Giving couple chosen as Kaslo Citizens of the Year
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter
The committee choosing this year's Kaslo Citizen of the Year couldn't decide between two people, so they split the difference and chose both. While two people have been selected before, Anne and Stu Heard are the first couple to ever be given the honour.

The pair were given their award in front of about 50 people at Kaslo's 128th birthday party, held on Friday, August 13.

"This year, the selection committee received over 30 individual nominations for eight different people, and any one of them would have been an excellent choice," said Mayor Suzan Hewat. "They had to make the decision and upon reading the letters, the choice became very clear."

The Heards were chosen for their ongoing work volunteering for and leading community activities, from the Kaslo Concert Society to the Celtic Country Band and English Country Dance group. They are also active environmental stewards, and support local birding, the Kaslo Community Garden Club, Kaslo Climate Action Team and the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society.

"We were almost unable to present the Citizen of the Year 2021 award in person, but to a family member," commented Hewat at the presentation. "This is because our recipient was doing what they love to do. They were across the lake volunteering at the Northwest Wilderness Society Fry Creek Camp, so we thought they couldn't be here to receive the award in person."

If that wasn't enough, the couple contribute to the Kaslo & District Public Library board, annual Polar Bear Swim and local Scouts troupe.

The Heards did make it to the event, however, and were presented with a plaque and flowers from the Village and Chamber of Commerce.

Pearson remembered Hewat also made special mention at the ceremony of another nominee. Murray Pearson died last year after many years of significant contributions to the sports community, the library and other organizations in Kaslo.

"Murray lived with quiet integrity, true to his beliefs, and he gave so generously of the most precious commodity - his time," she said. "We miss you Murray!"

Pearson has also been honoured by having the ballpark renamed after him.
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Area directors in the Regional District of Central Kootenay say they want to know what’s being done to improve turnaround times for processing building permits.

At the meeting of the Rural Affairs Committee on August 18, Area A Director Garry Jackman said he has been hearing complaints from contractors and homeowners about delays in processing permits.

“Owners are worried,” he said. “And we are hearing from contractors. They have fixed overhead – machinery, tools. The bills are coming in. It’s cash flow or not… and interrupting cash flow with building permit issues is creating some issues that I believe will cause our company a sabre-rattling in the short term.”

One example of problems from the RDCK end is redundant or unnecessary comments on permits that can take time and money for contractors or homeowners to clear off.

“I see a stamp on a drawing here that says, ‘no parking adjacent to house,’” said Jackman, citing a specific example he said had him ‘scratching his head.’

“‘PN to review any surcharge for foundation for parking area,’” he said Gainham. "Let's say I hear you.”

The comment rankled Jackman.

“I’m not commenting out of exasperation or frustration,” he said. “I’m commenting on behalf of builders and residents, who are seeing mounting costs, and I want fast and efficient rectification of any roadblocks, inefficiencies, diversions, and unnecessary information.

“This has to be as business-like as it can possibly get,” he continued. “It matters to our economy. It should not be characterized as exasperation. It should be characterized as a very business-like operation and Manager Southam, I hope you appreciate that to the core.”

“’I’m not sure how to respond to that,’” said Southam after a pause. “They go on and on. The notes and the time and the effort for motherhood and unnecessary comments on building drawings, he cited others that had unnecessary comments or call-outs to well-established code requirements.

The comment rankled Jackman.

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The matter will come back to the regional director for permits, Jackman said.

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“’I’m not sure how to respond to that,’” said Southam after a pause. “They go on and on. The notes and the time and the effort for motherhood comments on drawings is perhaps misunderstood.”

Local municipal governments that hire the RDCK to do their building inspections were not at the meeting, as the Rural Affairs Committee is made up of RDCK rural area directors only, not municipal directors.

Area D Director Aimee Watson said they should be part of the conversation, and suggested they be invited to the RAC meeting in September to give their views on the issue.

“The amount of stuff I am getting about building itself is phenomenal, and a lot of it is sitting with the staff. There are several problems behind the backlog, Jackman said, including staff departures, more complicated inspection standards and training requirements, and a 50% increase in applications received.

Jackman said there’s an urgent need to address the problem, as homeowners and builders face month increases in the costs of labour and materials.

“Owners are worried,” he said. “And we are hearing from contractors. They have fixed overhead – machinery, tools. The bills are coming in. It’s cash flow or not… and interrupting cash flow with building permit issues is creating some issues that I believe will cause our company a sabre-rattling in the short term.”

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“It’s imperative in this circumstance this not be done on the fly,” said RDCK Manager of Building Development John Southam. “If we’re going to be expected to answer questions put forward by some 18 participants, it’s reasonable for the department to expect the 18 participants… put forward their questions well in advance, so we have time to respond.

“And we’re not kind of roasted, shall we say.”

Testy exchange

Southam added he heard the frustration in Jackman’s voice and he wanted “to move away from where we have exasperated directors and we instead have factual responses.”

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The matter will come back to the September Rural Affairs Committee meeting.
Small guy' ALSCS squeezed out as BC Transit moves to larger providers

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The head of Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services says it's been an era of continuous change for his group after its transportation service was taken over by BC Transit.

BC Transit got its stamp of approval from local politicians on plans for public transportation in the Kootenay at the August board meeting of the RDCK.

The board passed a motion accepting the Crown corporation’s Transit Future Plan for the area, as well as receiving an update on upcoming changes to the service.

BC Transit Government Relations Manager Seth Wright told the board there were a couple of new initiatives about transportation in the West Kootenay that was receiving an update from the board.

Wright thanked ASLCS for their work in the leadership of the overall transit system, said Wright, who also thanked ASLCS for their work as operators.

“Unfortunately for a lot of these options, it takes a year-and-a-half to implement. So to not have them in a plan… it doesn’t give any lead time. There’s a lot of background work that has to happen. That’s why we put things in a plan,” he said. “It also allows staff to develop costing for you. When considering these options, should the board consider them, staff can say, ‘well, this is what it will cost for these services.’

Wright said he’s attempting to re-establish a Liberal Party majority, after only gaining 155 seats, a minority government, in 2019. The campaign will be 36 days long – the shortest amount allowed by law.

The Valley Voice has given citizens in both riding the opportunity to introduce themselves to the area’s voters in this issue. Check out page 10 for the South Okanagan-West Kootenay candidates, pages 18-19 for the Kootenay-Columbia candidates, and pages 20-21 for the North Okanagan-Shuswap candidates.

The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results. Jagmeet and I will keep fighting for you.

To do so, we need the support of every Canadian who believes in a better Canada. By getting behind Jagmeet and the NDP, you can join us in this fight to protect the things that matter to millions of Canadians.

If you’re ready to stand with us for a Canada that works for everyone, please consider making a donation today.

Thank you for joining us on this journey to build a better Canada. Together, we can make a difference and bring real change to our country. Let’s keep fighting for you!
Heat wave

I just heard an interview on CBC radio wherein the interviewee opined that the problem with this latest heat wave was that it didn’t just break records by a couple of degrees, but it broke records by eight or ten degrees. I agree. Obviously, Canada went terribly wrong when we switched to the metric system... eight to ten degrees Fahrenheit wouldn’t have been nearly as bad.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade

Let’s stop this nonsense!

There is no reason to have an election now, but a dozen reasons to NOT have an election now. Why should we be too dumb to see the mistakes of Mr. Trudeau? He wants to hear from us, what we expect from his government in the next two years, the next six years and the next 20 years. We do not need an election for that. We can all write him a short letter or email and tell him – at the cost of a stamp. The millions saved by not having an election could be devoted for child care support. We can in addition to that tell him that we may boycott his election – and see where he ends up then.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Open letter to Conroy and Horgan

I know your office windows are very narrow and your own vision quite blurred, for you cannot see the reality outside, in the forests. Your mandate of continuing logging here in the Boundary, with heat wave after heat wave, and drought all spring, is in stark contradiction of what we believe are the two most important things for a healthy forest – the protection and management of reserve and the forest around them.

There is a desperate need for cell service in this special valley, so all wilderness enthusiasts can call home service in this special valley, so all wilderness enthusiasts can call home. A true Rural Wildland Interface Resilience Plan would also establish protected watershed reserves and the forest around them.

Mike Simpson
Rural New Denver

Wildland Resiliency Plans

With global warming on the increase, coupled with the disappearance of ice caps and receding glaciers, we are losing one of our climate control mechanisms for the hot summer months. In BC, five of the longest drought seasons on record have been in the last four decades. This dry spell isn’t a one-time historical weather event. With drought comes fire. Towns and communities are partnering up with private interest groups, companies and government using CWPPs (Community Wildfire Protection Plans) as a strategy to set up roughly one-kilometre wildland-urban interface protection zones around communities. Without a political idealistic change away from the AAC (annual allowable cut), it looks like the agenda changes outside the protected urban areas to a road building, forest harvesting plan. In the Southern Interior during fire season, the average high mean temperature is now rising into the mid 30°C. A true Rural Wildland Interface Resilience Plan would also establish protected watershed reserves and the forest around them.

Mike Simpson
Rural New Denver

Cell service needed in Slocan Valley

Thanks to Chris Dawson for highlighting the major need for cell service throughout the Slocan Valley! I was born in the valley and have spent a good part of my life in the wilds of this beautiful area. I am now 83 and still look forward to enjoying everything it offers. I still bike, hike, cross-country ski, play golf, read books and use my computer to keep in touch with my family. The valley has contributed to my longevity – of that, I’m convinced. The valley has contributed to my longevity – of that, I’m convinced.

Mike Simpson
Rural New Denver

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous.

Letters must be signed, and we will publish unsigned letters only if they are signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

The Valley Voice
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Publisher: Dan Nicholson • Editor: Jan McMurray • Food Editor Emeritus - Andrew Rhodes
Reporters: Joanne Feenstra, Moe Lyons & Kathy Hartman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter - John Kneen, Fauquier

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Plumgar Junction to Edgewater and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake. Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Canada $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00. E-Mail Subscription $22.40 (Prices include GST)

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40021191

The Valley Voice is distributed through a agreement with the Canadian Government for a degree in Canada.

Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

Castlegar
Pre-election referendum

Before the next Canadian election, we need to take measures to make MPs and MLAs more accountable. When MPs and MLAs are sworn in, they turn over all our resources and the wealth of our nation for them to manage for us. We need a nation-wide referendum that would result in a constitutional change for Canada. The passing of this referendum would make it so that before an MP or MLA is sworn in, they have to sign over all their assets to the people of Canada or the people of their province; and, if they do something that they cannot prove serves the majority, then with a referendum and simple majority, the people would seize all their assets whenever they assist in the world. Should they attempt to hide their assets by turning them over to someone else or by moving them out of the country to avoid losing them, continued on page 5
Response to ‘Donations not needed to help firefighters, BCWS says’

We as a community have touched the hearts of our local heroes – the firefighters themselves. Upon speaking with many of us, one common theme has been the kindness of others. We have been shown our kind hearts, and our community spirit to local and international firefighting heroes!

To have the organization – BC Wildfire Service, NOT the firefighters – throw kindness back at us is appalling, shocking, and uncalled for.

When a local family member of a firefighter who is working night and day, in cooperation with a local health professional, decided to fundraise in order to provide the Faquvier/Edgewater firefighters with high-quality sleeping bags, because they were given less-than-adequate, low-quality, disposable, single-use respirators, if at all), they were shamed, called scammers, and harassed. The people in question fundraised via social media to close friends and family members only – not to the wider public – so that they could support a family member and their crew!

The response from BCWS shows their shameful attempt to skirt their inevitable humiliation and to cover their bureaucratic sins at providing cheaply made, ecologically wasteful, sub-par respirators to our local and international champions. Instead, BCWS made it seem like it was about COVID masks as opposed to respirators to help filter acidic and poisonous smoke.

We know for a fact that the firefighters got their new and better respirators.

To those fighting fires, you are welcome to post gratitude, respect, and heart-felt appreciation.

To the organization (BCWS) that claims to protect and provide for our firefighters, don’t look a gift-horse in the mouth. Allow communities to support a system at a rate they wish. Instead of persecuting those who want to improve the quality of life for their hard-working men and women – match us, and step up!

Merina Matthew

Sloan Vaccinations

I would have certain expectations if I were to consider having any kind of vaccination.

I would want a list of any and all ingredients.

I would want the hypodermic needle and syringe with some vaccine left in it for analysis purposes by my assigns, disconnected from the drug industry, should I experience any questionable health problems in the future.

I would want anyone peddling and/or administering the vaccine to sign a document prepared by me or an attorney, which I would present to them, stating that the vaccine has undergone the scrutiny of the double blind studies, etc. In other words, he or she can obtain documentation showing conclusive proof that the vaccine has been proven safe without a doubt. I would want a valid picture ID along with the signature, the name of the company he or she represents, and his or her “personal guarantee” that the vaccine will supply the protection that it is claimed to provide. I am of the opinion that those who would not sign such a document would be admitting the vaccine is something one should avoid.

There is a lot of information on vaccines and vaccination results to be found, if one looks for it. There seems to be nothing more effective in programming perceptions that repetition, especially if it comes from a guy in a suit with letters after his name, or a bloke in a white coat.

If people believe that vaccines will do what is claimed, then they get vaccinated. If vaccines provide the protection as claimed, then you and yours are vaccinated, the unvaccinated presents no threat.

Blaine Bennett

Creston

Eyes wide shut

This summer has been a real eye-opener for many BC residents. Heat domes that kill, crop failure due to drought and smoke so thick you stay huddled inside your home afraid to breathe outside air.

But for some, it is life as usual as we continue to kill every tree and ecosystem at a rate that will ensure no life will exist on this planet. They have their eyes wide shut.

Here in Nakusp, planning is still underway to log out Box Mountain Watershed – even though they will never be able to prove it will reduce the wildfire risk or even save us from fire. In fact, our most intense fires locally have been in previously harvested areas such as Box Mountain. The RDCK is the body who hired NACFOR to make the plan. The Columbia Basin Trust funded the transport of fibre from wildfire risk reduction projects for the BC Wildfire Service, for the community and industry. The mutual support and admission club for deforestation and logging everything left after the fires are out is now bordering on the ridiculous, anywhere they want just like they were designed to do. The coalition of government and industry doesn’t seem to think democracy is a good idea to keep.

This experiment with a program that negates equality and rights of First Nations, environmentalists, and property owners to move, breathe, have water, and have a high quality forest environment with all its values intact is just another kick when we are down, and still struggling from a dangerous pandemic.

How cynical and destructive can professional reliance and the forest lobby/industry/government become?

Most people know that wildlife risk reduction won’t save us from intense fire and might make the situation worse. While locked down, the logging went into high gear and so did the government’s bragging and swaggering about having the recovery plan all worked out. Money flowed from government to industry during a period of record high lumber prices. The climate tells us we should understand for all values. When will we start?

Craig Schoff

Crescent Bay

Endangered life

Kudos to Amanda Konkin of Nakusp for pointing out the contradictions of our COVID era over what is endangering life.

The excellent front page article about the impacts of forestry and the many letters to the editor about old-growth logging and the many questions to our politicians.

COVID has brought extra focus to the issue of our mortality but, Amanda, a different truth is literally in the air at the moment. The data is clear about the most prevalent threats to human and other life. While disastrous diseases kill some humans, every generation of humans that mess up the related mass extinction event on Earth stemming from climate change will profoundly affect everything and everyone. If governments are truly concerned about protecting lives, they need to demonstrate that.

In BC, rampant logging of old-growth and other forests an endangering life. The forest is the only planet, industrial agriculture and human expansionism continue to destroy ecosystems. Do you think we are separable from these external functions of Earth? How severe do fires, heat waves, floods and other extreme climate events need to get before we accept that we are damaging Earth to our own peril? When do we see past the smokescreen promoting the idea we can protect ourselves with a mere vaccine for one disease? If we really care about life, human life and more-than-human life, we would be taking extreme measures now to end the primary threats to all future life.

For the past century, Earth has been weaponized and industrialized. We have chosen not to listen, continuing to poison land, water and air. We continue depleting soil, logging rapaciously, taking bare ocean bottoms, spreading micro-plastics, radiation and toxins across the planet.

Recently, Earth has begun to shout. Now she is bellowing. Epidemics are Earth’s way of bringing populations into balance.

Sociologist Eileen Crist notes that the carrying capacity of Earth, based on leaving 50% of it for other species and using sustainable agricultural methods, is two billion people. Clearly, with our population of 7.98 billion, Earth is way out of balance. Add to that the level of consumption in wealthy societies like ours, the disaster is multiplied.

We have a choice: to learn to consume less, to learn to be content with less. It is the way of balance. Educate people, providing comprehensive sex education and access to family planning. For those of us with those privileges, we need to self-limit our consumption. We must be taking steps to halt unsustainable logging and the obliteration of carbon-sequestering old-growth. We must replace mined sand and old wood with new wood.

So for every person who wants to argue about the necessity of CO2 emissions and the need to limit human population, to reduce your carbon footprint and to eat in a sustainable way? If you’re going to ask me if I’m vaccinated, I’m going to ask you how many children you’ve spawned, how many flights you’ve taken in the last decade, whether you eat meat or seafood, how many fossil-fuel vehicles you drive, how you recreate, whether you grow/ buy local and organic food, what the square footage of your house is, how you’re working toward government accountability for climate action, etc.

Around here, I witness people destroying the planet for future generation in the name of ‘fun.’ Where’s the ‘fun’ that cures people of their addiction to mega-ski resorts and recreational vehicles? Where’s the vaccination to protect us from old- growth logging? It’s time to end the hypocrisy of the push for vaccination and the continued damage of our inaction on the climate front.

KL Kivi

New Denver
Rady Creek Road

Regarding your article in the last issue, "Residents unhappy with Forests Ministry's road policy," it seems the residents believe that the closure is to protect caribou, and the Forests Ministry says it is due to more complete traffic safety, and because there is no way to pay for upkeep of the road.

It is true that Silver Cup Ridge is high quality, critical winter habitat for caribou, from which they have been displaced for years by the snowmobiles and ATVs. But the residents, and Minister Connroy, should be careful what they wish for. For a few years ago, our Valhalla Wilderness Society field team terminated its field work on Silver Cup Ridge due to the dangerousness of the road. My personal experience follows.

Three years ago, our crew took a field trip up there in a heavy-duty truck driven by Craig Pettit, who has many years’ experience driving on logging roads both in trucks and on ATVs. I have accompanied Craig on many trips on hairy roads and have utter confidence in his abilities. However, the Rady Creek Road was rougher than normal. Craig, a fearless driver, when we looked on the dashboard of the truck. Coming down the steep, slippery road that he said indicated that ATVs had, over the years, damaged the road. In his experience, ATVs can drive with one hand over my eyes and have utter confidence in his abilities.

When I expressed my disbelief, I deliberately avoided the crosswalk’s message because I knew that was going to kick me up a notch. But that’s what people like me whom they comically refer to as “self-appointed armchair critic,” need to fear most. If you don’t agree, you’re a bigot. If the technology existed, an alarm would go off.

I wish to commend them for expressing their views in a humble letter to the editor. It is true that Silver Cup Ridge is high quality, critical winter habitat for caribou, from which they have been displaced for years by the snowmobiles and ATVs.

The Valley Voice

Dom Tassel

Red Mountain Road

Implications

I was asked recently what not having a pure, virus free earth means. With begin with what we know. There’s a respiratory virus, of which there are many. Inflammation occurs; anti-inflammatory and other treatments have shown success (ref: c19early.com). Health authorities recognize/promote one treatment, which was given “vaccine” status. It doesn’t provide immunity but lowers symptom severity and therefore risk of hospitalization. Therefore, a ‘fuzzy’ ‘vaccine’. Clearly – mRNA inclusions are not like traditional vaccines.

We take our herd immunity very seriously. Why are we so adamant about everyone having it? A friend stated pre-COVID, he was going to buy a boat. He didn’t support vaccines. People have a built-in belief about vaccines that is unshakeable. Anything contrary is treasonous, blasphemous, or nonsense. This is the holy of holies; highly revered by the ‘church’ of medicine/science.

It’s natural there’s greater buy-in when raising experimental treatment to the public. Buy-in is required. An all-out movement would include TV, social media, YouTube, so-called fact checkers, and other online platforms.

Doesn’t it ever come off as hype?

Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance

Talk about insane

The IPCC report on climate change released last week was harrowing. “This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy the planet.” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The production and burning of fossil fuels has caused more than 75% of the world’s CO2 produced in the last 100 years, and is responsible for 20/21 of Canada’s emissions, and yet government and industry say increasing production is critical for Canada’s future.

Right now, there is record production in the oil and gas patch. But government revenue overall has dropped 62% since 2000. Revenues in 2014; that has dropped below 4% in 2018. There were 23/24. Not only is this a voluntary transition time, but to encourage its expansion for export reasons, but in that time has changed our climate and is irreversibly changing our climate. Our government seems unable to see it. They’re supporting this industry at a loss, hoping for big oil to pay for their carbon policies. The government talks about ‘Clean BC’ but they won’t touch the dirtiest industry of all. Oil and gas will still be produced to meet domestic needs and will be produced for export purposes.

Our communities have a right to determine our own future and have the opportunity to determine if they wish to continue to support the oil and gas industry, or if they wish to transition to renewable energy sources.

T. Orlando Winlaw

New Denver

Why do they do it in the road?

Lorna Visser and Wayne McCrorey disagree with me on the New Denver crosswalk. No surprise. Plenty of people probably do. End of story. Right? No! They take it a step further, a bonking ballistic step further, and accuse of racism, sexism, bigotry, with a couple of psychological and cognitive malfunctions thrown in for good measure. The whole freaking enthulism in terms that Ms. Visser and Mr. McCrorey might understand: painting a message-laden rainbow on a pleasant village environment is not tearing up rainbows on the butts of Mr. McCrorey’s grizzlies or erecting a giant rainbow spanning Ms. Visser’s Bonanza marsh. How’s about a hooray for that?

We reserve our glee for others’ bad luck.

Otherwise, I couldn’t care less about Ms. Visser, Mr. McCrorey and their sympathisers’ crusade to reform people like me whom they comically imagine to be “unchallenged in their ancient thinking, narrow-minded, self-centered, comfortable white male-privileged mindset.” After all, everyone needs a hobby. Judging by the number of folks out there who simply enjoy walking through message-free environments (the self-centered, moral degenerates), they certainly have their work cut out for them.

Though they dismiss me as a “self-appointed armchair critic,” they don’t say who appointed them to write their letter or what vibrating messages.

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Our communities have a right to determine our own future and have the opportunity to determine if they wish to continue to support the oil and gas industry, or if they wish to transition to renewable energy sources.

Harvey Armstrong

New Denver
Thank you for supporting your local businesses!

The key to a thriving local economy throughout the pandemic and always

submitted

As we approach the end of summer, bears are becoming especially active in preparation for winter denning. During this transition of the seasons, bears eat as much as possible to increase their body weight by approximately 30%. This phase for bears is called hyperphagia, and it is an important time for bears. Since bears are also opportunistic feeders, they will eat almost anything they can get their paws on.

WildSafeBC would like to remind residents about the importance of attracting less desirable animals to your property and what you can do to help reduce conflict this time of year. For example, keep your garbage secured until collection day, take down your bird feeders, and pick your fruit if you have fruit trees, or use electric fencing to protect your investment. We also want to highlight the Campers Code, which is a province-wide initiative to guide campers in how to best avoid conflict in wildlife country. This includes ensuring all items with an odour (including toothpaste, deodorant, sunscreen, bug spray, garbage, food and clothes) are kept secure inside vehicles, campers or bear-resistant infrastructure whenever a campsite is unattended during the day and when campers are sleeping at night.

To increase awareness of such issues, WildSafeBC will be hosting multiple events throughout September as part of ‘BC Goes Wild’, an annual event celebrating BC’s wildlife. The WildSafeBC New Denver, Nakusp, Silverton and RDCK Areas H & K program will be leading a Bear and Western Toad Biology Walk with Bear Spray Workshop in collaboration with the Valhalla Wilderness Society on September 5 starting at 10 am at the Rattlesnake Old Growth Cedar Loop. Check out their Facebook page or contact them at newdvenver@wildsafebc.com to register and for more details. Also keep an eye out for a special booth at the New Denver and Nakusp Farmers Markets on September 10 and 18 respectively. WildSafeBC will also be hosting a month-long virtual art exhibit to show all things bears and other local wildlife.

If you have a painting, sculpture, poem or other wildlife-themed piece of art that you would like to submit to the virtual gallery, please submit to newdvenver@wildsafebc.com with all relevant information (artist, relevant story, medium, etc.). The submitted pieces will be showcased on the local WildSafeBC Facebook page weekly. This is open to all ages, from 0 to 110 and all art mediums.

In Kaslo and Area D, WildSafeBC Community Coordinator Brian Montgomery will be in attendance at the Kaslo Farmers Market on September 11 with the Kaslo Bear Smart program to receive local wildlife conflict reports. He can also find Brian at the Larder Lake Sunday Market that month. An inertia bear spray workshop and an electric fencing workshop are also planned for September. Throughout the month of September, Brian is encouraging local photographers in Kaslo and Area D to send in photos of local wildlife to celebrate “BC Goes Wild” and win prizes. Check out the WildSafeBC Kaslo Facebook page for more details, and email kaslo@wildsafebc.com to register for the bear spray or electric fencing workshops.

Please report wildlife conflicts to the Conservation Service Officer at 1-877-952-7277. Residents can also report wildlife conflict other than bear, coyote, cougar or wolf 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, Nakusp, Silverton and RDCK Areas H & K and WildSafeBC Kaslo and Area D are grateful for the generous support of local businesses and organizations including the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), Regional District of Central Kootenay, municipalities listed in the program titles, Province of British Columbia, and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.
COMMUNITY

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

RDCK to host community emergency planning meetings this fall

With fires, floods and extreme weather becoming more common, RDCK leaders and staff will be taking a hard-to-access neighbourhoods and communities across the region over the fall and winter to talk about emergency planning.

That decision was made after a planning session at a recent RDCK Affairs Committee meeting about evacuation planning for specific communities during this summer’s forest fires.

“I want directors to look into gaps in their areas, into dead-end roads, and are we falling short at being truly prepared to move people in a hurry?” asked Area A Director Garry Jackman, launching the discussion. “Taking into account what we’ve seen from this year, and not too many years ago, other incidents – we need to be better prepared.”

Jackman said the notion that more review had to be done came to him after he and other Area A leaders looked at the plan for evacuating the community of Riondel, at the end of a 10-kilometre dead-end road on the east shore of Kootenay Lake.

Locals said they should use the Kootenay Lake ferry if necessary to move large numbers of people so the dead-end community be cut off from the highway by wildfire. But the thought exercise quickly revealed some problematic logistical details.

“We know the lake level, and we know the level of the local dock, but we couldn’t get people up or down off the plank onto the ferry without ladders or hoisting… and there’s no money for that.”

It’s just one gap of many, said Jackman, some big, some ridiculously small. So he called on all his fellow directors to review local plans they may have for possible problems.

Ten problem communities

It turns out the RDCK Emergency Operations Centre has already identified 10 communities that would present challenges for evacuation – not only Riondel, but also Glade, Harrop-Procter, Wyndell and others.

Those plans outline at a high level how the evacuation would take place, identifying unique factors at play in each community, to inform the overall evacuation process.

RDCK officials said while it’s great communities are coming up with plans, over-planning doesn’t work in a volatile and dynamic emergency.

“Having plans that are very detailed for a given event have been found to be not very useful for planning” said Johnson.

In the case of Riondel, more likely evacuation planning might involve getting people out of the community before it gets cut off by fire, he said, or waiting for BCWS to clear the road to allow evacuation to proceed.

Anxiety grows in vacuum

But the idea that “the plans are in place” is a tough sell when forest fires are actively threatening a community.

“It’s not easy as a politician to say residents, don’t worry, we have a robust system, hang on,” which is often my short answer,” said Area D Director Aimee Watson. “And I do fully understand…”

Peterson said that caused some frustration among the residents of the community.

“Everyone has to own it. We are really trying to provide those tools.”

Over the coming months, RDCK electoral area directors and emergency officials will hold virtual or real-time community workshops (once COVID allows) to engage people in preparing NEPPs for emergencies.

“We will be able to go out and support those communities becoming prepared. And it’s more of a ‘facilitation role’ not a ‘doing role,’” the manager said.

“It’s also the way for better mental health in these stressful times.

“One of the findings, from a [United Nations study] on down, is communities have to be prepared for themselves, because that’s the only way people are going to feel well prepared,” said Johnson.

“We can do all the work we want to do in the background, but if residents aren’t on board and aren’t anxious because they don’t know what the plan is there, then we are arguably not doing our job well enough,” he said.

Johnson, who lives on a limited-access road himself, said local knowledge and decision-making can free up resources for officials to deal with other problems.

“Saying to the people on a dead-end road has engaged in a community preparedness program, and they know ‘Old Mr. and Mrs. Johnson don’t have a car or a vehicle, and need to be evacuated,’ then maybe the neighbours know that who that’s the case.”

“…That allows our responding agencies to focus in on those unique situations that might come up during an emergency, that may free them up for what may occur that was unplanned.”

Directors will review existing Local Neighbourhood Plans and begin to arrange community meetings about the evacuations – after we get through this emergency.

You can find out more about the NEPP and RDCK emergency planning yourself at www.rdcckunderEmergancyPreparedness.com.

South Arrow Lakes community firefighters to get training

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Three volunteer fire departments along the southern Arrow Lakes are going to receive training over the coming months to better protect their communities from wildfires.

That’s thanks to a grant from RDCK Area D Director Paul Peterson.

“I can’t believe the enthusiasm of all three fire departments to have this opportunity,” said Peterson.

The Area D director’s grant will allow the departments to hire an RDCK staff trainer to hold workshops for volunteer firefighters, in Edgewood, Fauquier, and Burton.

The money will go towards training the department members.

Peterson said that caused some friction during the summer season, especially when wildfires were burning up south of Fauquier and Edgewood, and the volunteers stayed behind to protect their homes.

“They were kind of spurned at first by the provincial people, because they weren’t trained. They felt kind of left out,” he said. “But in the end, the fire department helped set up sprinklers and all kinds of different things, but beginning it was kind of hands-off.”

More training will help them be recognized as effective support in an emergency, says Peterson.

“They couldn’t go out into the middle of the woods after the training,” says Peterson. “But if there’s a problem in their backyard, they’re going to be able to handle it when it happens.”

Peterson said it’s not certain what the final amount would be to hire the trainer. That will be determined when the chiefs pick courses for their crews and the logistics are worked out. But he said he’s willing to spend $10,000 or more if that’s what it will take to support local firefighting efforts in summers like this.

“Whatever it takes, it’s available,” he promised.

“Whatever is good for each fire department is good for community.”

There’s no word on when the training will begin, but it won’t likely be until later in the fall.

MLA Brittny Anderson pays a visit to the RDCK

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The West Kootenay’s lone member of the legislature had a positive experience with her first appearance as a delegation to the RDCK board at its August meeting.

Brittny Anderson, who was elected the MLA for Nelson-Creston in last year’s provincial election, was there at the request of the board. The region’s other MLA, Kairine Comroy, was unable to attend.

It was considered a friendly meet-and-greet, but directors had been told they would have to raise the NDP backbenchers. The main concern was that they try to raise issues through proper channels – like the Union of BC Municipalities resolution process – it only receives boisterous answers in return.

“We put a lot of work into our resolutions as a local government,” said Board Chair Johnson. “It’s a majority of the time the responses we get are reiterating what we already know.

“There’s no acknowledgement of the significant impact or that the local context is experiencing a very different experience – and provincially that’s what it is. And it gets by, whatever or whatever is the context.”

That was the case with recent board resolutions on water management. Among other things.

“The board and MLA are taking out.

“Speaking with my colleagues who are MLAs in rural ridings, that is something we really want to work hard on, that rural ridings feel represented,” she said. “At lot of time something comes out of Victoria still feel say, ‘that really makes sense in an urban setting’ but in our rural setting it just doesn’t work in reality.”

“I want to work with all of you to push things forward.”

The directors also raised issues like cell service, emergency response, and water shortages in rural areas.

They also praised Anderson for showing up for public meetings during the recent evacuation orders in her area, and for responding promptly to inquiries.

Anderson said she does what she can, but also admitted that the pandemic has made landing her new job that much tougher.

“I actually haven’t even met a lot of my other colleagues in person this first season. COVID restrictions,” she said. “So for me to try to figure out how to advocate for you, I’m still really in the dark.”

The board and MLA agreed to continue to keep in touch on issues.

* * *
South Okanagan - West Kootenay candidates introduced

Penticton-born MP Richard Cannings narrowly won the riding for the NDP in 2019 by 1.2 percentage points over Conservative Helena Konanz. That was a drop of 8% in popular support from his 2015 election. While Penticton was the main source of Cannings’ votes, it was polls in the West Kootenay that allowed the incumbent MP to squeak through on polling day, as the Conservatives and Liberals dominated in other polling areas in the riding, which includes the Slocan Valley, Nakusp and Arrow Lakes communities on the east side of the lake, Castlegar and area, and the Osyoosos, Oliver and Penticton areas.

Voter turnout was 69.5% in the riding in 2019.

Richard Cannings, NDP

I got into politics to bring a scientific voice to the fight against climate change. Before entering politics, I operated my own consulting company and worked on conservation and bird population projects for government and NGOs. I was born and raised in Penticton and still live on the West Bench near Penticton in my long-time family home.

Priority issues

This is the sweet spot that has awakened Canadians to a new sense of urgency and a new deeper understanding of the critical importance of taking climate action seriously. I’m proud of what the NDP has accomplished to strengthen Canada’s first Climate Accountability Act. Since becoming your member of Parliament in 2015, I’ve fought hard for bold actions on this front. We must seize this moment and push for bolder action.

The pandemic has shown us what we can accomplish quickly when faced with a clear crisis. We need to face climate change the same way and stop making only tentative moves to a clean energy economy. Young people are deeply concerned about their future as climate change continues to impact our world. Workers are deeply concerned about their future as they see good jobs in the fossil fuel sector disappearing. We must fight the climate crisis like we actually want to win and invest in good sustainable jobs in our region. Our plan doesn’t leave people behind.

I stand with Jagmeet Singh and the NDP to advocate for significant federal investments in affordable housing, to deliver on a universal pharmacare plan, and to expand our healthcare system to include the dental and mental healthcare that Canadians need.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked hard with my NDP colleagues in parliament to get more support for people, faster. We helped ensure that working Canadians had access to CERB, that students and seniors received support, and defended small businesses. We must continue to fight to get results for families and workers through our recovery. We need to close loopholes and raise enforcement so the ultra-rich 1% that profited off the pandemic pay their fair share.

My priorities for our region reflect what I want for my children and my grandchildren: a safe place to live, a healthy family living in a healthy environment, access to a promising future and a society that values our diversity and Indigenous heritage.

Sean Taylor, PPC

I am Sean Taylor and I come from a place of West Kootenay. I have spent my life working to protect BC’s environment and spent my life working to fight climate change. As a biologist, I have a scientific voice to the fight in a healthy environment, for government and NGOs. I was born and raised in Penticton and still live on the West Bench near Penticton in my long-time family home.

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Sean Taylor did not respond to our request for his background and priority issues by press time.

Helena Konanz, Conservative

I have a political science degree from UCLA and a master’s degree from UBC Okanagan. I am a former world ranked tennis player and have won seven national Canadian championships and volunteered as a coach at Penticton Secondary School for ten years. I worked at IKEA at their corporate headquarters before moving to Penticton with my husband and two children. We just celebrated 25 years of running our small business. I was on Penticton City Council for seven years. In 2019, I ran for Member of Parliament and our team lost in one of the closest races in the country.

Priority issues

There are many issues in this riding that need immediate attention and that have been neglected over the years. These issues include: soaring crime rate and not enough police officers • the need for more doctors and specialists • the lack of support for seniors • limited mental health services

I am the only candidate running who has experience in local government, and I understand that to solve these problems, all levels of government must work together for you. As your member of parliament, I will address these issues and work collaboratively with others to make sure that the people of South Okanagan-West Kootenay are front and centre in Ottawa.

Tara Howse, Green

I was the 2019 Green Party candidate and am honoured to put my name forward to be your MP.

As a rural development practitioner for 15 years, with a Masters that analyzed gender and Indigeneity in the resource extraction industry, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges, as well as the ample opportunities, that exist for rural communities.

A key factor to implementing successful solutions in rural communities is the ability to bring together groups of people and organizations with different perspectives and listen. Green MPs have a track record of working across party lines, and routinely co-sponsor bills that improve the lives of Canadians regardless of party affiliations. Whether I’m working with a resource extraction company to address threats to water or entering the workforce or local governments and developers to improve housing opportunities, I have a demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups.

Priority issues

In order to address any issues for Slocan Valley residents – housing shortages, disaster events, infrastructure needs, economic and labour force needs, industrial forestry practices, biodiversity loss – electoral reform needs to occur. No other party has made this a priority; no other party has taken meaningful action to change the electoral system. As a Green MP, I am required to represent you and your voice. My first priority is to ensure your concerns are heard and bring forward solutions that reflect rural riding realities.

I am writing as fires are raging and people are displaced. I know discrimination, response management, and mitigation are top of mind. Current solutions proposed by federal and provincial governments put the onus on individuals – install a sump pump or FireSmart your property – rather than addressing root causes. As a Green MP, addressing disaster events is within federal jurisdiction. Mitigation has to come from federal policy changes – banning fracking; ending fossil fuel subsidies; federal protection of our forests; community planning supports for local governments – rather than downloading responsibility onto local governments and households who are forced to react to events caused by factors outside of their control.

Ken Robertson, Liberal

Background

I am a Secwepemc from Neskonlith Indian Band, located in the south-central part of British Columbia. A dedicated husband and father of four, I am a passionate community leader and proud to be the Liberal Candidate for South Okanagan-West Kootenay.

I have dedicated my career in the public service to advocating for all children with autism spectrum disorder. I am a former board member of Autism Ontario, Implementation Working Group with the Province of Ontario, and Social Inclusion Working Group with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). In addition, I have experience speaking in conferences and committees on the needs-based approach to autism services. I am a volunteer with the Giweed Anang Council, which provides a traditional approach to guiding families towards the best possible outcome for the children.

In 2020, I received the Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division) for the Governor-General for my advocacy work with the ASD community.

Priority issues

I am passionate about investing in a fairer, greener economy that empowers future generations and making life better for families right here in our community.
New Denver council, August 10: Do we have enough water to handle a big fire?

by Kathy Hartman

• Is the Village water system up to fighting a worst-case scenario fire? The Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program and retained the services of TRUE Consulting to find out. TRUE found that the fire hydrant flow north of Carpenter Creek mostly exceeds municipal guidelines for residential fire protection. To upgrade to commercial or institutional fire protection, the watermain crossing the creek or the replacement of the existing watermain with a larger diameter would be required. There has been a written request from the Village to replace the 250mm watermain on the proposed footbridge over the creek.

Mayor Leonard Casley noted that the fire department drafts water out of the lake in emergency situations, so Orchard residents shouldn’t worry too much about a lower flow from the Village system. There is a generator at Well #1 but not at Well #2. The plan is to install a generator at Well #2, to be prepared for fighting a fire when the well pumps cannot run, due to a power outage, for example.

This report will be used for future planning, budgeting and grant applications.

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• New Denver’s housing project has taken another step forward. Council passed the first and second readings of Official Community Plan (OCP) and zoning bylaw amendments to allow for a housing project at 602 Slocan Ave, currently the recycling depot. There, or sit together in a private area behind the land to be rezoned from environmental to core commercial. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, and the second and third readings of the amendments and bylaw is expected on Tuesday, September 28.

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Kootenay Furnace lives on under new ownership
by Jan McMurray

The Kootenay Furnace legacy continues with new owners Tyler Milton and Shayla Olson. Tyler has been well trained for the job. For a little more than a year, he worked alongside Doug Burton, who co-founded the company with his wife, Ana, in Slocan in 1976. Tyler and Shayla have moved the business to their home in Slocan Park. Tyler was born and raised in Passmore. He went away for 16 years to work as an aircraft maintenance engineer, maintaining helicopters and fighter planes in the Middle East. After his time away that he met his wife, Shayla, who was also an aircraft maintenance engineer.

The Kootenay Furnace legacy continues with new owners Tyler Milton and Shayla Olson.

Therese Elisabeth Thickett
1951 – 2021

Therese’s life came to a peaceful close on July 11, 2021, at her home in Slocan, BC, surrounded with the love and comfort of her family, following a short illness. She was 70 years of age.

Therese was born on March 20, 1951 in Murrayville, BC, the fifth child of Jake and Winnie Visser and the first to be born in Canada following the family’s emigration from The Netherlands. The Visser family lived in the Fraser Valley until Therese was seven years old and then bought a homestead in the Buckley Valley at Quick, a rural community 30 kilometres east of Smithers, BC.

Therese met her future husband, Roger Thickett, who was from Slocan and taking his senior year of high school in Smithers in 1965. Therese was 14 and Roger was 18, and became childhood sweethearts immediately, with an on-and-off romance for the next three years. In 1968, they became engaged, started planning a future life together, and on May 10, 1969, were married in Telkwa, BC. They lived in various work related locations until 1976, when they made the move to Slocan where Therese would spend the rest of her life.

The primary mission in Therese’s life since childhood was to be a wife, mother and homemaker; she was a natural at all, and achieved her goals at a stellar level. She and Roger had three children: Gregory James in 1970, Michelle Anne in 1972 and Tam Lynn in 1975. As they were all born in Nelson, she had a strong work ethic, firm convictions about the correct way to get things done, and a beautiful, loving and caring nature. Therese’s children knew their mother as a kind, warm, gentle, thoughtful, creative and generous woman with a great sense of humor and a passion for everything she did.

Therese was a passionate gardener and always grew a large vegetable garden and berry patch, as well as she and Roger both enjoyed their flower and shrub beds. She was a voracious reader, and in her down time this was her preferred form of R&R, and she was also a founding member of a local book club.

Among Therese’s many virtues, one that stood out was her altruistic approach to life, always willing and happy to place others’ needs before her own; be it family, friends or the community. She was a big part of the school hot lunch program when her own kids were in school and chaperoned school trips. She was a member of the local W.I. for some years, involving charitable causes, and was part of the seniors’ lunch program. As well as volunteering at the local food bank, she served for many years on the W.F.G.S.S. board. She was a founding volunteer member of the community library and also the custodian. Also, she was the lead singer in an old-time country band which entertained pro bono at seniors’ homes in the area, and was involved in other seniors’ related causes.

In her birth family, Therese was predeceased by her parents, her youngest brother, Tony and her oldest brother, Hank. She is survived by her older sister, Joanne and her two older brothers, Martin and Ralph. In her personal family, she is survived by her husband, Roger, and their children, Greg, Michelle (Steve) and Tam (Mark), grandchildren Danika (Dave), Paris, Bren (Greg), Kelli (Justin), Kirsten (Trent), Morgan (Cassandra), Robyn (Brett) [Michelle’s], and Lane (Taylor) and Avery [Tara’s], three great grandchildren Dagen, Daeedt (Danika and Dave’s) and Rylie (Robyn and Brett’s).

Many thanks to the people who gave food, cards, flowers and kind words of comfort. Special thanks to Therese and Roger’s grandchildren and great grandchildren, all who came to see their Nana. She was a member of the local W.I. for some years, involving charitable causes, and was part of the seniors’ lunch program. As well as volunteering at the local food bank, she served for many years on the W.F.G.S.S. board. She was a founding volunteer member of the community library and also the custodian. Also, she was the lead singer in an old-time country band which entertained pro bono at seniors’ homes in the area, and was involved in other seniors’ related causes.

During her life, Therese was a long time volunteer for seniors’ lunch program. As well as volunteering at the local food bank, she served for many years on the W.F.G.S.S. board. She was a founding volunteer member of the community library and also the custodian. Also, she was the lead singer in an old-time country band which entertained pro bono at seniors’ homes in the area, and was involved in other seniors’ related causes.

Therese was a strong work ethic, firm convictions about the correct way to get things done, and always willing and happy to place others’ needs before her own, be it family, friends or the community. She was a big part of the school hot lunch program when her own kids were in school and chaperoned school trips. She was a member of the local W.I. for some years, involving charitable causes, and was part of the seniors’ lunch program. As well as volunteering at the local food bank, she served for many years on the W.F.G.S.S. board. She was a founding volunteer member of the community library and also the custodian. Also, she was the lead singer in an old-time country band which entertained pro bono at seniors’ homes in the area, and was involved in other seniors’ related causes.

For many students, these camps were their first chance since the pandemic took hold to receive face-to-face instruction, to perform for a live audience or to experience the joy of performing with others.

The summer program began on July 12 with Slava Doval running four dance classes that saw many local youth participating. Then there were two weeks of Suzuki Music Camp, each week serving about two dozen students, some from the local area, as well as from across BC, Alberta and Yukon. Seven outdoor concerts were held, including a magical set of rolling recitals in the Kohan Gardens. Group concerts were held in the Lancer School field. VSVM took place the following week with 35 students attending and a number also enrolling remotely in private lessons over the internet. Once again, there was a final concert in the tent on the field of Lucerne School. The final week of summer performing arts camps had two programs occurring simultaneously: a ballet class in Silverton with Lynette Lightfoot instructing and the Cello Symposium in Hills with John Kadzi and Johanna Peron instructing.

We would like to thank the community for the wonderful support and encouragement we have already received early in this venture and look forward to serving the Kootenays for many years to come!
West coast artist Perry Haddock shows at Studio Connexion

by Jan McMurray

The show at Studio Connexion in Nakusp from August 25 to September 11 is called A Love Affair with Nature and features paintings of west coast artist Perry Haddock.

“Field work over the past two summers in the corridor has led to the discovery of over 1,000 unique species, thus affirming that the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor is aptly named!” said Marcy Mah in an interview. “The BBC project is being managed by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), with local biologists Ryan Durand and Tyson Ehlers hired to do most of the studies. Mah says they are learning more and more about how to improve the overall hydrology of the corridor and how this can be part of the solution for climate resilience. She says beavers are key, as they help to distribute water over a large area.

“Over the old rail bed has impacted the hydrology of the corridor. ‘The rail trail is like a linear dam, that has disconnected the wetlands on either side of it,’ she said. ‘And we need our hydrological systems to be connected – that’s how they are best able to respond to flooding and drought conditions.’

SLSS President Wendy King reports that Durand and Ehlers are mapping the old-growth and mature forest in the corridor, and that First Nations are actively involved in this work. She says Kootenay Connect mapping will be integrated into provincial government databases. ‘The value of our work is that the population at large will fall in love with his new fine artworks.’

Haddock is a signature member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and Landscape Artists International, and an active member of the BC Art Teachers’ Association.

The Kootenay Connector project is now halfway through its four years, and several focus areas remain. The project has four focus areas: the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor “aptly named” with over 1,000 species documented; and Wetland restoration at Hunter Siding; an archaeological and cultural assessment; mapping of old-growth forest remaining in the corridor; and fish and invertebrates in streams on species at risk, beaver habitat, and fish and invertebrates in streams.

In the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (BBC), the second year has seen wetland restoration at Hunter Siding, an archaeological and cultural assessment; mapping of old-growth forest remaining in the corridor; and studies on species at risk, beaver habitat, and fish and invertebrates. In Bonanza Creek, “Field work over the past two summers in the corridor has led to the discovery of over 1,000 unique species, thus affirming that the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor is aptly named!” said Marcy Mah in an interview.

“The theme is simply the joy of painting the diverse Canadian – mostly BC – landscape,” Haddock said in an interview. “Any artist has such a rich source of inspiration from all over the province. Although I haven’t been able to travel for a while due to COVID, I have lots of inspiration from photos and sketches I’ve collected from earlier travels.”

Haddock has an impressionistic style, and paints primarily in acrylic and watercolour. All the pieces in this show are acrylic.

“Since I paint quickly and rather spontaneously, the fact that acrylic dries quickly means that I can lay paint without having to stop and wait for it to dry before moving on,” Haddock explains. “I use a lot of transparent glazes in the early stages of each painting, so it’s also useful to be able to thin the acrylic paint when I need to, or layer it thickly right out of the tube when I want it more opaque.”

Haddock met Anne Beliveau, Studio Connexion gallerist, through artist Tatjana Mirkov-Popovich. Beliveau says she has met many artists through Tatjana, a former president of the Federation of Canadian Artists who has had several shows at Studio Connexion. “I was truly lucky to get Perry for an exhibition here at Studio Connexion,” Beliveau says. “We had a few of his pieces during the Winter Group Show and we are hoping the population at large will fall in love with his new fine artworks.”

Kootenay Connect conservation project now halfway through its four years

Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor “aptly named” with over 1,000 species documented

IPCC’S CLIMATE PROGNOSIS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a UN body that assesses climate science, reported on its synthesis of 14,000 studies this month. 234 scientists from 195 countries and regions across the planet agree there is no doubt that human activities are responsible for the climate crisis. Earth is hotter now than it has been in the last 125,000 years. See ipcc.ch
After a hiatus of almost two years due to COVID-19, the Valhalla Community Choir led by long-time director Francie Oldham will recommence this fall with precautions in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Anyone wishing to join the choir this fall must be fully vaccinated. “We require that all participants show proof they have been completely vaccinated in advance of the choir season. Everyone must bring their Interior Health (or other jurisdiction) proof-of-vaccination card to the first practice,” said Oldham.

In order to maintain physical distancing of two metres, the choir will practice in the Silverton Memorial Hall where there is adequate space for choristers to spread out, rather than the Knox Hall which has traditionally been their practice space. “It’s going to be interesting being that far apart,” said Francie. “It means each singer will need to know their part – they can’t rely on their neighbour to keep them on track,” she said with a grin.

There are further precautions required as part of the necessary safety plan that allows choir to resume. These include frequent hand sanitizing, taking attendance including phone numbers for contact tracing, and only allowing singers inside the rehearsal space. Further details of the safety plan will be provided to all singers before the first practice.

“I am very excited and look forward to conducting the choir once again. Having a community choir is a wonderful thing for a small village like ours. It brings people from all walks of life together to make music, so it’s important to resume singing. Things could change (with the COVID situation) but we’ll just have to go with the flow,” said Oldham.

Choir will begin on September 13 at 7 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall. New members are very welcome (especially basses and tenors). You do not have to be a trained singer to join. The choir is open to anyone who is vaccinated and who enjoys singing. Francie asks that all choir members, old and new, contact her at oldhamtracy@gmail.com to confirm they are planning to attend.
Halcyon Hot Springs restaurant now open to the public; pools open with spa package

by Jan McMurray

Like many businesses during the pandemic, Halcyon Hot Springs has been reimagining itself — and is now opening up with a renewed vision.

The restaurant is open to the public, and the hot springs pools are open for day use to people who book a spa treatment. During the shutdown, only people staying in the accommodations on site were able to use the facilities.

“We’re creating something very special here,” said Chef Darryl Crumb. “We want all of our guests — whether they are coming for a stay, or for a day for a spa treatment and soak, or for a meal — to slow down, relax and let us take care of them.”

The spa offers relaxation massage and deep tissue massage for $135 (60 minutes) and $175 (90 minutes), hot stone massage for $185 (90 minutes), and organic skin care facials for $130 (60 minutes). A hot springs dip is included in the price of the treatment.

The restaurant is one of very few in the area that offers fine dining cuisine. Open from 10-30 am to 8 pm (last seating), the restaurant at Halcyon features fresh, local food and farm-raised meats. “We focus on providing healthy but decadent gourmet meals,” Chef Crumb said.

Chef Crumb grew up on a farm in Manitoba, and is committed to his vision of a farm-to-table restaurant at Halcyon. He has created gardens on the property, and is building a four-season greenhouse, to be heated by the hot springs water. His vision also includes fruit trees and flower gardens.

“We’re going for 100% green and sustainable,” Chef Crumb said. “The supply chain was really hit by COVID, and we’d like to figure out how to not be reliant on the supply chain.”

An outdoor space for events for 75-100 people, such as weddings, is also in the planning stages. This space will be located by the lakeshore and will include an outdoor kitchen. Paths along the lakeshore are being improved.

“We’re building something special here,” said Crumb.

Chef Crumb said he jumped at the chance to join the team at Halcyon and take a leadership role in visioning the dining experience at the resort. “An opportunity like this, especially during a pandemic, just doesn’t happen. I feel so fortunate.”

Chef Crumb went to culinary school in Ottawa, and then worked with a chef in Paris, France. He came back to Canada and was selected to be on Top Chef Canada for the Food Network, and was named one of western Canada’s top 40 foodies under 40 years of age. He has owned his own private chef and catering company, and an award-winning food truck. He was also a chef for the MTS Centre and Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club. Before coming to Halcyon about a year ago, he spent five years in Montreal as a private chef and restaurateur.

“I’m now ready to stay in one spot, and this is one of the greatest places you could live in the world,” he said.

Halcyon Hot Springs is all about health and wellness and the slow life — not just for its guests, but also for its staff. Crumb says the staff is given opportunities for wellness treatments such as massage, and professional development. Staff accommodation is available.

Co-Work and Food Hub full steam ahead

submitted
The Silverton Co-Work Society has been moving forward in its plans for a multi-purpose community resource centre that will provide workspace for people who need part-time office and meeting space, as well as support local food producers, entrepreneurs and community programming. However, the project has hit a wrinkle with its initially programmed. However, the project
entrepreneurs and community
as well as support local food producers,
programming. However, the project
has a Plan B.
The development of a local
cowork space was originally the
brainchild of Danika Hammond,
who saw a shared office-style workspace as a way to spur economic development in the area. Co-work spaces allow people to work remotely as freelancers, consultants or in tech-related industries without needing to incur the expense of a full-time office. They also allow those who primarily work from home or with non-profit organizations to have occasional access to some of the perks of an urban-style office, like higher speed internet, private meeting spaces and a peer network.

Hammond spearheaded the formation of the Silverton Co-Work Society in 2018 to further this vision within a non-profit model. The society began operating a part-time co-work space on rented premises in the former United Church building in Silverton. Plans for procuring a permanent home for the co-work space began to take shape with some seed funding secured in early 2020. Hammond then resigned from the Silverton Co-work Society board of directors to avoid a conflict of interest either as a government employee or as a member of the family that owns the Silverton General Store property that was at the time the primary location being considered for the project.

Subsequently in the summer of 2020, the newly augmented board undertook the additional mandate of incorporating a commercial kitchen and food-focused workspace so that local food producers would also have access to an affordable location in which to pursue their livelihoods. The society currently has six directors, some of whom have a background in food production, some with more of an office and tech background, but all of whom share a vision for a multi-use shared workspace encompassing both realms.

In March 2021, the society received word that it had been awarded a Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) grant to include a North Slocan Valley Food Centre in a facility in conjunction with the co-work space. They were able to begin moving ahead with detailed consultations in aid of the expanded multi-purpose project. They drafted an agreement for the use of grant funding to make improvements to a privately-owned building on condition that they receive the full value of those improvements back from the property owner in the form of free or reduced rent over the course of a long-term lease.

Unfortunately, the inclusion of a commercial kitchen, which constituted a ‘change of use’ under Building Code regulations, triggered a number of complications at the Silverton General Store site which proved challenging. These went beyond what the society felt could be accomplished in a locally responsible way within the scope of the project, as such, they have decided not to pursue the project in that location. It was a difficult decision for the board to make, as the Hammond family enthusiastically supported the workspace vision and had already invested time and money to prepare the building for the project.

The Hammonds still hope that this highly visible heritage building can be redeveloped in some manner, to regain its former importance to the community and enhance economic development in the region. Community members have expressed concern that the North Slocan Valley Community Food and Co-work Centre project may not proceed, but the Silverton Co-Work Society remains fully committed and is eagerly exploring the possibility of an alternate location. They have not spent any grant funds on renovations to date, and their request for an amendment to the terms of the CERIP grant is pending; if approved, it will allow those funds to instead be applied to a new location. The society is very optimistic at this point and they hope to make an announcement about their Plan B as soon as their re-worked budget and plans are approved by the granting agency.
Weather backs up firefighter’s efforts to contain West Kootenay fires

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

As fast as they came, the blistering summer temperatures vanished in the last few weeks – taking with them much of the force behind the wildfires burning in the West Kootenay.

While residents watched in horror and fascination at the giant White Rock Lake fire licking at the borders of the Central Okanagan to the west, the Rock Lake fire licking at the borders of lower Arrow Lakes, are still considered ‘out of control’ by BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) officials.

None of the fires are expected to be completely extinguished by human efforts that will be up to the weather. But rather than having to wage an all-out defensive battle, fire crews are settling in for a prolonged siege – and keeping close watch on the bone-dry forest.

Arrow Lakes Complex

The largest fires burning in the region, along the east and west shores of Tower Arrow Lakes, are still considered ‘out of control’ by the BCWS. However, fire behaviour has eased off considerably from last weekend’s rains, and crews have been able to begin to remove some brush.

"This significant rainfall has once again reduced fire behaviour and slowed fire progression. Fire behaviour in the south is rank 1 and 2 for the second day in a row, which is a smoldering to ‘low vigour’ fire with a slow rate of spread,” said a BCWS report.

Evacuation orders and alerts – except one – have been reduced or lifted. One new alert was issued last week for the south end of the Octopus Creek fire in the (Fauquier area), where it was inching towards a handful of properties and recreation sites between Pebble Beach and Twobit Creek.

Octopus Creek

Week focused on the north side of the 23,000-hectare fire over the last week. Firefighters, heavy equipment and aircraft have been working to hold the fire on the south side of the Hart Creek drainage, as the fire edged towards Fauquier.

Structure protection specialists continue to monitor, improve and expand systems in Renata.

To the south, the fire continues to burn as a low-vigour surface fire with visible flame and a slow rate of spread. Machine guard construction continues from Sunshine Creek to a previously burned area at Deer Park.

The fire has moved into difficult terrain with limited escape route options and extensive amounts of steep slope. The steep slopes also pose safety challenges for heavy equipment building machine guard.

Michaud Creek

Crews have spent the last weeks focusing their fight on the 14,000-hectare fire on its north side, protecting the town of Edgewood and neighbouring communities. Crews continue to establish containment lines around Bear Paw Lake, ensuring the fire doesn’t spread into Johnston Creek. They’re also demobilizing along secured lines.

To the south, crews are patrolling the Renata Ridge and establishing a control line there. Structure protection specialists continue to monitor and improve systems in Renata.

Trozzo Creek

At just under 6,000 hectares, the Trozzo Creek fire in the highlands just east of Winlaw prompted an evacuation order soon after it started during the height of the summer ‘heat dome.’ Since then, crews worked with backburns and line clearing to move the fire away from the Slocan Valley bottom.

As of Monday, rain and cool temperatures have significantly dropped the fire behaviour. The fire was downgraded from being a ‘fire threat’ over the weekend’s rains, now classified as ‘being held’ – in other words, unlikely to spread significantly from its current area.

The RDCK has also rescinded the Area Restriction for the fire, saying “with the downturn in weather and reduced fire activity, there is no need at this time to restrict public access to the area.”
Kootenay-Columbia: NDP hopes for win with former incumbent

Wayne Stetski, NDP

I grew up in Saskatchewan, and have lived and travelled all over Canada, including 18 years in BC and four in Ottawa. With a BA in English, I have worked and volunteered in affordable housing, employment, healthcare, education, communication, tourism, and immigration. In Revelstoke now, my husband, three children, and I love the mountains, forests, and lakes in our area, and I want to ensure the human family can continue to restore its connections with the land.

Priority issues

My priorities: To understand what residents need to thrive and how we will work together to make that happen. I see our ‘bounce forward’ occurring in:

Climate Action and a Green Economic Recovery: BC is burning, drought is killing crops and livestock, and we’re clearing out old growth. We need summer, not ‘fire season.’ To have a liveable future, we must change our industry practices, most importantly, moving investment away from fossil-fuel and forestry workers are part of that shift. The economy, the environment, and our health are so intertwined that when we start cleaning up and actually protecting our air, water, and soil, we will reap the benefits in all areas of our lives.

Social Justice: Lack of affordable housing and childcare, staff shortages, and a living wage are issues throughout the region. Solving them requires participation from all levels of government, as well as citizen action.

As part of the Revelstoke Community Housing Society, I know that solutions can be a long process; we have just this spring started building an affordable apartment complex that has been years in planning. We must persevere.

Countries with a strong social safety net have healthier, happier, and better-educated citizens. Changing Canada’s measure of success from “things produced” (Gross Domestic Product) to “people thriving” (Great Domestic Health, perhaps) would result in more-connected communities, more-meaningful work, people and nature being cared for, and reconciliation with Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit in a way that everyone feels valued.

Rana Nelson, Green

Background

I grew up in Saskatchewan, and have lived and travelled all over Canada, including 18 years in BC and four in Ottawa. With a BA in English, I have worked and volunteered in affordable housing, employment, healthcare, education, communication, tourism, and immigration. In Revelstoke now, my husband, three children, and I love the mountains, forests, and lakes in our area, and I want to ensure the human family can continue to restore its connections with the land.

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Terry Tiessen, Libertarian

Background

My story begins as a missionary kid, raised in the Philippines. I believe that was my first introduction to injustice and disparity in life. I have spent my life since then trying to make the world around me a better place. I worked with organizations such as Greenpeace, West Coast Canada Wilderness and the Gitanmaax and Wet’suwet’en land claims. Those of you in the Valley may remember me as a founding member of the Slowcan Reading Centre in my desire for access to information and literature for all. Most recently, I’ve worked with the ASPCA and running the call centre for the Humane Society. I last introduced myself to you all in the 2019 election to try and point out that our government is too big and powerful for our own good.

Top priorities

Which leads us to this election. I would not have imagined it could get so much worse, so fast. If ever we need oversight for a government gone wild, it is NOW! Our government in the last two years has spent way too much, putting us in unprecedented debt, cramming the whole deal down our throats. The government, regardless of your beliefs, had no right to declare anyone unessential, made to stay home, unemploy and make you suffer and be punished when the needs arose. We as free human beings cannot be mandated to do anything, other than not do crime. Say no to mask mandates and absolutely no to mandated vaccines and vaccine passports. Say no to our government and announce your freedom by voting Libertarian Party of Canada this election.
Rob Morrison, Conservative

Rob Morrison didn’t respond to our request for information on his background and priority issues for this election, so we reprinted his biography from his website, below.

Rob Morrison is the current Member of Parliament for Kootenay-Columbia. Rob has led a full life of service. His father served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, which gave him wide-ranging exposure to the Canadian landscape and catapulted him into a 35-year career serving his country as a public servant.

Throughout his career, he served in many leadership roles, forging strong collaborative relationships within government. During his tenure as director general with the Treasury Board Secretariat, he was responsible for an information-sharing environment with all law enforcement agencies and foreign governments. Prior to his role as director general, he served as senior executive chief superintendent with the RCMP in British Columbia. Rob also served as a diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs, where he was responsible for 17 countries in Central/Southwest Asia and the Middle East, and engaged first-hand with senior foreign government officials representing the voice of Canada.

Rob has received multiple recognitions, including a Commissioners Commendation for Outstanding Service and recognition from the Prime Minister for his years of loyal public service. He was elected to represent Kootenay-Columbia in the 2019 federal election. After serving as the Conservative deputy shadow minister for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Rob was appointed to the role of Conservative shadow minister for National Security.

Rob travels extensively to remote communities and areas throughout Kootenay-Columbia. He is committed to understanding the real issues residents and business owners are facing. He values relationships and is continuously building bridges and solutions between government, communities, and the thousands of constituents he represents with pride.

Rob is a devoted husband and father. He and his wife Heather have five children.
Edgewood area part of Conservative stronghold

Edgewood, Needles and the folks living on the west shore of the Arrow Lakes have been part of the North Okanagan-Shuswap riding since a riding boundary re-distribution took place in 2015. A Conservative Reform-Alliance bastion since 1993, the riding has been represented by Conservative MP Mel Arnold since the redistribution took place. He more than doubled the vote he received in the last election.

Voter turnout in the riding was 69.2% in the last election.

Mel Arnold, Conservative

Background

Notch Hill was where I was raised and have since had the good fortune of living in the North Okanagan-Shuswap my entire life. My wife Linda and I met in high school and are now looking forward to the imminent arrival of our first grandchild!

Since I was first elected to Parliament by the North Okanagan-Shuswap in 2015, I have served as both deputy critic and shadow minister for Fisheries and Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard. These roles have provided the opportunity to elevate the importance of our fisheries and the importance of healthy water systems they and we all rely on.

Priority issues

Affordability of life in Canada has been identified in our region as a top priority. After years of out-of-control spending by the Trudeau government, inflation is at its highest level in years. Canadians need a plan to address this, which is why Conservatives have released a plan containing detailed proposals to address affordability, including measures to lower prices on food and banking fees, while taking action to stabilize the housing market.

Conservatives have also approached me with concern over losing freedoms that Canadians have fought and sacrificed to defend. Legislation like bills C-10 and C-36 and other Trudeau government proposals such as an online speech regulator should be a concern for all Canadians. Free speech, freedom of expression, and a free press are tenets of Canadian law and democracy that I will strongly defend.

As a former small business owner, I understand the challenges that red tape, labour markets and taxation place on business operators. I have and will continue to advocate for policies and legislation that promote economic growth for everyone.

There are many other issues facing Canadians that are addressed with real solutions in our ‘Canada’s Recovery Plan.’ Our plan contains viable strategies that will fight climate change, increase rural internet services while also expanding government accountability, mental health supports and more. I know these are priorities for communities across the North Okanagan-Shuswap because you have told me they are. I believe our plan for national recovery will secure Canada’s future.

The decision to hold an election during a pandemic and wildfires was made by Justin Trudeau. Election or not, I am focused on working towards policies and legislation that provide Canadians with greater opportunities and security as they build their lives.

Shelley Desautels, Liberal

Background

I was born and raised in Vernon, and have lived in Salmon Arm for seven years with my husband and two children. I have spent my entire life in North Okanagan-Shuswap, and am intimately familiar with both the dynamic and the people of this riding.

I have not been involved in politics for long. To me, this is an asset, as I come to the job as a citizen who sees the need for engagement and responsive leadership in our communities. I am committed to listening to and working with everyone in the riding. The people of our riding deserve no less.

I am a Geographical Information Systems Certificate Instructor at Okanagan College, teaching mapping and data analysis. I also own my own mapping company where I work with Indigenous communities and farmers. I am the VP of the Boxing for Wellness Society, a director of the Shuswap Cycling Club, a director of the BC Community Forest Association, and the service officer at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Priority issues

North Okanagan-Shuswap has been seeing the effects of climate change first-hand. I will work to prepare us better for hot and dry summers in the future, through investments in firefighting and by advocating for improved wildfire mitigation on the ground.

We need to continue to walk the path of Truth and Reconciliation. I have been a strong advocate for the Indigenous peoples of our region, and wish to amplify their voice in Ottawa. I believe strongly in the need to continue the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

Issues facing the communities in our riding need to be better promoted through reliable, involved representation in Ottawa. Childcare, affordable housing, support to seniors: these concerns keep many of us awake at night. I am proud that the Liberal government has recognized the need for these, and I will continue to press these issues.

We have partnered with the BC government to implement $10/day childcare and increase quality childcare availability; created the National Housing Strategy; doubled the Home Accessibility Tax Credit; and pledged to train 50,000 more personal support workers, ensure they are paid a living wage, and increase the safety of our long-term care facilities in partnership with the Provinces and Territories.

Andrea Gunner, Green

Background

As an agricultural economist and an organic farmer, I work at the grassroots level with community groups, farmers, processors, industry associations and all levels of government, including Indigenous. I live in Armstrong.

Under my mentorship, my agricultural clients have been able to implement ecologically sound methods while maintaining or improving efficiency and economic viability. With the climate crisis clearly upon us, my agricultural expertise and organizational prowess are desperately needed at a national level.

An active volunteer, I currently chair or co-chair the Armstrong Food Initiative Society, the Friends of Rose Swanson Ecological Stewardship Society, and Farm Folk/City Folk, BC’s oldest and largest food and agriculture advocacy organization. I am a past president of the BC Institute of Agrologists.

Priority issues

Climate Action: Let’s actually talk about what it means to us with our friends, our families, our neighbours and our work colleagues. We need everyone and every level of government to bring about a reduction in Canada’s carbon emissions. The first step is to change our minds. The only way to solve a crisis is to treat it as a crisis.

Support Sustainable Forest Practices: I am both the beneficiary and pisset at the wildlife destruction of our forests and rural communities.
Edgewood area part of Conservative stronghold, continued from page 20

Our summer climate is warmer and more extended this year. Current logging practices and mill requirements leave too much useful wood on the ground. We need a moratorium on logging old-growth forests while we assess the resilience or vulnerability of all forest ecosystems.

Address inequality; through a guaranteed liveable income. Resolve boil water advisories and provide clean water and food security for everyone.

Ron Johnston, NDP

Background

Slocan council, August 9: Slowing down traffic with signs and speed bumps

by Joanne Feenstra

• In an effort to slow down the increased traffic in town during tourist season, the council has placed two solar-powered speed signs and two modular, removable speed bumps. The signs will initially be used by the walking bridge on Slocan Street and on Main Park Avenue. The speed bumps are constructed with interlocking rubber units and can be removed for snow plow season. The total cost is just under $6,000 and will come from the COVID Restart Fund, which currently has a balance of $188,196.

• Councillor Madeleine Perrier asked for clarification about the purpose of the COVID Restart funds and CAO Michelle Gordon said she would prepare a report for council.

• At a Slocan Night, Christine Knight, director of the Slocan Saturday Market, proposed a Harvest Market at Expo Park on October 2 with farmers, vendors, music and food. Knight said she would organize the event and ensure adequate parking. The CAO's report for August 9th ran with the CPBC in the provincial election, earning 12.5% of the vote.

Priority issues

This election has one big ballot box question: mandatory vaccination and vaccine passports. The People’s Party is against vaccine passports and mandatory or coerced vaccination. We also stand to protect freedom of expression in Canada. We will not let C-10 or C-36 pass. The other four parties have been in lockstep since day one of this pandemic. They are not offering anything different. The PPC is the only party offering the freedom to refuse the vaccines to thousands of Canadians fought and died for in two great wars. We owe it to them to keep Canada strong and free.

We have many significant policies to get Canada back on track. Please check them out at https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/platform.

Daniel Makassof

“Big Dan” 1948 – 2021

Daniel N. Makassof passed away August 9th, 2021 at the age of 72. He was born in Benito, MB in 1948. A third-generation Ukrainian, Nick and Nellie Makassof was also known as “Big Dan” due to the fact that he was 6’8” tall. He grew up in the family farm near Medicine Hill in Saskatchewan. When he was 19 years old he went to work for the Canadian National Railway B+B Gang in Gilliam and Churchill. When he was 20, he came to Nelson to work with four others and worked in various sawmills in the area. He also found work as a tree planter, construction labourer, painter, and a water well driller’s helper. He moved around often during this time, not staying in one place for more than a year, and worked in four provinces: BC, AB, SK, and MB.

In 1977, he went to work at the sawmill in Slocan City, BC and was there for 20 years until he had to go on long-term disability. In 1978, he married Bonny Kinakin, daughter of Walter and Mabel Kinakin in Tumb, BC (near Castlegar). They had a daughter together whom he named Tanya from the Douglas book “Tanya” that he liked very much. The marriage lasted 8 years.

In 1994, he met Gladene Toews from Linder, AB at a fast retreating at Mountain Trek Lodge in Ainsworth Hot Springs, BC. It was a wonderful way to meet. On the second day, Daniel proposed marriage to Gladene. She accepted two weeks later and six months later, they were married in Calgary. Together, they have a daughter named Emma.

Daniel is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Gladene Toews; daughters Tanya and Emma Makassof, and son Nick; along with his in-law Clinton Hotwood (Emma’s); sisters Diane (Erich) Metcalfe of Kelowna and Hazel (Ralph) Mercier of Courtenay, BC; two aunts, Laura Reibin of Penticon and Vera Chernenko of New Westminster.

He liked all kinds of music, such as metal bands the Beatles, the Animals, the Doors, Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, and the Eagles. He also liked blues music like Muddy Waters, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Buddy Guy. He enjoyed working with wood, making furniture to give away and for himself. He got Idaho White Pine trim ends for free from the planer where he worked. He enjoyed traveling the 4 provinces, BC, AB, SK, MB, visiting relatives. He especially liked Manitou Springs Mineral Waters near Watrous, SK. He always dreamed of having a house in Manitou Springs.

He was a long time member of a 12 Step Program that helped many people, including himself. He liked shopping at thrift stores, and Sally Ann in Trail, BC was his favourite. He loved playing cards, like Cribbage and Russian Durok (translates to “Crazy” in English). He also loved bowling, pool, 8-ball being his favourite. He never won any tournaments, just loved shooting pool, whether he lost or won. His long-time friend Danielle from Trail, BC would come over once a week to have supper and play Cribbage with Danielle. He beat him often, and the last time they played, he asked for a 20 spot before he would play her again. He met Gladene, and Danielle played Durok, which he taught them how to play. They often won against him, which didn’t seem fair because he’s the one who grew up playing the game!

In 2010, he and Gladene decided to have their Dream House built. It was on graph paper for many years and, finally, it was built the way they wanted it. It was a lot of work for them both, plus they hired two rough carpenters, two finishing carpenters, an electrician, a plumber, and framer. They lived in the house all summer working on it.

He chose cremation and his ashes will be placed in Simomonva Cemetery in Saskatchewan (near Benito, MB), where his father and many other family members are buried.
Kaslo council, August 10: plans, parks and pop bottles
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Tree Plan adopted

After years of discussion, planning, public consultation and rewrites, the Village finally has a Tree Planting Plan. The plan was adopted by council on the recommendation of the Parks, Trails and Public Art Committee.

The Tree Planting Plan provides a detailed guide to what types of trees should be planted in specific locations in the village. The consultants identified good locations for specific kinds of trees, as well as guidelines for planting and maintaining them. But one councillor wasn’t impressed by the 49-page report.

“I do not agree with the willfully placing of trees all over town because there’s a spot,” Councillor Henry Van Mill said, predicting it would bring problem after problem back to council. “My granddaughter could have done a better job than that.”

“I thought this plan was the most bang for a document we’ve ever received,” countered Councillor Kellie Knoll. “For $5,000 it’s a really deep, comprehensive plan. The point

The grant from the Columbia Basin Trust would provide community members up to $50,000 (up to 75% of eligible costs) to “upgrade the aesthetics of outdoor spaces or create opportunities for community gathering.”

The PTIP says it would like to see the grant used for Vimy Park electrical upgrades, including installing a new power panel for special events; gazebo repairs and enhancement; fencing between the park and adjacent ballfield; new garbage and recycling bins; and picnic tables, washroom upgrades and better signage.

No cost has been set for that wish list, and a staff report noted it could cost council up to $25,000 if specialized consultants had to be hired for estimates for the grant application.

That had CAO Ian Dunlop recommending council apply for one of the CBT’s related $10,000 COR planning grants, that would give council time to bring such a substantial project into the Village workloads and a manageable way.

“The planning grant would be a good approach,” he said, “and there might be other grant opportunities. It would also let us get into our budget cycle and strategic planning cycle.”

Council approved staff drafting an application for a planning grant.

Neighbourly approach to variance

When a developer wants to bend the zoning rules for a new house, they have to apply for a development variance permit. Neighbours get to weigh in if they are okay with the proposed change.

DVPs, as they are known, can be divisive things, pitting neighbour against neighbour, and the decision pleasing neither the neighbours nor the developer.

But not always, as an application for a height variance on a house on Larch Drive demonstrated at the August 10 meeting.

The couple building their dream house need to go one metre higher than the zoning allows, because the house is being built on bedrock.

But the neighbours next door wrote to council voicing their concern.

“This variance will absolutely negatively affect our view of the lake,” wrote in to council voicing their concern.

But the neighbours next door wrote to council voicing their concern.

But he said he still couldn’t get a sense if the variance would affect him.

That had the two sides going back and forth during the hearing to plan a way to fill in the details for Hoefer.

“We’d be happy to provide that information,” said Carolyn Whittaker, one of the proponents. “It’d be great to chat about it and accommodate any concerns you have.”

Whittaker said she and her husband were more than willing to be reasonable.

Council decided to defer ruling on the variance until the two sides chat and find a compromise. The couple will try to bring the application back in time for the next council meeting.

Hospice seeks more space

The Kaslo Hospice Society office, currently on the second floor of the Kumbell building, wrote to council to inquire about the music shop space on the main floor that they’ve heard will soon become vacant.

“Our reasons for exploring a main floor space are mainly about accessibility, as we have a number of clients and volunteers who are frail/elderly or experiencing mobility issues which preclude them from being able to access the two flights of stairs,” organizer Bev Peacock wrote to council. “A larger space would also enable us to store some of our equipment in one place and to have workshops and group sessions.”

But the society actually gets a cut-rate on its rent, and any change to that (either in the space they rent or the rate they are charged) could have consequences for the society and the bylaw-set rental rates.

Staff will meet with Hospice reps to discuss the matter further.

Youth group seeks to renovate space

The North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS)/Kaslo & Area Youth Network (KAYN) asked for discretionary funds for the renovation of a new youth centre space.

“We were given notice by our current location unexpectedly,” said Shannon Isaac, the KAYN Co-ordinator. “We managed to find a new location at the Kootenian Building with Rhonda Ruston, who is willing to provide us with a long-term lease agreement. There is a fair bit of work that needs to be done prior to moving in on September 15, 2021.”

The group needs money to pay for materials for renovations, including the removal and installation of walls, shelving, kitchen cabinets, and a kitchen sink.

Staff told council the only funding the Village could help the group access would be a RDCK Community Development Fund grant, but that wouldn’t come through before September 15.

But “our timelines are very flexible,” Isaac told council. She’ll try to get her application in on time to include it on the next council meeting agenda, allowing council to forward the application to the RDCK board of directors for September 23.

Nix to bottle depot study

Another youth group got a simple ‘no’ to a request for $500 to conduct a feasibility study for a youth-led bottle depot business in Kaslo.

“Currently, the [Kaslo Husky] depot is running on reduced hours with little help. The infrasaturation of operation has been identified as a problem, but has presented a unique business opportunity for young people in the area to be a part of a valuable community service,” wrote Kenya Blouin and Kim Moleneaux.

“Our idea at present is to create a bottle depot business in Kaslo where youth employees would gain paid experience running a small business.”

To apply for funding to take over the business, the group needs to do a feasibility study. That cost should be about $1,200, thus the request for $500 from council.

While applauding the initiative, council noted they could not pay help a business pay for a feasibility study.

The group will be sent a letter “advising that the Village of Kaslo’s ability to provide assistance to business is restricted under the Community Charter.”

Section 25 of the Community Charter stipulates the general prohibition against assistance to business and the exceptions to this rule.

Mayor and FCM

Kaslo’s mayor will have a continuing role to play at the national level. Mayor Suzan Hewat told council she had received her appointments from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Hewat will be a member of the committee of the whole, a non-board committee member, will sit on the Rural Forum and take part in three standing committees: community safety and crime prevention, increasing women’s participation in municipal government, and municipal infrastructure and transportation policy.
Publishing under BC’s Human Rights Code for the first time, the new BC Human Rights Commissioner (BCHRC) has announced the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (OHR) has been monitoring hate incidents as part of its core strategic priority work on hate and white supremacy. Since early 2020, there has been a surging prevalence of hate-related incidents in BC, with a particular focus on hate targeting people based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.

On September 5, BCHRC will launch a public inquiry into hate in the pandemic. The inquiry will examine the nature of hate and white supremacy in BC and the government’s response to hate incidents, as well as the circumstances that have contributed to the rise of hate incidents in BC.

The inquiry will be held in multiple locations across the province and will involve a variety of participants, including individuals, organizations, and communities affected by hate. The inquiry will be guided by principles of inclusion, intersectionality, and harm reduction.

The inquiry will consider a range of issues, including the role of media in the rise of hate incidents, the impact of online platforms, and the role of government response. The inquiry will also consider the impact of COVID-19 on hate incidents and the response of government and civil society organizations.

The inquiry will begin accepting submissions on September 5 and will continue until November 15. Submissions can be submitted in writing, online, or by telephone. The inquiry will also hold public hearings in various locations across BC.

The inquiry is a response to the increasing prevalence of hate incidents in BC and the need for a coordinated and evidence-based approach to addressing hate.

Therefore, we encourage all individuals, organizations, and communities affected by hate to participate in the inquiry and to provide their input on the nature of hate and white supremacy in BC.
The Valley Voice is for sale!

Thank you!

As the proud owner of the Valley Voice and with a voluntary subscription of $12.00 + GST, we can provide a modest living for you and your family, and wonderful community connections. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long or as little as you need us. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people! Give us a call at 1-833-501-1780 for that, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan.

Business Opportunities

The Valley Voice is for sale!

Thank you!

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Thank you!
COMMUNITY

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW been sexually assaulted and need help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or find a safe place to go. Services are available in Nelson, Arrow Lakes Hospital or your local emergency room for confidential care.

SILVERTON LAKE HOUSE

Is looking for all the help they can get from the hotel as follows: all the archive pictures that were displayed in hallway, BA sign orange and blue, grandfather clock, air conditioners in all the rooms, 5-old yellow hockey jerseys in frame with broken glass, and numerous other questions. Please return, no questions asked.

SILVERTON LAKE HOUSE is looking for people who have witnessed: heavy machinery driving on our septic field, heavy machinery piling snow on our septic field, danger to the hotel owner. Please email buyriteautosales@hotmail.com.

Rental Wanted

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKER (Male, mid 30s) searching for housing within the Nakusp, Slocan Valley and Kaslo area looking for home care, part time. 250-551-4043. For AL-ANON problem in your life? AA, NA and AL-ANON anonymous group in Nakusp. Call or text 250-354-8967.

Pets

NO SIT! Not your usual dog training class.

PETS

Next Valley Voice Deadline: September 3, 2021

Tim Reilly
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NOTIF IT: Your usual dog training class. Find the AMAZING in your dog. www.proudmomdog.ca

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Ted Reimeier, 1937-2007. If Roses grow in heaven Lord please pick a bunch for me Place them in your husband’s arms And tell him they are from me Because remembering him is easy I do it every day But there’s an ache within my heart That will never go away Love you wife Isabel, children Rod, Rick, Ken, Kathy, Marlene, Barbara, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Next Valley Voice

Business Classifieds start at $10.00
Call 1-833-501-1700 for details

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Licensed General Contractor
Design • Project Management • Building Services
MADEN TIMBER CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Call Don (250)353-2563

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Protests against police violence at Fairy Creek

by Jan McMurray

People across the province got together in their communities on August 23 to protest against RCMP violence at the Fairy Creek blockade. Protests took place in New Denver and in Nelson as part of the province-wide ‘RCMP Stand Down Actions.’

Malin Christensson of Last Stand West Kootenays, a group of Nelson area citizens, says many West Kootenay residents have travelled to Fairy Creek to support the thousands of protestors who have been participating in the blockade to prevent clearcutting in the last unlogged old-growth watershed on southern Vancouver Island. About 100 people gathered in Nelson for the ‘RCMP Stand Down’ protest.

"Since enforcement at Fairy Creek began in May, the RCMP have arrested more than 750 peaceful volunteers doing the job the premier promised to do: protect the very last of the old-growth forests," said Christensson, who spent some time at the camp this past month. "The RCMP have acted illegally and brutally. We are witnessing the actions of a police state."

"The RCMP must stand down from attacks, intimidation and unlawful use of exclusion zones to keep media out," said Nelson resident John Alton, who also spent time in the protest camps. "The provincial government must intervene to protect citizens, stop the RCMP attacks, and listen to demands to end the logging of our old-growth forests."

Alton reports that a local area youth was luckily not badly injured after falling nearly 20 feet to the ground when the RCMP saw off a leg of his protest tripod last week.
Province tightens health guidelines as COVID spikes in area

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Residents of the West Kootenay are getting used to keeping a mask in their pocket again after the provincial health officer ordered more stringent measures to try to contain the spread of COVID-19.

And provincial leaders announced Monday that a new proof-of-vaccination system is coming this fall which will limit some activities for people who have not received their shots.

Dr. Bonnie Henry extended public health measures in place for the Central Okanagan last Friday to include the entire Interior Health region, which includes the Valley Voice readership area.

Besides mandating everyone over 12 years of age to wear a mask indoors, the orders limit indoor gatherings to five people (or one other family) and outdoor events to 20 people. Indoor high-intensity fitness classes are suspended.

Non-essential travel to the area was also not recommended, regardless of your vaccination status.

Numbers climb

The new restrictions come about as the easily transmissible Delta variant of COVID continues to spread in the province.

Over the weekend of August 20-23, the province had 1,711 new cases, with 768 in the Nelson-Boundary region since August 1. Numbers climb

The West Kootenay, almost free from COVID until a month or two ago, has seen a dramatic increase in local cases. Between August 8-14, there were 117 new cases in the Nelson subdistrict, 34 in the Castlegar subdistrict, seven in the Arrow Lakes subdistrict and three in the Kootenay Lake subdistrict of Interior Health.

A community outbreak currently underway in Nelson’s Jubilee Manor has infected five people, and resulted in two deaths.

While low in absolute terms, the case incidence for COVID in the Nelson and Castlegar subregions remains among the highest in the province, at more than 20 cases per 100,000 population. Even the Arrow Lakes subregion has more than 15 cases per 100,000.

These subregions continue to have among the lowest number of vaccinated citizens in the province.

Proof of vaccination

On Monday, the Province also announced that a new proof-of-vaccination system is coming this fall. The new order will require citizens to provide proof of vaccination to access a broad range of social, recreational, and discretionary events and businesses like restaurants, weddings, sporting and music events, movie theatres, fitness centres, casinos and other non-essential facilities.

As of September 13, one dose of vaccine will be required for entry to these settings. By October 24, entry to these settings will require anyone over 12 to show they are fully vaccinated. People who don’t have the vaccine will still be able to enter establishments offering essential services, like grocery stores.

The proof-of-vaccination rule will be in place until the end of next January – and may be extended if necessary.

Hospital warning

The high case numbers have some doctors sounding a warning about COVID cases affecting local hospital capacity.

Trail physician Dr. Mike Vance warned that four of the six beds in the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital’s intensive care unit in Trail are occupied by COVID patients.

“The next month right now is going to be a disaster,” said Vance. “If you can’t bend that curve back down, this is going to continue with some major growth,” he told Black Press.

The Trail hospital is the only facility in the region with an ICU and the ability to provide respiratory treatments.

Back to school

Parents – and school staff – are also waiting to hear from Ministry of Education officials about what will happen when school resumes September 7.

Both school districts in the Valley Voice readership area – SD 10 Arrow Lakes and SD 8 Kootenay Lake – expressed confidence school could resume safely, but they were waiting to hear just what the rules will be.

“SD 10 has worked diligently throughout the course of the pandemic to adhere to Ministry health guidelines and ensure that school operates as normally as possible for all of our students and staff,” says incoming Superintendent Peter Dubinsky. “We are hopeful that the upcoming school year will bring a return to more familiar practices and routines.”

However, what those more familiar practices and routines will be is still unknown. And the union that represents BC teachers called for more details, quickly.

“We are hearing from more concerned families than ever before in this pandemic. They’re worried that their children who are too young to be vaccinated might be going back to school without enough protections in place,” said BCTF President Teri Mooring. “Things are most definitely not normal right now, so we can’t carry on as if they were.”

The BCTF is advocating for a broad, province-wide mask mandate to start the school year, as well as ventilation improvements and cleaning of all high-touch surfaces during the school day.

But as of press time the province’s detailed plan hasn’t been released.

RCDC recreation restrictions

Ironically, Dr. Henry’s stricter rules were announced a day after directors on the board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay called on provincial health officials to apply the same mask and social-distancing rules to this area as were in effect in the Central Okanagan.

Staff said they needed the stronger restrictions to try to contain the spreading problem of COVID among staff.

“If you are not aware, we have never had as many COVID-positive tests in our facilities as in the last two weeks,” said Joe Chirico, the general manager of Community Services. “We have employees now who are off because of COVID. So we are definitely seeing a rise in impact in our facilities. And... we are struggling with staffing across the board, so the reason for this right now is we are afraid of reaching levels of staffing that would require us to close. That is a concern right now.”

The motion passed, but became moot the next day with the new provincial rules. Essentially, masks will be needed to enter and use RCDC rec facilities, some indoor fitness classes will be cancelled, and non-essential spectators will be banned from ice rink events.

Pop up clinics

Meanwhile, the Province is adding more pop-up vaccination clinics to encourage the vaccine-hesitant to get the jab.

While regular weekly clinics continue in Kaslo on Tuesdays and Nakusp on Wednesdays, one new pop-up clinic has been arranged for New Denver on September 3 at Knox Hall.

There are numerous pop-up and regular clinics in Nelson and Castlegar over the coming weeks as well. You can find out when and where to get the jab by searching ‘BC vaccination clinics’ online.

KASLO PRIDE 2021

Stevie Nicks and Shaggy Dan are local performers who combine their love of comedy, costume, and theatrics with classical dance to entertain you! Their drag kings won’t bring anything high class to the table, but they guarantee good times.
**Regular School Hours**

School calendars are available on the school district website: [http://sd10.bc.ca/parents-students/school-calendar/](http://sd10.bc.ca/parents-students/school-calendar/)

**Burton Elementary School**  
Brent Cook, Vice Principal  
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 5  
Hours: 8:30-12:15 & 1:00-3:30

**Burton Secondary School**  
Peter Gajda, Principal  
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 4  
Hours: 8:30-12:15 & 1:00-3:30

**Lucerne Elementary School**  
Nicholas Graves, Principal  
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 3  
Hours: Grades 1-3: 8:50-12:00 & 1:00-3:10  
Grades 4-7: 8:50-12:15 & 1:00-3:30

**Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School**  
Nicholas Graves, Principal  
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 3  
ALDL, Nelson, New Lomax (Lucernar School): Tuesday and Thursday 3:15 to 4:30

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**Bus Routes & Times**

If you are a new bus student or family and you have not already done so, please contact your school directly August 30 – September 3, 2021 to register for bus transportation. Bus routes are subject to change upon completion of student enrollment and may be revised as required during the school year. Schedules are regularly updated on the SD10 website at [sd10.bc.ca/parents-students/bus-schedules/](http://sd10.bc.ca/parents-students/bus-schedules/).

**Students Riding School Buses Must Be At Their Stop 5 Minutes Prior To Posted Bus Arrival Times**

Where bus service is not available, transportation assistance may be provided to eligible parents who apply for transportation assistance yearly. Applications are to be completed each year.

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**Hills/ New Denver/ Silverton Route**

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<td>YRB Heritage</td>
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**Burton Elementary Route**

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**Burton Secondary Route**

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<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>7:20</td>
<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7:40</td>
<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:10</td>
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<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:35</td>
<td>8:55</td>
<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Burton Elementary Route**

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<th>Step</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>7:17</td>
<td>Pre-trip</td>
<td>YRB Heritage</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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** veículo optionals:** September 7, 2021 will be the official opening of school for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) 2021/22 session. We would like to remind motorists to watch out for children walking to school or waiting for school buses and to adhere to school zone speed limits.

**Alternate Flashing Lights:** School buses are equipped with alternate flashing red lamps and when they are flashing, traffic in both directions must stop and remain stopped until the red flashing lamps are turned off. The flashing lights are to indicate the school bus is loading or unloading school children.

**It Is an Offence Under the Motor Vehicle Act to Pass a School Bus With Its Overhead Red Lights Flashing** Illegally passing a school bus will be reported to local RCMP.

**School Zones:** Between the hours of 6:00 am to 5:00 pm on school days the speed limit in all school zones is 30 km/hr.