacuation alerts and orders in the Slocan Valley have been told the fight against the fires near their homes is more successful with some success.

“The fire is going quite well,” says Ryan Gow, the incident commander overseeing the fight on the Trozzo Creek fire. “I know there’s still more work to do, but this is a good time for us to take a step back and review the situation.”

Gow made the comments at a community meeting held Saturday, July 24. About 75 residents attended to hear an update on the fire’s status and voice their concerns about the situation.

Gow told the crowd that crews were able to take advantage of the low wind and smoky conditions to build machine guards and mop up, create a forest service road, and to use other techniques to guide the fire away from populated areas closer to the valley bottom.

Dense smoke has reduced fire behaviour, Gow said, and allowed heavy equipment to get in and work to protect the homes.

“This is the weather that firefighters and emergency crews, volunteers who help, expected,” said Gow.

“It’s very important for us to be able to take advantage of this weather window and protect the homes,” he said.

Evacuation alerts remain in place for 55 properties in the Trozzo Creek area but evacuations have been lifted in the Edgewood-Crow Creek and Fauquier-Michaud Creek area.

Emergency Support Services (ESS) and BC Wildfire Service have had the vast majority of resources protecting the community.

“We have had a lot of resources working in the area,” said Johnson. “We have had 200 firefighters and emergency workers to date, and gave 500 plus hours of support.”

Officially, they appreciated the efforts of firefighters and emergency workers, and some support services.

Residents also asked why they had to go to Castlegar to access emergency services, wondering why a team from Castlegar and some support services weren’t set up in Winlaw itself.

“We need something real, right here in our community, where we can fill up our water, talk and cry, where a woman can come and get her pads or diapers for her baby, we need something here for our families,” she said. “And Castlegar is WAY too far.”

Residents were also concerned about knowing information about the fire. “We’re not sure what’s going on,” said a resident.

Officals said they appreciated the efforts of firefighters and emergency workers to date, and gave them a round of applause several times during the meeting.

And officials thanked Winlaw residents as well. A cache of cold drinks and snacks has been left at the access to one of the fire areas to provide for thirsty and hungry crews, among other acts of kindness.

But officials left the meeting on a sober note, warning that things aren’t necessarily going to get better with this fire soon, and the evacuation orders and alerts may last a while.

“This is the weather that is there. Fortunately, the coming wind event is out of the south and west, moving it away from things,” said Johnson. “But this is a historic weather pattern we’re in. So the wildfire risk will always be primary in making that assessment, and security. That’s the best I can give you now.”
COMMUNITY

As pandemic wanes locally, councils grapple with public access

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Like other professionals, local government officials and regional politicians are preparing for a different way of working in a post-pandemic world. While some elements of the ‘new normal’ are likely here to stay, several holdouts are keenly looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal – despite the advantages of virtual meetings.

“I have appreciated not driving 1,500+ kilometres a month to attend endless meetings,” says RDCK Board Chair Airme Watson. “The time savings have been filled up by more meetings, so the transition back will be interesting.”

“There has been some good and bad with being completely virtual over the past several months,” says RDCK CAO Marc Dunbar. “For one, Mayor Suzan Hewat. ‘Virtual meetings have provided an opportunity for those who aren’t able to attend in person the opportunity to either listen in or view the meetings the afterward.’

“I believe it was a success,” says RDCK Chief Administrative Officer Stuart Horn. “The public was able to access the meetings in the same way staff and directors were. This accessibility likely increased public participation in meetings again due to potential travel time being eliminated.”

“Transition to virtual meetings,” says Dunbar, “As the pandemic waned, people became used to hosting meetings online and they’re doing it now. The meetings are going faster, and they’re acting more like they used to.”

“Even more than a year ago, remote meetings, there are still the perennial problems plaguing them. From technical inability to poor sound and/or video to connection speed, the meetings steadily improve. Now, RDCK’s mayor says that’s likely reduced public participation for some people.”

But Watson says in some cases there has been a boost in public participation.

“One of my actions items for 2021 was to start community planning discussions, with 24 unincorporated communities, that could have taken months to accomplish,” she says. “But due to the flexibility and problems we were able to do back-to-back meetings between places such as Argenta and the entrance to Kaslo with our director of planning in between. People had the opportunity to ask questions and share comments, the public was able to listen in and engage in the meetings.”

“Efficiency and ease of access are benefits to having residents more engaged and they certainly took that opportunity,” says Watson. “A virtual format or not, it seems remote access to Village council and other community meetings is likely here to stay. It’s created unforeseen complications, like the need to offer at least some access.”

As meetings are moving to being open to the public, Watson says they have been “open to the public … the public can sit in the gallery to listen live or view the meetings as they happen.”

“The public can still join meetings with virtual access,” says RDCK CAO Horn. “The public may want the option of continuing to be able to access meetings virtually and we will be cognizant of that.”

Despite the real advantages to remote participation, politics will always run smoother when citizens can face-to-face, say participants.

“The downside has been strong disconnect between colleagues and the ability to observe what we are all dealing with,” says the RDCK’s Watson. “There is immense value in our informal discussions, meetings where directors are able to share the challenges and/or wins that assist each other in this work.”

“Very much a face-to-face, people will continue to be able to attend in the short term and then determine how things might look in the longer term,” says RDCK CAO Horn. “The public may want the option of continuing to be able to access meetings virtually and we will continue to do that.”

“Remote access to meetings because I feel that the very valuable networking opportunities were not possible with the in-person meetings and it seems remote access to Village council and other community meetings is likely here to stay. It’s created unforeseen complications, like the need to offer at least some access.”

Canada gives top marks for Columbia Treaty participation

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The way Canada has engaged with its public on the Columbia River Treaty website, newsletters and media articles, willingness to respond to public inquiries outside the regular engagement process, funding research in public interest issues, and the final document without public consultation.

The authors include the Sierra Club, Centre for Environmental Law and Policy, American Rivers, Earth Ministry, and the League of Women Voters. They say their reason for writing is seeing that negotiators add ecosystem function as a Treaty purpose, and adding an expert voice for ecosystem health to the US Treaty Entity.

The groups say they have been frustrated by their own government’s lack of public inclusion efforts.

“We have regularly urged our government to take the lead in promoting the two agencies that currently comprise the US Treaty Entity, to establish regular, transparent, two-way engagement with citizens in the US part of the Columbia Basin,” they state. “However, since no such engagement occurred and no formal negotiations began in May 2018, we learn most of what we know about the process by following your extensive communications and meetings with Indigenous Canadians.”

The group also praised the partnership between the federal government’s Syilx Okanagan nation, and Canada and British Columbia, as governments with shared sovereignty, to work together on the Treaty and related issues.

“The US Government has so far fallen short of such an approach with Indigenous Columbia Basin nations (tribes) that

on this side of the border,” they write. “Thank you for demonstrating how your Indigenous rights and expertise can be better incorporated into the Treaty negotiations process.”

“Thank you for your leadership to equip us, and for your confidence in us,” they conclude.

Canada and the US signed the Columbia River Treaty in 1964. The treaty has no end date, but either country can unilaterally terminate it from September 2024 onwards provided that at least 10 years’ notice is given. On September 24, 2024, “assured flood control” changes to “called-up flood control”.

The ability to terminate the Treaty, and changing flood-control provisions prompted both countries to undertake a thorough review of the treaty to determine its future.
CAMPGROUNDS

Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo  
(250) 353-2662 kaslo@kaslocitycouncil.ca or via facebook  
Located on the shores of Kootenay Lake with beautiful lake and mountain views. RV, tents, cabins. Great food at Kaslo Pub & Restaurant. 2 dozen campsites. Full service hook-ups.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Woodbury Resort and Marina - Kaslo  
(250) 353-7717 woodburyresort@viviscale.com  
Located on the shores of Kaslo Lake with beautiful lake and mountain views. RV, tents, cabins. Great food at Kaslo Pub & Restaurant. 2 dozen campsites. Full service hook-ups.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Centennial Campground - New Denver  
(250) 355-4222 newdenver.ca/campground  
Located on the shores of New Denver Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in New Denver.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Silverton Municipal Campground - New Denver  
(250) 355-4222 newdenver.ca/campground  
Located on the shores of New Denver Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in New Denver.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Springer Creek RV Park & Campground - New Denver  
(250) 355-4222 newdenver.ca/campground  
Located on the shores of New Denver Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in New Denver.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Lemon Creek Pioneer Campground - Lemon Creek  
(250) 355-2547 lemoncreekcampground.ca  
Located on the shores of Lemon Creek Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in Lemon Creek.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Valhalla Pines Campground & Guesthouse - Kaslo  
(250) 226-7796 valhallapines.com  
Located on the shores of Kaslo Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in Kaslo.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Nakusp Municipal Campground - Nakusp  
(250) 265-1061 nakuspcitycouncil.ca  
Located on the shores of Nakusp Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in Nakusp.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Kootenay West Campground Management Inc.  
1-866-937-5734 westkootcamp.com  
Located on the shores of Nakusp Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in Nakusp.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

McDonald Creek Provincial Park - Kaslo  
(250) 353-2805 kaslo@kaslo.gov.bc.ca  
Located on the shores of McDonald Creek Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in McDonald Creek.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Roseberry Provincial Park - Kaslo  
(250) 353-2805 kaslo@kaslo.gov.bc.ca  
Located on the shores of McDonald Creek Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in McDonald Creek.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only. 

Summit Lake Provincial Park - Summit Lake  
(250) 353-2805 kaslo@kaslo.gov.bc.ca  
Located on the shores of Kootenay Lake, 95 sites with power & water hook-up, gazp site, site dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, piers, tents, books. Must be located in Summit Lake.  
Open: Mid-May to Oct. 1.  
Fall/Winter hours: By appointment only.
Plan your evacuation or you could regret your loss, says researcher

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

When a fire broke out near Mary Murphy’s Westbank home earlier this month, she was prepared to grab her most important things and leave.

“You’d expect so. The associate professor of the Faculty of Health and Social Development at UBC’s Okanagan campus had spent several years examining the psychological and sociological impacts of the 2003 wildfires. She’s seen hundreds of homes in the Okanagan Mountain wildfire near Kelowna.

She said the emotional impact of the wildfires continued long after the flames were doused.

“Most of the families we interviewed started crying even before we got through the door,” says Dr. Murphy. “This was a year later, and it shows you the depth of the guilt, anxiety and post-traumatic distress these people felt. Part of it was guilt, self-blame. They didn’t think they did a good enough job getting ready to go.”

She said the families told her they mourned irreplaceable losses and valuables. But there were other things – like the Christmas decorations no one thinks about when an emergency worker bangs on your door in the middle of the night.

“There is a phenomenon known as acute stress, which prevents you from thinking clearly and logically,” she says. “Instead of taking what is really important, sometimes you pick up the wrong things. They’d recall the things they took with shock, surprise, and disbelief.”

She recalls one family in particular.

“They had to leave with nothing, but a few days later were allowed to go back and pack a few things. The house was just the house – his wife had instructed him only to take some paintings that she loved,” recounts Murphy. “Then he thought, ‘This house is still the house – we’re staying with, they’ve been so good to us.’ So he opened up the freezer and all he brought back was all the frozen food.

“The not to the house – his wife burned down. She wanted to kill him. But it shows you the shock and disbelief those people were in.”

But by simply planning ahead, you can think clearly about what you really want to take with you at a moment’s notice.

Murphy’s advice: make a list of your oldest possessions, your most important personal objects, the irreplaceable items that may or may not have monetary value. Take a full video of every room in your house and pre-pack easy-to-grab items with important objects and documents like passports and insurance papers.

And include the most treasured things in your homes: think about whether things like jewellery or artwork are insured, and whether or not these things are you would really need to replace.

That rush to leave is the beginning of post-traumatic stress which can continue for a very long time afterwards.

“They talked about the incredible loss, not just of the structure of their homes, but a profound loss with every comfort, every family ritual, routine, familiarity being turned upside down,” she says.

Objects represent everything you care about in your family, she says. “Imbued in these objects are very deep-seated memories and meanings: it’s not just a thing.”

“Those is things you’d hold to hold on, and save from loss.

However, Murphy also says a disaster in the offing can make you remember the really important things – the value of your neighbours, the power of belonging. Knowing someone is thinking of you, your back, can be very reassuring.

Her Westbank community has set up a neighbourhood guard for fires, and she noted how it helps ease the stress of the times.

“This connecting with neighbours, being prepared – it’s really calming,” she notes. “There’s some control you offer to people that way.”
Penny Tees became a Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Board member in 2014. With sincerity, thoroughness, and humour, she worked as Board Secretary and member of the AGM Committee, Election Committee, Employee Selection Committee and Policy Committee. When the Slocan City Suites’ work began, she helped to revise the SVSHS constitution and bylaws. Regrettably, the Board accepted her resignation in February 2021. Before she passed away, she left us with these thoughts, “If you have determined that a project is needed and possible, then do not let opposition stop you. There will always be opposition.” Thank you, Penny, for your contributions to the development of affordable housing in the Slocan Valley.
Highway cross culverts are being replaced and upsized at key locations on BC highways, to help meet the challenges posed by future climate-related events. The culvert at Ione Rest Area on Hwy 23 north of Nakusp has been replaced, and there are plans to replace two more in our area this summer: one on Hwy 23 closer to Nakusp and one near Burton on Hwy 6. The Trout Lake and District Highways Committee, a citizens’ group, applauds the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for this project, as well as the YRB workers and other contractors for their hard work in the hot afternoon sun.

PHOTO CREDIT: LOTHAR THIEN

WildSafeBC asks residents to take a proactive approach to deterring bears this season, and managing fruit trees is key to keeping bears out of communities.

With this summer’s heat wave, many natural food sources may ripen or expire early, and bears may be looking for alternate food sources in our backyards sooner than usual over the coming months.

Once bears get a reward from a fruit tree, they will return to the tree again and again. This habituation of wildlife can lead to dangerous situations for community members, and ultimately for the bear, especially if a bear decides to resource guard a fruit tree in a community. Additionally, bears can cause extensive damage to the fruit trees that many cherish.

Simple solutions to this problem include picking fruit and allowing it to ripen indoors or to pick fruit daily as it ripens. Cleaning up windfall is also very important, as is pruning trees to control growth (making them easier to harvest). Connect with community gleaning groups to donate excess fruit or to have your fruit gleaned (picked) for you.

In New Denver, Harvest Share is the local fruit gleaning organization to contact (250-814-9025). In Kaslo, contact the Feed Families Not Bears Harvest Share Fruit Gleaning program run by the Kaslo Food Hub of the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (foodsecurity@nklcss.org or 250-353-7120). Most years, Root and Branch is the gleaning organization to contact in Nakusp. You may also find local farmers who are happy to take windfall and fruits to feed their pigs or other livestock.

If you do not want your trees to produce fruit, prune the tree vigorously or spray spring blossoms with a garden hose or leaf blower to knock the blossoms off the tree. Even consider replacing your tree with a native, non-fruit and non-nut bearing variety.

Electric fencing is also a simple way to protect your fruit trees from wildlife. Visit our website at wildsafebc.com/electric-fencing to view electric fencing guidelines and checklists. Check your local WildSafeBC page for information on upcoming workshops, such as the one being hosted in Nakusp on Tuesday, August 17 (register by emailing newdenver@ wildsafebc.com).

Please report wildlife conflicts to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277. Residents can also sign up for alerts for wildlife conflict online at WildSafeBC’s Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP), available at www.wildsafebc.com/warp. This program allows you to see what wildlife has been reported in your neighbourhood and be alerted of new sightings.

WildSafeBC New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Areas H and K, and WildSafeBC Kaslo and Area D, are grateful for the generous support the program receives from its funders including the Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Kaslo, Regional District of Central Kootenay Areas D, H and K, Columbia Basin Trust, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the Province of British Columbia.
Denyse Marshall shows at Studio Connexion
submitted
Denyse Marshall is back for a fourth solo show at Studio Connexion August 4-21. Gallerist Anne Beliveau chose the popular local artist to be featured during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour, which is happening on August 7 and 8.

Marshall’s last show, in 2018, was almost all landscape paintings. Her new exhibition, titled Simply Still, is a series comprised of florals, still life and a few landscapes. She loves working with oils, and often uses a special oil paper instead of canvas, giving each painting a more finished look.

Originally from Fort Frances in Ontario, Denyse moved to Nakusp in the early 1990s. She now resides in Burton. Denyse was involved with the Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild for many years. She is a self-taught artist and has attended workshops given by Betty Fahlman, Marc Grandbois and others.

Simply Still runs from August 4 to 21. There will be a ‘Meet and Greet’ with Denyse on Saturday, August 7 from 1 to 4 pm. The hours during the Culture Tour are 10 am to 5 pm. Studio Connexion regular gallery hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Everyone is welcome.

Studio Connexion is located at 203 Fifth Ave. NW in the heart of Nakusp. The gallery is just two and a half short blocks from Broadway Street. For more info, phone or text Anne at 250-250-8888. The quaint space has a great selection of artworks by more than 20 artists from across Canada. Follow the daily posts on Facebook or check the website: www.studioconnexiongallery.com

Welcome to our 13th gallery season
July 13-31: Maureen Howard
Aug. 4-21: Denyse Marshall
Aug. 25-Sept. 11: Perry Haddock
Sept. 14-Oct. 2: Brigitte Desbois

Local artist Denyse Marshall shows at Studio Connexion August 4-21.

The Whole School’s Zack Harvey Memorial Scholarship awarded to Ayden Harvey
submitted
The Zack Harvey Memorial Scholarship has been used to help local high school graduates advance their education since 2016. This year, the scholarship award is particularly moving, as it was awarded to Ayden Harvey, the younger brother of Zack. Both were students at the Whole School.

In his application, Ayden said that his older brother died when Ayden was seven years old. During that time, Ayden was attending the Whole School and felt safe and included in that environment. He also said that he felt free to express himself at the school. He went on to attend the Whole School for eight years, where he says he developed a strong sense of self.

In his application, Ayden described how the Whole School fostered his love of the outdoors through its Friday program. In the Outdoor Leadership Program (OLP), students spend every Friday outdoors at various locations, learning about the environment, developing personal strengths and skills, practicing stewardship, and applying collective decision making.

Ayden also says that the Circle of Courage, a program based on Indigenous teachings and principles, first helped him find his place in the school and then further supported him when he made his way into the world.

Ayden is a 2021 graduate from Mount Sentinel Secondary School, where he excelled in his courses. Ayden plans on taking time off from school this fall, but is interested in exploring a variety of fields and plans to return to his studies.

The Whole School offers the Zack Harvey Memorial Scholarship to students who have attended the Whole School. It can be applied to traditional or alternative post-secondary training.

The Whole School congratulates Ayden on his win and wishes him the best going forward.

For more information about the Whole School or to make a donation to the scholarship, contact the Whole School at 250-226-7737 or wholeschool@gmail.com.
COMMUNITY

Summer’s sizzle is countered by tranquility at New Denver’s Hidden Garden Gallery (HGG). Rotating visual retreats run all summer long, featuring area artists.

Erica Konrad’s exhibit, *Everything Became Beautiful*, wraps up on August 1. After facing her own mortality in her recent journey through cancer and healing, all things around her became beautiful. This Nelson artist explores the connections between art and science, and aims to inspire viewers with beauty and fragility, highlighting life’s interconnectedness. Encompassing themes of personal angst and collective healing, Erica describes her exhibit as a love letter to her cells and the planet.

Selena Hudson was raised in the Slocan Valley and returns every summer to rejuvenate. The gallery is pleased to host her collage exhibit, *Outside In*, August 3-8. With over 25 years of collage experience, Selena has honed her process. Using wood panels, magazines and Modge Podge to make collages, she mounts them on stained birch plywood. Selena is drawn to doors and windows, creating scenes that are simultaneously indoors and outside in the natural world – hence the show’s title. Selena’s goal is to create pleasing art that reflects her love of nature, beauty and colour. She invites you to come and judge for yourself.

Linda Kalbun’s show, *Icebird - Reflections on Ice*, fills the HGG August 10-15. The exhibit evolved from her experience on a boat in the Antarctic. One iceberg, in the shape of a bird, caught her attention and inspired. So began her relentless pursuit of capturing the elusive shape shifter. Her exploration of painting started in Nelson and expanded with 13 years in Yellowknife. Living up north developed a whole new appreciation of light. Linda describes her painting process as experimental and organic, with unexpected results. Adventurous by nature, the artist branched into printmaking. She notes that it follows the same design principles as painting, yet the exacting technique of printmaking challenges her loose and organic approach. This is sure to be an intriguing exhibit that’s worth checking out.

You are encouraged to 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 10 am-3 pm, Tuesdays-Sundays. All welcome!

Harvest Share 2021
We connect people who have excess fruit from their backyard fruit trees with those who have the time and energy to harvest it. The fruit is shared amongst homeowners, volunteers, and other community initiatives.

How do TREE OWNERS get involved?
Local tree owners help us turn private trees into a valuable source of food for the community. If you have more fruit than you can manage, call now to register your tree.

How do VOLUNTEERS get involved?
Interested in food preservation and taking home a portion of the harvest? We would love for you to come and volunteer with our project. Scheduled picks run from July to October.

Members of the New Denver & Area Youth Network painted a Rainbow Crossing at Sixth Avenue and Kildare Street on July 14.

Nakusp’s Camryn Ife won third place at the national finals of the Royal Canadian Legion’s Remembrance Day Poster Contest, in the Primary Colour Poster category. The award was presented by Cheryl Truax, poppy chairperson and Harvey Truax, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 20 in Nakusp. Congratulations to Camryn from a very proud Branch 20, and the community! Camryn is going into grade 4.

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Information sessions held for Arrow Lakes evacuees

by Jan McMurray

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The current bylaw doesn’t allow council to delegate any of these officer positions to anyone but the CAO. The new bylaw will allow this.

CIAO Ian Dunlop explained that the Village has hired additional staff in the past few months by contract, and “it is prudent to assign the Corporate Officer role to this person so that the CAO can focus more on the rest of his role.” Those include several major infrastructure projects, community development initiatives and others.

The bylaw is expected to be formally adopted at the July 27 meeting.

Clean-up Aerodrome roads

The Village is cleaning up legal irregularities on Kaslo West Road around the Kaslo Aerodrome to aid in the ongoing development of the municipal facility.

The Village has been working on upgrading the nearly century-old airstrip, but in researching the regulations and permit sections of the hangar structure are located within the road allowance.

One problem has cropped up: the plan does not allow for group camping at the municipally-owned campground, though provincial spaces reserve fund towards the project.

Minor incidents keep SAR crews busy in Kaslo area this month

Karlo Search and Rescue officials figured the quiet spell couldn’t last – and it didn’t.

“We had a nice break there with only one call in May, and didn’t have a single call-out in June,” says KSAR team administrator Alana Jenkins.

“But now we’ve had 12 calls in the last 15 days. It’s been quite a stretch.”

As one of the few Search and Rescue units in the province that do road rescue work, much of the calls-out came from highway situations, says Jenkins.

“The summer was busy last year as well. In 2020, we doubled the amount of calls we got in 2019,” she says.

Thankfully, none of the incidents have been major in the last few weeks, and most people have walked away from their experience.

But there were some more challenging events for KSAR, like a lake rescue of a woman who had broken her ankle, some teens in a capsized canoe, and finding a woman lost in the woods near town.

In that latter incident, Jenkins says the person who needed help followed safety rules, making the response a lot quicker and easier.

“She was in cell phone reach, so once she realized she didn’t know where she was, she called for help and stayed in place,” she says. “She also had the essentials with her. We tracked her down, and she was able to drive away on her own, unassisted.”

Jenkins told the Valley Voice it’s the “Three Ts” that can bring better outcomes in those kind of situations. “Have a Trip Plan, Training, and the Essentials with you,” she says. “It’s a little harder in a road rescue scenario, but when you’re out hiking, make sure you leave a trip plan and you have the skills to be on the trail you’re on, and bring the essentials with you.”

While the summer tourist rush will likely keep Kaslo SAR busy, Jenkins says they have a solid complement that can manage the stress and workload.

“We’re sitting right now with roughly 35 members,” says Jenkins. “They are a great group that are really committed. They showed up every week for training, and then some for additional training.

“Because we have a larger membership, we can rotate through, and if you can’t make the call, you can help out with cleaning up the gear and maintenance.”

The full complement has also allowed KSAR to help out neighbouring communities like Nakusp, who are dealing with people forced from their homes by the wildfires.

“We’re happy to help,” she says. “Our services are always free.”

Kids, get your trout heads in the game for the August 1 draw summary

The youth Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program is running for the summer. Kids must submit their rainbow or bull trout heads to one of four local depots by August 15 to participate in the August 1 draw.

By fishing for rainbow and bull trout in the main body of Kootenay Lake, kids 15 and under are actively contributing to local conservation efforts to protect the iconic kokanee.

So far, there are 30+ kids’ prizes, like knapsacks, fishing rods and zipline adventure packets to be divided between the two kids’ prize draws – one on August 1 and one on October 1.

Encouraging anglers of all ages to catch and retain Kootenay Lake trout gives the juvenile kokanee a chance to grow. The rainbow and bull trout are suppressing the survival of the kokanee, the primary food source of these predators.

In the first year of the program, more than 11,000 rainbow and bull trout heads were submitted, greatly assisting juvenile kokanee recovery in Kootenay Lake.

“This program reduced rainbow trout and bull trout abundance faster than anyone could have anticipated to date,”...
by Moe Lyons

With the first public council meeting attended by Lisa Scott, the Village’s new chief administrative officer. All council members were present, joined by representatives from Friends of the Orchard, another citizen, and the community planner.

The fate of the House of Joyful Tidings, one of the few structures remaining from the Japanese-Canadian internment camp in New Denver, is still unknown.

Council discussed the Friends of the Orchard’s proposal to preserve the building, currently situated in the 300 block of Kildare Street. The new owners of the property are agreeable to the structure being moved. At a meeting with council on June 22, the Friends of the Orchard suggested three options for the building: to move it to the Kohn Garden, to convert it to a rental property, or to incorporate it as an interpretive activity space; to incorporate it into the proposed outdoor stage area in the Centennial Park as a “green room”; or to use it as is in a yard. It was decided to feature along the proposed trail linking the Nikkei Centre to the Kohn Garden.

Council expressed many concerns about the proposal, noting it didn’t fit with the Village’s plans for the proposed locations. Councillor Vern Gustafson was worried that it might set a precedent. Mayor Leonard Casley said while he agreed as it is a “small project,” there was “no such thing as putting a building on Village property and it not costing the Village anything.” While council was not adverse to the idea of saving the building, it was generally felt that other options need to be explored. The motion was tabled, so no action will be taken at this time and the group can come back with a new proposal. The Village will provide the group with a letter of support for funding purposes.

A letter from BC Emergency Health Services announces “enhancements” to the ambulance service in rural and remote communities. Council was distinctly unimpressed with the announcement. Mayor Casley said “it doesn’t give any details and leaves a lot more questions than answers.” He added, “Most of the time they are not in rural BC’s best interests.” Councillor Jim Ewbank and Councillor Colin McNeil agreed: “This looks to me like the same old promises.” Council agreed the issue needs to be addressed by the Rural Health Network, and staff was directed to write and ask for clarification about what it really means.

Council awarded the awarded the Siding Water Supply Restructuring project to Kerrison Exoroating Ltd. for $348,926.30. The Village has secured grant funding through the gas tax program to cover this. Councillor Gustafson reminded himself of the vendor he is associated with the contractor although he doesn’t have any involvement with the project.

Councillor Fyke reported the Village has been doing FireSmart work at the gym at the hospital, and Interior Health is being very cooperative with this effort.

The Village of New Denver Emergency Plan will be updated by Red Dragon Consulting at a cost of $7,500. Grant funding of $15,625 has been secured for a larger project that includes the plan update, as well as IT and communications equipment for the reception centre and a campaign to ensure all citizens have their plans. The CAO reported that the project is to be completed by September 30, and that the equipment has been ordered.

Two recommendations from CAO Scott intended to streamline Village operations were approved. The Purchasing Policy was amended to allow department heads to spend up to $500 without approval from the CAO or CFO. Also, Village office staff Jessica Rayner, Dianne Sheppard and Lisa Scott were appointed as business license inspectors. Previously, only the CAO was authorized to process business licence applications and renewals.

New Denver council, July 13: Internment era building still has nowhere to go

New Denver hosts emergency preparedness meeting

by Jan McMurray

Several tips on wildfire preparedness were shared at a meeting at the fire hall in New Denver on July 22. Local fire department representatives Leonard Casley and Derek Hicks, and RDCK Wildlife Mitigation Specialist Bree Lillies stepped in to facilitate the meeting, which was organized by the Slocan Integrated Forestry Co-op (SIFCo).

SIFCo’s Stephan Martineau could not attend because he had just been evacuated due to the Trozzo wildfire.

FireSmart your property

Something everyone can do right now is move combustibles away from their houses. Lillies advises creating a combustible-free zone at least five feet wide around your house. “Move firewood and remove surface fuels,” she said. “If you are on evacuation alert, remove the cushions from your patio furniture, and put your patio furniture inside the house if you’re evacuated.”

John Fyke, New Denver councillor, said five feet is about the length of your arms straight out from your sides. He suggested walking around your house with your arms straight out and eyes down, and cleaning up all the combustibles within the five-foot gauge of your arms.

Water information

It’s good for emergency responders to know where your water is. “Tape the house with your arms straight out and your arms straight out from your sides,” said Casley. “If you are on evacuation alert, put your devices where you can’t use them.” Councillor Vern Gustafson added: “I don’t think they should give you any details and leaves a lot more questions than answers.” He added, “Most of the time they are not in rural BC’s best interests.”

Minimize water use is permitted.

As we are all aware of the current extreme fire risk, we need to be vigilant and exercise extreme caution with our actions. All campfires are now banned. Due to fire risk, please AVOID:

- Use of spark-producing tools (chainsaws, grinders, cutting torches)
- Use of propane fire pits
- Lawn mowing, as this has the potential to ignite a fire
- Parking vehicles in long grass or around easily combustible material
- Watering, as our pumps are working at maximum capacity
- Operation of off-road vehicles on Crown land
- The operation of any aircraft not associated with fire suppression activities (including drones and unmanned aerial vehicles [UAVs]) near a wildfire, as it is illegal. It also poses a serious threat to the safety of firefighting personnel

To report a wildfire/responsible behaviour call 1-800-663-5555 or (*5555 from a cell phone) as soon as possible. If the situation is imminently threatening a structure or someone is injured and requiring assistance, please call 911 immediately. A friendly reminder that calling local members BEFORE calling the appropriate emergency line can slow our response.

Level 3 Water Restrictions

Level 3 - No sprinkler use, but hand watering and soaker hose use is permitted.

Due to the Level 3 drought, the Province has asked that we voluntarily reduce water usage by 30% for all water use, including ground water use. Please avoid any unnecessary watering, such as watering of lawns and landscaping, and minimize water use wherever possible.

Emergency Notification System

The RDCK has a new notification System for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by Voyent Alert. Voyent Alert offers a user-friendly experience with a smart phone app, and the ability to receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system will also support text messaging, emails or landline calls. For more information go to www.rdck.ca and click on Emergency Management. For those without internet service, please call the Village Office to arrange for assistance with registration.

Emergency Resources

To keep up to date with reliable information online is important, please use the following trusted sources:

- www.drivebc.ca – For up-to-date road closures
- www2.gov.bc.ca – Up to date wildfire info by area, with an interactive map, and information on emergency preparedness
- www.newdenver.ca – Check for local updates
- rdck.ca – Click on Emergency Management: Provides updates and emergency planning information

For information on evacuations in your area, please contact the Emergency Operations Centre at 250-352-7701.

Dogs

In accordance with the Village of New Denver’s Animal Control Bylaws (Bylaw No. 516, 1999 and Bylaw No. 598, 2006) all dogs must be leashed while on public property within the Village of New Denver. There is a designated off-leash area along the southern shore of Carpenter Creek.

115 Slocan Avenue · P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
(250) 358-2316 · office@newdenver.ca · www.newdenver.ca
Slocan council, July 12: Pump track expansion proposed

by Joanne Feenstra

The meeting was held both virtually and in person at the Legion.

Pump track
Mike Hurley, principal of WE Graham Community School, spoke about the work done to date on the new pump track. He thanked council for its $10,000 contribution, acknowledged the Columbia Basin Trust for its $25,000 contribution, and said School District 8 had contributed time and effort. Hurley said the intermediate level track would remain dirt and asked council for support to install a grade cover between the tracks in late August or early September at a cost of approximately $3,600.

Hurley presented a map of the possible pump track expansion behind the existing skateboard park. He suggested getting water and a washroom in place at the track, like in Nelson, but acknowledged there might be some drawbacks as the washroom “does not attract the best folks.”

100% Renewable
Council adopted the final version of the West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan, which recommends local actions for reducing emissions and conserving energy. The communities of Castlegar, Kaslo, Nelson, Rossland, Warfield and now Slocan, aim to have 100% renewable energy by 2050. Councillor Madeleine Perriere questioned whether the transport of organic compost to Trail would be the best option for Nelson and Slocan, and that Slocan council would be receiving a presentation from them soon.

A moment of silence
Council received a letter from Mayor Bill Dingwall of Pitt Meadows regarding the recent announcement from the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation about the uncovering of the remains of 215 Indigenous children. Council held a moment of silence to, as Mayor Lunn stated, “consider the hurt and severity of the silence to, as Mayor Lunn stated,” of the remains of 215 Indigenous children.

Ball field
Vandalism at the public beach area was noted by Public Works Foreman Ken Holsworth in an email to council. The vandalism included the removal of three wooden slats from the lounge chairs and stone edging and paving slabs that had initially been damaged by wave action. His recommendations are that council institute open and closed hours for the beach, and that Slocan council would be receiving a presentation from them soon.

Man making judicial wrongdoing fined for not filing taxes
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A New Denver man has been fined $5,002 and given one year to complete outstanding income tax returns to the federal government.

Trevor Holsworth was found guilty in Nelson court on July 15 of seven counts of not filing his personal or business income tax returns between 2014 and 2017. And Provincial Court Judge Craig Sicotte never gave Holsworth a break for non-filing of income taxes, meaning Holsworth could have faced upwards of $7,000 in fines. But noting he had filed returns for 2014 and 2015 since the charge was laid, Crown counsel Doug Wilson suggested leniency, saying the Crown would be satisfied with a $1 fine for those years.

Sicotte agreed, and fined Holsworth a total of $5,002 – $1,000 each for the five outstanding returns, and two $1 fines. Unusually, he also gave Holsworth five proceedings over the next five years to pay the fine off, until 2026. And instead of the usual 90 days, he gave the defendant a full year to finish filing his returns.

“File your tax returns,” he advised Holsworth during sentencing. “You’re not required to file a tax return prepared by an accountant, that are 100% accurate…. You’ve probably seen things where people file incomplete tax returns and it’s followed by 1,000 demands for documentation and amendments and all the rest of it. But file your tax return, sir. Get the ball rolling.”

Coun. Gordon said boulevard maintenance and the paving of the turnaround area. CAO Gordon said there is concern with disturbing the existing parking lot because knobweed is growing along the south edge and, if disturbed, could create more havoc in the park. Mayor Lunn added that there is a small chunk of land in that area that is still CPR owned.

Two additional pump swings were proposed for the swimming area and due to the draining of the anchors, may need to be repositioned later in the summer. The decommissioned wooden swim platform will be removed and may need to be replaced in the next few years.

Public Works will close the beach and the boat launch until a solution to the ongoing deterioration is found.

Dave Fredrickson asked council about the barns adjacent to the gazebo in the downtown, and said there was truth to the local rumour that Indigenous artifacts were found there. Mayor Lunn replied that although he had been aware of the artifact, he hadn’t been told about the possible archeological evidence. He suggested getting water and a washroom “does not attract the best folks.”
The Citizens of Rosebery would like to thank the New Denver-Silverton Fire Department for their quick and timely response to the structure fire in Rosebery on July 3. I know we are all grateful to have the services they provide.

— Citizens of Rosebery

Eileen Frances Gardiner
April 2, 1920 – June 20, 2021

Eileen Gardiner (nee Taylor), 101, died peacefully on Sunday morning at the couple's home in Nelson, British Columbia with family members by her side.

Eileen was born and raised in Winnipeg. She married David Nelson Gardiner, a decorated World War II Signals Officer in 1942. Eileen raised two children and when Nelson retired in 1975 she went to work with the Red Cross, assisting families in crisis. Eileen lived in many parts of Canada. She moved to Nelson in 1985 when her husband moved there to care for his mother. They later moved to Montreal in 1965 when Nelson was assigned to develop and operate the Expo 67 broadcast centre. In 1987 they moved to Calgary to be closer to family living in western Canada. After Nelson's death in 1996 she moved to Fruitvale in 2010 and finally the New Denver Pavilion in 2015.

Eileen was an excellent basketball, baseball and tennis player in her youth. She stayed active most of her life and enjoyed swimming at "Y". Wherever she lived she volunteered, often with a library. While volunteering with CNIB she became accustomed to typing in Braille to create books for the blind. A visit with Eileen began with an offer of tea and a chat, followed by a discussion about family and then a discussion of current events. She enjoyed reading and always there was a book beside her chair.

Eileen is survived by her two children (Bruce (Judi), Robert (Holly), four grandchildren (Damon (Misha), Heather (Yves), Jennifer (Tim), David (Kim)), four great-grandchildren (Isabella, Felix, Hugo, Ophelia, Felicity), her sister-in-law Joyce, seven nieces and their families.

She was predeceased by her parents Frank and Ethel Taylor, husband Nelson, two of their four children and her sister Barbara. She loved her family and friends and was known for her compassion and kindness.

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The provincial government has cancelled the current program without consultation. This funding has enabled local governments to participate in climate initiatives. Councillor Main stated the RDCK has also sent a letter to the Premier to voice their concern and hope for an open town meeting to discuss emergency preparedness. He suggested the Village invest in water cannons that would pull water from the lake (in case we could not evacuate), and to find out who has pumps that could be used to pump water out of the lake. He said he was disappointed that there was nothing about how they would protect the town, only about how to get out of town. Mayor Ferguson said he had been talking to other municipalities and that they contribute greatly to efficiencies, and is useful for leveraging other funding. He feels it is very important for local governments to resist this change and let the government know they are not happy. CAO Elliot corrobated what Main had to say, and said that while the Village does not receive money from this fund directly, its indirect benefits are considerable.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to a wonderful woman. Call Rachel at 250-353-2352 for more information.

THANK YOU to New Denver Fire & Rescue. I was really impressed by the professionalism and camaraderie of the team when they recently attended to a fire of a friend of mine. Thank you to Ric Banfield, Jordan Drinkoff, Doug Fisher, Roy Duncan, and Derek Hicks.

SHERRY PENNAD

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Wage dependent on experience. Dates: greeting visitors, cleaning, keeping records. Resumes can be emailed to sundownmuseum@netx.net or mailed to Box 52, New Denver, BC V0G 150.

**WELL MAINTAINED WITH AS SEEN IN THE WAREHOUSE LIEN Act and on behalf of North Nakusp Towin Ltd., we will dispose of goods belonging to UNKNOWN: 2003 Dodge Dakota VIN D1H7YL3572S278902**

**COMMUNITY**
recovered the storage fees $3,000 and all other related expenses. These goods will be made available for sale after 12 August 2021. Goods are being stored at North Nakusp Towin Ltd., Nakusp, BC, 250-265-2265.

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Columbia Basin Culture Tour showcases assemblage art by Evelyn Posgate

submitted

The unique assemblage art of Kootenay Lake artist Evelyn Posgate will be a highlight for visitors to the Balfour/Queens Bay and Proctor/ Harrop area during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour August 7 and 8. The self-guided tour takes place from 10 am to 5 pm on both days.

Posgate is among several participants in the tour located in this growing artists’ community about a half hour drive northeast of Nelson. Visitors are invited to walk through her newly completed bus studio – a vintage 1970s school bus refurbished with rescued materials by salvage master Andy Brinkman. “I like using discarded and found objects, mostly of some antiquity, to create sculptural pieces or works of two or more dimensions and I often have something that moves in the piece, or lights up so that it is more playful,” says Posgate. “Nostalgic photos or very old magazine cut-outs appeal to me as well as rusty old hardware, machine parts and wooden boxes.”

Posgate was strongly influenced by watching her inventor father work while growing up. Over two decades, she has assembled a vast collection of items used to create pieces ranging from a wall-mounted “wave” of piano keys to table-top sculptures such as a miniature fantasy circus train. The initial joy and whimsy of her pieces invite deeper meaning for those who choose to explore further.

Posgate’s work has been featured at local events and venues including previous Columbia Basin Tours, Art Walk, Kootenay Co-op, Oso Negro, the Kootenay Bakery, and Appetite for Art at the Prestige Inn. Many of her works on display during the tour will be available for sale.

Complementing Posgate’s art will be works by textile artist Cedar Ann Offerman, and the ethereal paintings of Angel Offerman.

Directories for the self-guided tour are available at Visitor Information Centres throughout the Columbia Basin. COVID-19 guidelines should be observed and are available at www.cbculturetour.com.

Visit Evelyn Posgate in her vintage 1970s school bus studio in Queens Bay during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.
Wide Spot: The answer, my friend…

by Therese DesCamp

If you’re as old as I am, you’re already singing the next line in this iconic Dylan song. You also know that the answer “blowing in the wind” is both blindingly obvious and as ephemeral as a breeze down Carpenter Creek Canyon.

I’d like to think that one answer to Dylan’s rhetorical question is blowing in the wind – fluctuating on the fence – that gusts through New Denver from the lake.

If you took a close look at the fence at Sixth and Kildare, you’d see maybe two hundred strips of cloth, most with writing or illustrations. It’s a communal art project, where anyone who wants to participate can reflect on the last 18 months. Together, the flags provide a communal record of the griefs, gratitude, and stories of this changing time. When the project is over, the strips will become a quilt. Last week when I picked up my flag at the ‘Let It Flutter’ booth, the first thing I wrote was “Agnes.” I simply don’t know how to think about the gap between my desire to attend an elderly friend through the end of her life, and what I was actually able to do. Nor do I know how to regain a sense of common ground and trust, to right the historical wrongs that perpetuate suffering now, to heal the planet.

I do know, however, that every bone in my body is grateful to live here, grateful for the trees and the lake and the wilderness and the crusty people and this fragile planet. Grateful even for the smoke that gusts through New Denver last week where the crew was working because of the Trozzo Creek wildfire hasn’t affected the installer’s progress. “Approximately 80% of the civil work on this segment has been completed to date,” Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation spokesperson Delphi Hoodicoff wrote in an email to the Valley Voice. “Upcoming work includes fibre-optic line installation of a high-speed fibre-optic line up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp, say they’re making good progress on the Playmor-Slocan portion of the line.”

Work progresses on fibre-optic line

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Officials overseeing the installation of a high-speed fibre-optic line up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp say they’re making good progress on thePlaymor-Slocan portion of the line. Construction work began on May 6. As of last week, 120-kilometre fibre was installed from Playmor to Nakusp. As of last week, crews are currently working a few kilometres south of the Village of Nakusp, near Gravel Pit Road. Weekly updates are provided via the Slocan Valley Rail Trail Society’s Facebook page regarding work zones.

The project took longer than expected. The project completion date was set back after permitting for the project took longer than expected. The line will run along the bottom of Slocan and Summit Lakes, and through sensitive environmental or archaeological sites. The CBBC also has to cut a deal with Telus to allow use of their poles to carry the line overland from Hills to Nakusp.

“Permitting as well as civil work on this segment has been affected by the Trozzo Creek wildfire hasn’t affected the installer’s progress. “Approximately 80% of the civil work on this segment has been completed to date,” Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation spokesperson Delphi Hoodicoff wrote in an email to the Valley Voice. “Upcoming work includes fibre-optic line installation of a high-speed fibre-optic line up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp, say they’re making good progress on the Playmor-Slocan portion of the line.”

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The result of funding applications to the federal government to support “last mile” installation – getting the fibre-optic backbone connected to community internet providers, and into people’s homes. Still, work is moving along well enough that officials say it “may allow us to complete the project sooner” than the March 2023 target date.

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COMMUNITY

Floyd Lillies 1941-2021

We would like to share with the world that on Sunday July 11, 2021 Floyd Lillies decided it was time to take his final bus trip.

Floyd was predeceased by his son Greg Lillies and wife of 45 years Lois Lillies, as well as both his parents and will now be sharing a drink with brothers Darryl and Reg.

Floyd is survived by his wife Carolyn and son Scott Lillies, daughter Lianna Lillies (Chris Chasmar). Grandchildren Emily Lillies, Julie Knudsen (Carson Semesock) Matthew Lillies and Ryley Hartness.

Step-children Tony Bjarnason and Richele Burr (Alex) and grandchildren Jadyn Burr, Tasha Bjarnason, Brody Burr, Carson Burr and Jake Bjarnason.

Floyd was also survived by brothers Brent (Trudi) Lillies, Richard Lillies (Jenny Noble) Sisters Joyce (Neil) Martens and Trish (Art) Kube as well as many important nieces and nephews.

Floyd will be best known for his infectious smile, corny jokes and optimistic attitude. His generosity and kindness were felt by everyone he touched.

Love of travel was a huge part of Floyd’s life; he loved to be on the go. Whether he was traveling by car, plane, boat or in one of his beloved buses he was always planning the next adventure. It was never about the destination and always about the journey for Floyd. He was just as happy going to Mexico with his kids, traveling in a caravan with friends, going overseas with family or just being a campground host at Macdonald Creek Park.

Floyd started his life in 1941 in Hartney, Manitoba as the first of seven feisty kids. Floyd and his family relocated to the lower mainland when he was two, this is where he spent all his school years. As a pre-teen Floyd had his own paper route and by fourteen, was sub-manager of twenty-five paper carriers. His first big career was with Safeway. This lasted several years with him eventually working up to produce manager in Vernon. The next big move was into insurance sales in Vernon and Kelowna. In 1975 Floyd and Lois and his dear friends Bob and Marg purchased a hardware store that became Loma Lumber which they ran for 32 years and retired from in 2007.

“Service to humanity is the best work of life” this excerpt from the Jaycee creed is the best description of how Floyd lived. Floyd served on many boards, committees and service clubs, so many that we are not able to name them all. Highlights include Nakusp Kinsmen, Nakusp Chamber of Commerce, Nakusp Curling Club, Nakusp Legion. After becoming a member of IRLY Bird he offered his services to the cooperative in many positions including president of IRLY Distributors. However, Floyd’s first, longest and most influential service was with the Jaycees in the Okanagan where he served in many positions and was named a lifelong JCI senator. The friendships gained through this service meant the world to him.

Floyd will be missed by all whose lives he touched. The legacy of his kindness, generosity and of course all the corny jokes will keep his memory alive.

There will be a Celebration of his life on Sunday, July 18, 2021 in the park at the Gazebo in Nakusp. The celebration will start at 11:00 am. With limited seating please bring a lawn chair or blanket and join us for a BBQ and cake after the service.

“aroma that was asking to be born and the idea somehow landed in my head. In the future, when we all remember what happened to us during the COVID-19 lockdown, I will be able to say that I gave birth to a huge load — and I don’t think many people will be able to say that!”

Providence announces new meat licencing system

by Jan McMurray

A new meat licensing system in BC is coming October 1, making it easier for small farmers to process and sell their meat locally.

“As a small farmer and an elected official, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Agriculture and the Province of BC for this extremely welcome announcement,” says RDCK Area J Director Rick Smith. “This decision will influence many to carry on their small-scale meat production operations in a profitable manner and encourage others to start production. From my own experience, I can honestly say there was only marginal profit from our rural property as the regulations stood. This decision will have a positive effect on the environmental footprint in all of BC.”

The new system will use three licence categories: Farmgate licence, Farmgate plus licence and Abattoir licence.

The Farmgate licence will be for entry-level and small-scale producers to process up to 5,000 pounds (2,268 kilograms) of meat per year, with sales permitted at the farmgate and farmers markets within their Regional District and within 50 kilometres of the farm location.

The Farmgate plus licence will replace the current Class D and E licences. These licences will be available in all areas of the province. Licensees will be able to process 25,000 pounds (11,340 kilograms) of meat per year that can be sold at farmgate, as well as farmers markets, retail outlets and restaurants throughout BC.

The Abattoir licence will replace the current Class A and B licences and will be available in all areas of the province. These licences are for fully inspected slaughter.

The new licence framework follows in-depth consultation with ranchers, abattoir operators, local governments and meat producer organizations.

“The changes will help pave the way to a thriving small-scale meat industry that supports farmers and contributes in a significant way to regional food security by increasing access to well-raised, high-quality meat for BC consumers,” said Julia Smith, president, Small-Scale Meat Producers Association.

Local farmer Kyle Wiebe says he is very happy with this development, as well as with the recent announcement about expanded residential use options in the Agricultural Land Reserve. “Agriculture Minister Lana Popham has gone to great lengths to help small-scale farmers in BC and her hard work appears to have paid off,” he said.

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