Columbia Basin Trust will not exercise Option Agreement to purchase shares

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) recently held three public meetings to discuss its decision not to exercise the Option Agreement to purchase the shares of Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), and how the Trust came out of the process $10 million richer and optimistic about its renewed partnership with CPC and the Province.

As explained by Neil Muth, CEO of CBT, in Castlegar on December 7, CBT's offer was miles apart on how much they thought the CPC shares were worth.

"It was substantially higher than what we felt the value was and what we felt we could afford," he said.

Muth explained that the figure could not be disclosed without paying $150,000 to RBC Dominion, the bank hired to determine the valuation — and added that this was standard practice with investment banks. CBT's board chair Josh Smienk said more than once throughout the meeting that the board was willing to pay the $150,000 if the public wanted to know the amount, but no one seemed that interested.

Muth indicated that to say the difference between the RBC and CBT figures was in the hundreds of millions would be misleading, but "it was not in the tens of millions," he said. "It was a very big gap. It's unusual for two banks to be so far apart."

CBT and the Province were going to share the $100,000 cost of hiring RBC, but in the end, the Province agreed to pay the entire bill. CBT engaged its own advisor from the National Bank and got legal advice from a firm that has expertise in the energy industry. Being "prudent" according to Smienk, the Trust paid the National Bank $50,000 for the advice, which did not include a valuation.

Muth said that CBT felt the price it had offered was fair because of the value generated by the power sales. However, Muth said, "If we had to use 5% of the revenue going to CBT, we would consider it, but 10-12% would be too high and too risky." (A common power-seller is split 50-50 between CPC and CBT. CBT uses 50% for its Delivery of Benefits program.)

"The Option Agreement required CBT to put all its assets up as collateral, not just the assets we were purchasing but also our $500 million in assets. So we argued the valuation was too high," said Muth. "However, we felt that RBC had decent arguments in support of their valuation."

The agreement said that an arbitrator would decide the fair market value if the two parties did not agree on the price. However, it was unclear legally whether the CBT could walk away if the arbitrator's final price was too high.

On top of the risks, the Province, "our sole shareholder," let CBT know that it preferred CBT not to exercise the option. Muth made it clear that he was not speaking for the Province, but his interpretation was that the government was concerned about CBT becoming a power corporation and taking on such a large debt load.

Instead, the two parties entered into some "tough negotiations" to address three issues the CBT wanted to take to the Province: governance, financial compensation and independence.

Muth and Smienk explained that the difficulty with the governance structure was that CPC was in the driver's seat and CBT was expected to "rubber stamp" decisions. The CPC board, consisting of the CEO and a senior executive of the power corporation, was making the decisions and then bringing them to the joint venture committee, where CBT was represented. This led to a lot of costly duplication, explained Muth, because CBT board directors had to hire their own advisors in order to make informed decisions at the joint venture committee level.

CBT had wanted equal representation on the CPC board, but settled for 1/3, or two members on the six-person board. The CEOs of the two entities will not be allowed to be board members and the CEO of CPC will be required to live in the Columbia Basin, where historically he has lived in Victoria. A member of the public asked if CBT would still do its due diligence. Muth said that CBT had hired a financial analyst and "I would expect him to work very closely with CPC, so we'll do our due diligence but not the way we were in the past.

Smienk pointed out that one exception to the claim of non-interference was the change to the CBT board structure that the government decreed in 2003. The Province changed the number of directors from 18 to 12 and gave itself the right to appoint them all. Smienk explained that the whole issue comes down to going to cabinet and asking them to find $330 million to take CBT off the books. He said it would have been difficult to do this when the Trust was worth much less, but after trying to achieve this now. He pointed out that from a cabinet point of view, writing off CBT would not result in any more money to the people of the Kootenays but would result in less government ability to build roads and schools and hospitals. However, he said that other Trusts have been taken off the books.

Someone asked about the committee that was struck to do an independent review of the Option Agreement and due diligence process. This committee formed following a resolution made at the CBT's summer symposium. Smienk reported that the committee met three times, but when the board decided not to exercise the option, the committee dissolved as its mandate was no longer relevant.
Lawsuit against Valhalla Wilderness Society dismissed

Roberts told the judge the community would be outraged if the case were thrown out, as this would disillusion interested persons about the law and would invalidate what he called cheap legal tactics. Justice Groves dismissed the case, awarding costs to VWS. The amount is now being assessed. In giving his reasons, Justice Groves found that Roberts' delay was inordinate and inexcusable and that the delays had prejudiced or damaged VWS. Groves stated that, contrary to Roberts' assertion, he believed that the community would be outraged if the lawsuit against VWS were permitted to proceed, given its history. Anne Sherrard, VWS' chairperson stated: "Mr. Roberts claimed he had been misled by VWS' attorney Kenyon McGee. Justice Groves pointed out in the proceedings that Roberts' own written statements in 2001 showed to the contrary. Mr. Roberts is a knowledgeable person about law and about his case. By his own evidence by his voluminous filings, but — as it turns out — he contributed to his loss by making assertions contradicted by the record and by his own statements.

Finally, VWS moved that the case be dismissed on December 9 in Nelson Supreme Court. Roberts did not attend the trial. He fought to dismiss the lawsuit against VWS were maintained his action, speaking on the community to give information to the public.

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50,000 book and audio cassette donations

The Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and Movies. Robbie Adamson, the gallery’s film committee has organized the showing of five interesting films from the Toronto film circuit, on the fourth Monday of each month, at 7 pm, starting next January. This series contains a mixture of Canadian and British titles, documentaries and feature films. Members of the gallery can purchase a series ticket at the discount price of $35; regular price is $40 and $8 for a single showing. Tickets will be available at the back of the Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and Movies.

Five ideas for Success by 6

By Jan McMurray

Success by 6 program co-ordinators in our area, Kim Adamson and Kate Skye, have a plan for the funds raised this year to support children aged 0-6. They have come up with five initiatives. We can all expect to receive a Success by 6 magazine in our mailbox early in the next year. The magazine will be published quarterly and will raise public awareness about the importance of the early years.

Another initiative that will build public awareness, as well as provide important early childhood development information for parents, professionals and community members will be a West Kootenay Success by 6 website.

The Stars for Success program will provide families for one year to attend any program that supports healthy development. These could be recreation programs, parent support groups, library programs or preschool programs. Adamson said that all of next year’s funds would go into Stars for Success.

Robbie Adamson also talked about book dives, where they will collect new and used books for preschool aged kids and give them out at local credit unions in the spring. Finally, in June, there will be a symposium to be held in partnership with the Aboriginal community with a focus on poverty. Adamson says the symposium will be held yearly. "This is the first one and we want it to be a success and for people to come and get involved. We will start to understand why caring for our young children is key to building a strong community."
Local youth leaders attend UN Climate Change conference

by Jan McMurray

In Montreal from November 28 to December 9, about 1500 delegates gathered to participate in the UN Climate Change conference. Among them were two Lucerne School graduates: Alysia Garmulewicz, who graduated at the top of the class of 2004, was one of six youth chosen to be on the Canadian youth delegation to the conference. Carlin Perry, top student in the 2003 grad class, attended as an observer.

"The first week was a very steep learning curve," said Alysia. "They speak a whole other language, it is a ridiculous number of acronyms! Now I feel I have enough background information that I can start to focus on some of it." The youth constituency to the climate change conferences put a tremendous amount of work into the conference, including preparing a one-page document. Carlin explained that there were "two tracks" at the conference. One track involved discussions on how to move forward on climate change, and the other on how to proceed after Kyoto protocol now, many countries would like to see it included.

"We supportKyoto - It's Us!" Alysia Garmulewicz became passionate about climate change after a trip to the Antarctica in 2003. She organized the first ever Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3) at Royal Roads University in July of this year. She is currently at Carleton University’s Environmental Studies Honours BA program.

The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society would like to thank the community for their support. Special thanks to all our contractors and volunteers who have worked so hard this year to help the society meet its goals.

Best wishes for a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year!

Happy Holidays

from the directors and staff of the Community Forest Society
Bill Profill Liberal

Bill Profill was raised in Rossland. He and his wife, a registered nurse, have three children and four grandchildren. He was mayor of Rossland for 16 years, and councillor for four. He currently is the chairman of the Lower Columbia Community Development Team. For 30 years, he worked as an Emergency Paramedic for the BC Ambulance Service. He chaired the first CUPE collective agreement for the BC Ambulance Service and has been a CUPE member for 34 years.

Bill Profill has also worked as a Cominco labourer, branch manager at the Bank of Montreal, and ran the ferry from Castlegar to Kaslo. He also worked for the US Army during the Vietnam War. He is known for his advocacy for social justice and environmental issues.

Scott Leyland Green Party

Scott Leyland was born in Trail and raised in Trail and Fruitvale. He has been married since 1975 and has two sons and three grandchildren. He graduated from UBC in 1974 as a physiotherapist and occupational therapist and has worked at the Trail hospital since 1975. He recently retired from the position of manager of rehabilitation services for the regional hospital. Leyland has served as chair of the Neurorheological Society of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and is a clinical consultant with the UBC Faculty of Medicine, School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Two community projects that he has worked on with local mayors is the creation of a new community hospital in Trail, and the building of a new arena in Fruitvale. Leyland is also a former member of the Trail and Area Green Party. He has been a Green Party member since the early 1980s, and has run for office in several elections where the Green Party has had more than one candidate. He believes in maintaining the health care system, crime (not necessarily violent crime, including thefts and vandalism), and environment and federal taxation.

Other issues he said he'd like to see addressed are Canada's international trade relations with the United States, and the environment. He also mentioned lowering taxes, and making the health care system better.

Alex Atamanenko NDP

Alex Atamanenko came in a close second to Conservative Jim Gouk in the 2004 election, earning 35% of the vote to Gouk's 36%. Atamanenko is a retired teacher who earned a Bachelor of Phys Ed degree from UBC in 1967 and a Master of Arts in Russian from the University of Toronto in 1974. He has worked extensively in the area of physical education, and as a federal interpreter for various international missions from the Prime Minister's visit to the USSR in 1989 to interpreting for the Canadian ambassador to Russia in Vladivostok.

The main idea I'm trying to get across is that NDP is getting results," said Atamanenko, citing the budget deal that Jack Layton made with Paul Martin in the spring. He says that one of the major issues is health care. "We want to work hard to preserve our national health care system. It's under attack from privatization and commercialization. We've seen it in our area with our seniors and everyone else," he said.

Another issue he said he'd like to work on with local mayors is the balance between development and the quality of life we enjoy in our rural communities. "It's important to be on top of all the issues, be they local, provincial or federal. That way, we can make the right decision for the people when things come up such as the North-South corridor, for example. People want to make sure that a four-lane highway doesn't get pushed through the Slocan Valley. Another one is the airport project in Kaslo — we might be better off to some federal funds for that."

He says the environment is a major part of the NDP platform. "We believe in maintaining the momentum on oil and gas drilling off the coast, moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy and making the polluter pay," he said. "We could be a leader in producing cars with green technology."

He also mentioned lowering tuition fees, improving training in the work force, broadband and homelessness in Nelson as important issues.
Jim Burwell Liberal

Jim Burwell lives in Fernie with his wife, Kim, and their six-year-old son. His background includes an Associate Degree in Social Sciences from the College of Interior Alaska and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Victoria. He has worked for the government of the Yukon, the BC Ministry of Forests and the BC Ministry of Environment.

My approach to this campaign and the Member of Parliament will mean active representation of Kootenay-Columbia concerns in Ottawa," said Burwell. "Fostering an environment of openness and accountability in government and the Party will be my way of starting to rebuild the trust that has been eroded by scandal. It is very important to me to be an example of openness and honesty whereas fighting people.

Burwell was one of five candidates for the local Liberal nomination in 2004. He is a lifelong federal Liberal having begun his membership as a teenager working on federal election campaigns. I feel that Canadians should not have to think about things like health care and education, or worry that their lives are going to be made better by the initiatives of the government in the short- and long-term. A social infrastructure supported by a sustainable economy should be the ultimate goal of any government, and I truly believe the Liberal Party of Canada, headed by Paul Martin, is in the best 'hit to achieve this,' he said.

Brent Bush NDP

Brent Bush, the NDP candidate in the 2004 election as well, was born in Nanaimo and raised in Nelson and Kelowna. He graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in Political Science in 1987. From 1989-1990, he served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Since 1992, he has been working as a letter carrier for Canada Post. He and his wife live in Kimberley, where Bush is a Search and Rescue team and food bank director. In his last federal election, he received 9772 votes or 23.8%, coming second to MP Jim Abbott.

Bush sees work to be done on the Trans-Canada Highway, as the softwood lumber dispute, the Columbia River Treaty, and on the issue of pollution in Bountiful.

"One of the common issues that affects every part of the riding is the determination of our hydro system, particularly the Trans-Canada. In order to improve public safety and traffic flow, it will be my intention to work with local MLAs and the federal government to secure federal transportation infrastructure funding and a new, more positive Hydro policy.

"The softwood lumber dispute continues to have negative effects for small forest communities nationwide, and the federal government must put real pressure on the Bush Administration to meet trade obligations and end US protectionism.

"Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of our fresh water supply. In the very near future, the Columbia River Treaty process will be critical to ensure that Canadian water remains Canadian. As the MP for Kootenay-Columbia, I will take a very active role to ensure that we do not get trampled on by the B.C. and U.S.

"The issue of polygamy in the community of Bountiful, just south of Creston, remains unresolved. Although a federal offense, both the Province of BC and the federal government have been reluctant to prosecute polygamists for fear of losing their case based on a Charter right (Freedom of Religion). If the current RCMP investigation determines that there are grounds to prosecute, I will do what is necessary to ensure that justice is served.

"This issue is one of the reasons I am running for re-election. I am committed to this issue need an MP who will show leadership on this issue."

Clements Verhoeven Green Party

Clements Verhoeven, a University of Western Ontario graduate, is a teacher in School District # 8 (Creston). He has taught mostly senior English and Social Studies. He says he has always called on his constituents to expand their world views. "My conviction that our planet depends on the sharing of all life has inspired my teaching, and it will influence my candidacy for the Green Party as well," he said.

Verhoeven says the Green Party of Canada stands for proportional representation—a renewed democratic process that welcomes and embraces diversity.

He feels that this election is an "engineered crisis." He says the solutions the other parties are offering are not the ones he wants, and he will not vote for any of the parties who want a carbon tax or support the Kyoto Protocol.

"We need a different approach to this election than we have had in the past," he said. "I am looking for a leader and a solution that I can support and trust."

Jim Abbott Conservative

Jim Abbott, sitting MP since 1993, won 52% of the votes in the 2004 election. His background is in sales, marketing and business management with his own company and with small, medium and international businesses.

Accountability, health care and the environment are Abbott's three top issues.

"I am accountable to the people of the Kootenay-Columbia riding and it's my report card time," he said. "Accountability is also very much a national issue. Justice Gomery has taken a look at the evidence and the Liberal organization has been involved in criminal activity. Millions of dollars missing. There is truly a deep-seated culture of entitlement that surrounds the Liberals and their bureaucracy. It's time for Canadians to decide how important accountability is both nationally and locally."

Abbott said that health care was a very important issue in this campaign, but wants to make sure that the differences between federal and provincial responsibilities are clear.

"When you start to talk about health care, people start to talk about delivery of service, which is singularly under provincial jurisdiction. We should be talking about what we can do at the federal level to help the provinces with their responsibility of delivery of health care," he said.

The environment is a big and far ranging issue for Abbott. "People have a deep concern over where we're going locally, nationally and internationally.

In this constituency, we need to work locally, nationally and internationally on the issue of polygamy in Bountiful.

One of the common issues that affects every part of the riding is the determination of our hydro system, particularly the Trans-Canada. In order to improve public safety and traffic flow, it will be my intention to work with local MLAs and the federal government to secure federal transportation infrastructure funding and a new, more positive Hydro policy.

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Supporting the Early Years Research Project

We are looking for parents who would be interested in providing feedback on our programs. In exchange for a spring interview we will provide a monthly newsletter, free workshops, child and travel subsidies, and input into our programs and workshops, and notification of current programming. If you are interested in giving us your time, please call either Nancy or Julie at 265-3674. The following are programs that are offered:

- Mondays
  - Edgewood Elementary, 11:45 am - 2:00 pm, Ready, Set, Learn (FOR 5-7 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS)
  - New Denver Lucerne School, 11:00 am - Noon, Mother Goose (CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER)

- Tuesdays
  - Nakusp Public Library, 10:30 am - Story Time (FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS)
  - New Denver Lucerne School, 11:00 am - Noon, Mother Goose (CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER)

- Wednesdays
  - Nakusp Halcyon Home, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Mother Goose (CALL 265-8964 TO REGISTER)
  - New Denver Lucerne School, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Mother Goose (CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER)

- Thursdays
  - Faquaier Communication Ctr., 10 am, Parents and Tot Story Time
  - Arrow/Slocan Lks. Comm. Services, Nakusp, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
  - Mother Goose (CALL 265-7414 TO REGISTER)

- Friday
  - Nakusp Nakusp Home, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Gym Playgroup
  - Faquaier Community Hall, 6:30 pm, Family Mosie Night (LAST MEET OF EVERY MONTH)

- Saturday
  - Nakusp Stepping Stones Children's Ctr., Learning Adventures for Families (LAF) (CALL 265-7222 TO REGISTER)

- Closed January 1 & 2, 2006

**HOLIDAY HOURS:**

Closed Dec. 25
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The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of interest to our readers. All letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number.

We will not publish anonymous letters, nor may you use a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances. We will not knowingly publish any letter which is defamatory or libellous.

Please type your letter, and e-mail it if possible. Many handwritten letters are impossible to read. Any letter may be edited for brevity.

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

Be proud of our soldiers

This fall my daugther Crystal joined the Canadian Armed Forces. She joined for reasons of her own—none of which, I assume you, was the hope of fighting a war.

There is no one in this world who could want world peace more than myself or any parent of a child in the military. But sadly, that is not the reality of our world. Laying down our arms and declaring Canada a military-free country is equal to mass suicide. We should never protest our military, but ourselves as soldiers.

They work very hard and deserve our respect.

I am thankful I was at work on Remembrance Day and therefore missed the inappropriate marching of our local activists.

I echo Wanda Palmer’s words: Remembrance Day is a day to remember. Remember those who have died those who have survived, those who are peacekeeping around the world; and—god forbid—those who one day may have to war to protect the freedom we have at granted.

Jo-an Eyrey, proud mom of Pvt. Philco, CM, New Denver

Stop motorized boat traffic

In the November 23 issue of The Valley Voice I read an article about the Valley Park draft plan. I would like to respond to something in that article concerning boat traffic on the lake.

In my opinion all motorized boat traffic on the lake needs to be stopped. As many of us humans, (not to mention the countless numbers of other inhabitants and species) use the water from the Slocan River in our households, it is imperative these waterways be protected. As we begin to see a rise in boating traffic on the lake we need to ponder that if this type of enjoyment takes priority over our natural, clean water, we do not need our waters to resemble lakes in the Okanagan, smelling of gas, with a film of oil on top.

Let’s find a niche and become an ecological course have; people would want to come to a valley with a non-motorized theme. Perhaps a valley-wide referendum on this matter would be appropriate?

Chris Berger

New Members Welcome from throughout the Valley!!

Please pay your 2006 dues prior to the meeting. Membership applications downloadable from http://www.slocanlake.com/ chamber.html or Box 448, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Be a good dog owner

In last week’s paper, Nikita Booroud wrote a letter regarding dog cop encounter, and the popularly focused on the role of the RCMP in our community. This was a thoughtful and well paced letter, but I think the real root cause of these canine situations lies in the participation of the dog owners themselves.

Personally, I’m not fond of dogs for the most part, but I appreciate people who take the time to properly feed, walk, care for and love their dogs, as these animals will generally be nice, well-behaved members of these families. Smart dogs that are continued on page 5
Messy Council meeting

We recently watched the December 5th Inaugural meeting of the Kaslo Council (on cable channel 103) in which a lengthy discussion took place amongst council as to what course of action it would be best suited to represent Kaslo at the Regional District of Central Kootenay. Mayor Holland informed council that the mayor was the “voice of the community,” was the most qualified for the job, and he advocated personal relationships with members of the RDCK. Holland also stated he had had the blessed opportunity to attend a one-month contract basis, working with the RDCK treasurer and others, ironing out the factions at the new Nelson & District Community Complex to create a vision on how they would open the new facility, implement the project, present a major concert and produce it. The newspaper told us the concert was a huge success.

The Nelson Daily News ran an editorial on December 5th with a headline “Bring on the Pig Story”, by Bob Hall. It refers to a previous NDN headline about the Kaslo-Nez Perce Festival. The RDCK, already $7,000 in debt, towards the end of the article it stated “The dust has settled for now, but what are we left with? … the RDCK treasurer … needs money. No further aid on the sponsorship program to raise cash for the ‘frills’ and plenty of people wonder whether the RDCK will start making some wise decisions.” It’s a mess for sure.

Mayor Holland was very articulate in advising the new council of his admirable accomplishments, specifically regarding his involvement in this project, in a bid to garner the votes to sit as Kaslo’s [insert] in the local district at large. Things are really getting messy!

Paul & Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

Celebrating a Life too Short: Trinity Jay McQuair

If you had visited Nakusp after 2 pm and through much of the afternoon of Saturday, December 3rd, you would have found little apparent community spirit. The streets, the shops were almost deserted; some businesses were closed. It, like my husband and I, during the hour before 2 pm on Saturday, you had been heading toward the local recreation centre, you would have been part of a rare coming together that was all about community. Close to 1,000 folks were migrating to the largest local indoor space that is, turning out, was barely large enough to hold them. The purpose of this migration was to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of a young member of the community: Trinity Jay McQuair. When we arrived the standing room only inside the gymnasium-sized room. Gentle music was playing and there was an overall mood of quiet contemplation. All minds, young and old, went focused on trying to move beyond sorrow to celebration. Each of us was dealing with our own feeling of loss.
Selkirk College hairdressing instructor wins cosmetology association’s top teaching award

Selkirk’s hairdressing program is clearly a cut above. Hairdressing instructor Bonnie Piderman has been named 2004/2005 Teacher of the Year by the Cosmetology Industry Association of BC (CIABC). Just five months ago Bonnie’s student, Michelle Keegan, came first in Hairstyling at the 11th Canadian Skills Competition held in Edmonton.

Piderman was given her award before 700 of her peers. “It was like the Academy Awards,” says Bonnie. “I was overwhelmed. I had no idea that I was going to win.”

During her 20-year career at Selkirk College, Piderman has steered many students to success. “I’ve had many provincial champions over the years, and about five years ago Jody Hooker won the same national award as Michelle.”

Piderman attributes her great track record to perseverance. “I’m always trying to raise the bar a little bit higher. I hope Michelle goes on to the World Championships in Japan. There is always more to learn, new techniques, new ways of doing things.”

Invitation for Written Submissions from the Public

B.C. Children And Youth Review

Mr. Ted Hughes, Q.C., appointed by the B.C. Government, is conducting an independent examination of B.C.’s child protection system, and will be making recommendations for improvements.

Public input is being sought on the areas under his review.

Specifically, Mr. Hughes will examine:

• the review process for child deaths, including how results of reviews are internally addressed
• advocacy support for children and youth, and
• monitoring of government’s performance in protecting and providing services to B.C. children and youth.

In addition, Mr. Hughes will examine and make recommendations to improve the public reporting of:

• child death reviews, to ensure a balance between public accountability and protection of privacy of families and others; and
• government’s performance in protecting and providing services to B.C. children and youth.

The review will consider the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child and Youth Officer, Chief Coroner, Child Guardian, Public Guardian and Trustee, and other agencies involved.

Mr. Hughes will not be reviewing individual child fatality cases.

Written submissions may be made to the B.C Children and Youth Review by Mail: PO Box 9732, Stn Priv Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9Z2
Fax: 250 953-3361 Email: Child.Review@gov.bc.ca

BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS NOTE

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ARTS/COMMUNITY

**community light-up contest**

submitted

The Community Christmas Light-up Committee together with the Royal Canadian Legion held a very successful decorating contest and community potluck supper in Slocan.

Businesses in the area were very generous with their donations of cash as well as many door prizes.

The event started with judging of the light-up displays of homes and businesses on December 10. Cash prizes were awarded in the following categories: Best Lit Yard: 1st prize - Roy Franche, 2nd prize - Glenda Zwer, 3rd prize - Bill & Rita Hicks; Best Lit Outdoor Tree: 1st prize - Donis and John Sarjeant, 2nd prize - Linda Adams, 3rd prize -

Bemie Roshinsky: Best Lit House: 1st prize - Ed and Del Roshinsky, 2nd prize - Darlene and Ian Womack, 3rd prize - Springer Creek Forest Products, Honourable mention - Tim and Laurie Hill.

Celebrations on the following day, December 11, began at 5 pm with the lighting of the tree at the Village Office. Mayor John Van Bynen did the countdown and Linda Taylor started the crowd with Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly. This was followed by a wonderful potluck supper with about 60 people attending at the Silvery Slocan Social Centre. Everyone enjoyed the music of "Alf and John" and the singing of Christmas Carols.

Door prizes were awarded during the evening to the following: Larry Zwer, Jamie Ingram, Mable Bone, Bev Boisvert, Madeline Perriere, Peggy Ashton, Sharon Creswell, Jason and Lisa Stooshinoff, Kate, Peggy Ingram, Brian McCoy, Rita Kosme, Karna Franche and Patrick Ashton.

The evening ended with a visit by Santa Claus and one of his elves.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to visit Slocan and see the lighting displays.

**Wynn Fairly**

*Champeen Rassler*
*or, “Get a Grip on Yourself”*

A hilarious comedy based on the Roaring '20s, a wrestling match and a radio station. Get out your favorite Roaring Twenties outfit and have a great evening of dinner, fun and laughter. Great stocking stuffers!

The Rotary Club of Nakusp’s 8th Annual Dinner Theatre
Fri., Feb. 10, & Sat., Feb. 11, 2006
Nakusp Arena Complex
Reserved Seating Tickets at Barton Insurance, 202 Broadway

Slocan holds third annual community light-up contest

Roy Franche won first prize for best lit yard in Slocan’s annual light-up contest.

Carollers made their rounds at Silverton’s community Christmas celebration December 9. Here, they sing in the Memorial Hall, where a Christmas market invited shoppers.

Here is Wyatt Donaldson telling the big guy his Christmas wishes.
The lights are on until Christmas!

Visit Santa and have your picture taken for only $7

Santa hours Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday - 11:30 - 3:30
Thursday and Friday 2:30 - 6:30

Over 35 stores to choose from, shopping was never easier

Free parking, free children’s play area and ball pit

5 kms east of Trail on Highway 3B
FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC")

2006 Revenue Requirements and Multi-Year Performance Based Regulation Mechanism

Notice of Annual Review, Workshop and Pre-Hearing Conference

Annual Review
Date / Time: Thursday, February 9, 2006 - 9:00 a.m.
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Workshop
Date / Time: Thursday, February 9, 2006 – following Annual Review
Friday, February 10, 2006 - 8:00 a.m. (if required)
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Pre-Hearing Conference
Date / Time: Friday, February 10, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

On November 24, 2005, FortisBC filed its 2006 Revenue Requirements Application and proposed the Establishment of a Multi-Year Performance Based Regulation Mechanism (the “Application”) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (“the Commission”). FortisBC recommended a two stage negotiated settlement process to the Commission to review this Application. The first stage would set the 2006 Revenue Requirements and the second stage would determine the parameters of Performance Based Regulation (“PBR”).

FortisBC requested a 5.9 percent interim refundable rate increase, effective January 1, 2006. The Commission has approved an interim refundable rate increase of 5.9 percent, effective January 1, 2006 by Order No. G-130-05.

FortisBC will hold an Annual Review to provide updates on the 2005 Incentive Sharing Mechanism and a Workshop for the Application. The Commission has scheduled a Pre-hearing Conference to solicit input from all participants on the proposed regulatory process and agenda to deal with the Application, and any other preliminary matters. FortisBC is to provide copies of the Application to all parties wishing to participate in the Pre-hearing Conference. Those persons wishing to participate are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to do so no later than Thursday, January 5, 2006. Notification by mail, courier delivery, fax or e-mail is acceptable.

Mail: Box 250, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 2N3
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

The Application and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

FortisBC Inc.
Head Office: 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9X1
Trail Office: 1290 Esplanade, Trail, BC V1K 4L4
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 2N3

Websites:
www.fortisbc.com  www.bcuc.com

Public Libraries in Castlegar, Creston, Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Penticton and Trail, BC.

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary at Telephone: (604) 660-4700, BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, Facsimile: (604) 660-1102, E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com or Ms. Fong Kwok, Financial Analyst at Telephone: (604) 660-0718.
Edgewood concerned about fate of Outpost Hospital

In the community of Edgewood there is a well-appointed medical facility known as the Edgewood Outpost Hospital. It is the only such facility in a local population of about 500, from Edgewood, Fintry, and occasionally Nelson, its nurses provide 24/7 medical assistance and emergency relief and advice. The Outpost nurses also work with home-care, public health and mental health nurses, as well as nurse practitioners for patients, and family doctors for patients in Castlegar Hospital, as reasons for their recent, the displacement of nurses at IH-directed hospital closures, and Fauquier this is cause for concern. They cite IH's disregard for the community. Their take-over of Outpost's all-hours service is essential, to prepare patients for the difficult journey to administer pain-killers, hook up IVs; and other treatments. The Outpost nurses also work with mental health nurses, as well as other professionals, including an evacuating advice. The Outpost nurses maintain a consistent high level of the constant availability of Outpost funding source is a cut, in order of their support.

David Plag, spokeperson for the Provincial Health Services Authority, which is overseeing the transfer of BC Outpost Hospital jurisdiction from the Red Cross, states that the goal is to "save the Outpost Hospital as part of a continuum of care." He adds that there is a commitment to maintaining services until BC is "better understanding of the needs of the community." The Edgewood Outpost Hospital is, in every way, an essential part of the community. Jan Karrer, one of the two nurses presently attending the Outpost, has lived in Edgewood since 2002. Her son attends school there. "Every nurse that ever worked in the Outpost has lived here," she says. The small-town residences reside in Edgewood, and, according to Prentice, "People have moved on because the Outpost exists." Until March 7, 2007, the government will protect funds to operate the Outpost Hospital as it is. The fear within the community is that, after 2007, budget cuts will be made. Anyone concerned about the ultimate fate of the Edgewood Outpost can call Jim Prentice: 269-7688 or Cathy Watson: 269-7671.
Nakusp’s new council members take oaths

By Jan McMurray

At Nakusp’s inaugural meeting on December 5, Mayor Karen Hamling outlined some of council’s goals for the next three years, mentioning the hot springs chantee, a tourism community assessment and a review of the Official Community Plan.

She gave each councillor a book called Making a Difference: Cuff’s Guide for Municipal Leaders, by George B. Cuff. She also gave each a “domain” to remind that there are five of us,” she said. “We all have different opinions and different ways of handling things, but in the end we all have to make the decisions together. It is healthy when we disagree, and important to support the decisions made as a whole. Like the domino, there are at least two sides to every issue — one will stand alone and some will cause a domino effect.”

Apointments were made. Mayor Hamling is the alternate for the RDCK board and the Village representative for Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association, Nakusp and Area Development Board, Community Health Community Conulative Committee and will sit on the Hot Springs board. Councillor Janis Dahlen is Nakusp’s RDCD director, and will represent the Village on Recreation Commission #4 and the 2010 committee. Councillor Heppner was appointed to the energy, library and Provincial Emergency Plan committees. Councillor Ulli Mueller is chair of the Hot Springs board, was appointed to the Community Social Planning Committee and the Arrow Lakes Community Theatre Group has been busy preparing for its Christmas production of Norman Robbins’ The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose.

The first regular meeting took place on December 17 at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

 나오 슃 whose (top right) as Sage and sister Shannon Fulmore (bottom right) as Onions. Nicolais Garmulewicz as Mother Goose (centre), Rachel Hughes (top left) and Juan Hughes (bottom left) as Clarence Cope. and Mini Cope. Ruth Pymore (top right) as Sape and sister Sharon Fuller (bottom right) as Onias.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from Kim, Denise, Mark, Tracey, Paul, Lisa & Keith

533 Hwy 6 265-4012

PEOPLES PHARMACY

Thinking of something special for Christmas?

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season

Good friends are good for your health. Irwin Sasson

and will represent the Village at Chamber of Commerce meetings. Councillor Gord Roberts will sit on the

and we would like to wish one

of each other and to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year. We gathered at the Village Hall, six

knit blankets for the homeless in Vernon, with wool donated by members of the community. Vernon Jubilee Hospital received two

knit blankets, a jacket and two lap rugs from our branch. Personal gifts and several Cabbage Patch dolls were donated to the Nakusp safe house. The Victims’ Patch dolls were donated to the Arrow Lakes Community Theatre Group has been busy preparing for its Christmas production of Norman Robbins’ The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose.

The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose will entertain the whole family at the Bonnington Arts Centre on December 17 at 1 p.m. and December 18 at 5 p.m. with doors opening at 4:30 p.m.

reminder to make a donation. At Nakusp’s inaugural meeting on December 5, Mayor Karen Hamling outlined some of council’s goals for the next three years, mentioning the hot springs chantee, a tourism community assessment and a review of the Official Community Plan.

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crocheted baby blankets, a layette and two lap rugs from our branch. Personal gifts and several Cabbage Patch dolls were donated to the Nakusp safe house. The Victims’ Patch dolls were donated to the Arrow Lakes Community Theatre Group has been busy preparing for its Christmas production of Norman Robbins’ The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose.

The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose will entertain the whole family at the Bonnington Arts Centre on December 17 at 1 p.m. and December 18 at 5 p.m. with doors opening at 4:30 p.m.

We held a meeting of the society and a meeting for all projects undertaken by the North Okanagan-Shuswap District, BC, Federated and the International Women’s Institutes, doing some work to make a difference in our own small way.

We are always grateful for the communities’ support, and always welcome new members. Meeting time is the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Deane Horning rink wins regional curling finals

by Jan McMurray

The Brier is getting closer for the Arrow Lakes Community Theatre Group has been busy preparing for its Christmas production of Norman Robbins’ The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose.

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Argenta Library calls for contributions to an anthology

The Argenta Library recently hosted five popular writing workshops with local authors Vivien Bowers, Rita Moir and Eileen Delehanty Pearkes with K. Linda Kivi. Now the library is looking for written contributions and artwork for an anthology, “Bound Together.” This book, with a special focus on Argenta, will accept contributions up to three pages in length (up to 750 words) from anyone who has a connection, past or present, to Argenta. Contributions must include some reference to Argenta but may also be based in other communities, and may include stories, anecdotes, poetry, photos, drawings, etc.

In March 2006, PB&J Press will offer a bookbinding workshop at the library to show participants techniques for creating their own books. The Board of Trustees will plan the sale of this limited edition book of Argenteria with proceeds going to the Argenta Library.

School District No. 10’s new board of trustees is, from L to R: Bill Hilton (at large), Lora Lee Brekke (vice chair and eastern zone), Quinn DeCourcy (southern zone), Pattie Adam (chair and central zone), Judy Shuck (at large).

In 1958, West Kootenay-Nelson MP Bert Herridge was given the gear he needed for the winter election campaign. The Ottawa Snowshoe Club outfitted him from head to toe, and here he is in his Ottawa office trying it all on. That year, the election was held March 31. Herridge was our MP for 23 years, from 1948-71. From 1941-45, he served as an MLA.

Here’s hoping everyone finds someone to snuggle with over the holidays, and that yours is safe and happy!

CAROL’S CORNER
Main St. New Denver 358-2255

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Collette, Karen, Kim, Nicki, Doris, Jane, Danielle & Ginny

Eldorado Slocan
519 Harold St. 355-2211

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

SALE
December 19 - 31
Come in and Check Out the Bargains!

Here’s hoping everyone finds someone to snuggle with over the holidays, and that yours is safe and happy!

Carol’s Corner
Main St. New Denver
358-2255

Community

Merry Christmas

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Carol’s Corner
Main St. New Denver
358-2255

Community

Merry Christmas
to our
Customers from the Staff of
Winlaw Mini Mart
HOLIDAY HOURS
DEC. 24 • 8 am - 8 pm
DEC. 25 • Noon - 6 pm
DEC. 26 • 10 am - 6 pm
DEC. 31 • 8 am - 8 pm
JAN. 1 • Noon - 6 pm

WINTER HOURS
Open till 8 pm
Sunday-Thursday
Open till 9 pm
Friday & Saturday
226-7282

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from Collette, Karen, Kim, Nicki, Doris, Jane, Danielle & Ginny

HOLIDAY HOURS:
Dec. 24 9 - 5
Dec. 25 Closed
Dec. 26 9 - 5
Dec. 27 9 - 7
Dec. 28 9 - 7
Dec. 29 9 - 7
Dec. 30 9 - 7
Dec. 31 9 - 5
Jan. 1 9 - 5
Jan. 2 9 - 7
Jan. 3 will open 1:00 pm
due to inventory.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Land Transfers • Mortgages
Leases • Wills • Affidavits
Powers of Attorney
530 Josephine St., Nelson
Phone: (250) 354-4405
Fax: (250) 354-4105
Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
Sat. & Sun. by appointment

Peter Kanigan, B.A.
NOTARY PUBLIC

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Sorry for any inconvenience.
Ten members of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society responded to an invitation from society secretary Erika Bird to participate in an informal discussion about the society and the forest licence. The meeting took place on December 5 in the KDCFS boardroom.

After a short speech by the secretary, outlining the history of Community Forest initiatives in Kaslo and her own involvement with the licence, the members introduced themselves and began to talk about their concerns and impressions.

True Meijer-Drees, representing the Kaslo Senior Citizens’ Association, thanked the Board for their recent donation of $2,800, and allowed that she felt awkward about the fact that this late donation to the association was unsolicited. Ronnie Carmen, KDCFS office manager and bookkeeper, explained the procedures, noted that the season had twice applied for money, and promised to look into whether there had been an error in the latest disbursement. Sean Kubara asked about disbursement policy and was told that the policies would be posted on the bulletin board on the second floor of the government building.

The discussion became more lively as various members spoke of their need to feel more involved, to have a sense of participation, and to wish to be better informed of developments. More effort spent on advertising, organized kitchen table talks, and especially guided forestry tours, and especially guided forestry tours, were ideas put forth.

Talks, and especially guided forestry tours, were ideas put forth. The secretary pointed to a lack of interest among the seniors, and that the seniors had expressed their wish to be better informed of disbursement policy and was twice applied for money, and procedures, noted that the seniors had expressed a clarification of the bylaws concerning membership. It was felt that it would be appropriate to have that all together for the first time that evening had been well spent. Hope was expressed that what was felt to be an ideological divide in the membership could begin to engender less antagonism and more respect. Ronnie Carmen took notes for presentation to the board at its next meeting on December 14.

Kaslo's new council is, L to R: Rich Jones, Suzan Hewat, Jim Holland (Mayor), Molly Leathwood and Peter Vass.

Kaslo council’s inaugural meeting

by Jill Brule

Launched by the inaugural meeting of Kaslo’s new council, newly elected Mayor Jim Holland thanked the residents of Kaslo for their support. Holland garnered 45% of the votes cast for the four municipal candidates.

Holland called it “a very strong mandate,” and said his platform arose from the input of the constituency: “I don’t see this mandate to be as much about my personal views as I do about listening to the public,” he said.

Holland congratulated new councillors Rich Jones and Peter Vass and re-elected councilors Suzan Hewat and Molly Leathwood for their successful bids to be a part of the government of Kaslo.

Holland said he would like to foster a respectful atmosphere, have intelligent discussions and debates, with the overall understanding that council will work together to manage the Village affairs to the best of their ability.

After much discussion, Mayor Holland was appointed as the Village of Kaslo Director to the RDCK with Councilor Jones as alternate. The councillors were reluctant to give Holland the appointment because each had been approached by individuals concerned about a possible perceived conflict of interest. — Holland lives in the regional district and sits on a committee that is working on a water system for his community. Councilor Jones also expressed concern that Holland would not have enough time for the appointment.

Holland said that he knew the people at RDCK quite well through his contract with the mire organizers of the recent grand opening of the Nelson Community Complex and Jann Arden concert, and there was no potential perceived conflict of interest. He also explained that he had dropped some of his jobs and opened up his schedule.

Councilor Leathwood pointed out that she had just taken an oath that they would remove themselves if they were in a conflict of interest situation. Other appointments were made as follows: Administration & Finance Committee: Chair - Hewat, Leathwood and Vass; Planning & Development: Chair - Leathwood, Hewat & Jones; Community Services: Chair - Vass, Jones & Hewat; Public Works: Chair - Jones, Leathwood & Vass; Emergency Planning Select Committee: Jones; Municipal Recreation: Leathwood & Hewat; Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce: Hewat; Kootenay Lake Historical Society: Leathwood; Community Consultative Group: Vass; City Hall Conservation: Jones; Kaslo & District Community Forest Society: Expressions of interest will be sought for one citizen to represent the Village of Kaslo on the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society board. A specific criteria will be established for the Village representative.

Appointment of Auditor: Ber Nagyi & Co. Previous concerns and questions will be addressed. Council was asked to refer any inquiries to Susan VanZandt, Deputy Clerk and any one of Mayor Holland, Councillors Hewat, Jones, Leathwood or Vass.

Appointment of Auditor: Ber Nagyi & Co. Previous concerns and questions will be addressed. Council was asked to refer any inquiries to Susan VanZandt, Deputy Clerk. In his closing comments, the mayor announced that his office at Village Hall will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

He said the official Community Plan would be reviewed by council early in the New Year. The restoration of the Village Hall was one of Holland's highest priorities in his campaign and he will be asking the restoration committee to select him as its chair. He said he would be suggesting a petition by the voters of Kaslo regarding the purchase of the Provincial Building, avoiding the costs of a public referendum.

On the development issue, Holland said he would research the potential of private/public partnerships to ensure Kaslo has as much control as possible. He also said the Village would adopt the principles of Smart Growth BC.

A lovely addition to Kaslo’s main street is Portabella Interior home decor shop, located in the old Front Street Saloon building. The store is filled with linens, rugs, wool-stuffed pillows and duvets, candles, soaps and many other items that would grace any home. Marlaina Blanché is the store manager.
Get Outta Town!

Rambling the railgrades of Retallack

After a promising snowy start to the ski season in the Kootenays, the skies have been almost as stormy. Local snowmobile courses are just too small to carry on with their courses. Some have even been forced to cancel their events because of the lack of snow. However, in Retallack, the ski conditions have been quite good. The trails are well groomed and there is plenty of fresh snow on the ground. In addition, the temperatures are ideal for skiing, making for a great day on the slopes.

Lessons from Classic Rock

AC/DC has a song called “It Ain’t Easy” which talks about the struggle to reach the top of the music industry. Many people dream of becoming successful in the music industry, but it is not an easy road. It requires hard work, dedication, and sometimes a bit of luck. The song reminds us that it is not easy to make it big in the music industry, but with persistence and dedication, anything is possible.

Co-op Eaters of the West Kootenay

Hello food fans. By the time you read this, there will be several days until Christmas, but right now I’d like to share with you how much I love to make Cranberry Bread. This recipe is simple, delicious, and easy to follow. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Cranberry Bread

Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup fresh cranberries, chopped
- 1/2 cup orange zest
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts

Instructions:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. Grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.
3. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Stir in the vanilla extract, salt, and baking powder.
6. Add the flour, cranberries, orange zest, and walnuts. Stir until just combined.
7. Spread the batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
8. Let cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then remove from the pan and cool on a wire rack.
9. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Why You Should Consider an Estate Insurance Policy

If you’re entering your later years, you might want to consider an Estate Insurance Policy. This type of policy can provide protection for your family and loved ones in the event of your death. Estate Insurance Policies are designed to ensure that your family will be financially secure in the event of your passing.

Financial Forum

With Collin Ludwar

LIVING

Frog Peak Cafe

Thank you for your continued support.

• panini’s
• pot pies
• fresh soups everyday
• fresh organic salads
• lots of goodies
• delicious gourmet coffees.

Winter Hours: Tuesday through Sunday 8 am to 4 pm.
Closed on Mondays. We will be closing in 2 weeks from January 15 to January 31 and be reopening Feb 1.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for the “ALFA” Guild Gallery in Nakusp, BC. Visual artists are invited to submit proposals for exhibitions. Submission requirements – description of proposed exhibit, CV or Biography, min. of 10 slides or photos which are labelled with artist’s name, title of work, medium dimensions and date made, and an artist’s statement. The Gallery will not show any works previously shown in this venue. Please include a SASE for a return of submission pac. Mail: ALFA Gallery Collection, ALFA Guild Society, Box 155, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Call Betty for more information at 226-7435.

THE SUPPER WAS GREAT AND WE HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME TOGETHER! THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

Gemm, Ann, Estelle, Ruth, and Iryl, and their families for the flowers. Thank you and the Arnold/Wanstall and Martin families for the flowers. Thank you and the people who mailed cards, food, fine wood, flowers, help and donations were overwhelming. We didn’t know we could even handle such a loss. Our family but with the wonderful support from all our friends and family we feel we have the strength to go on.

While everyone was so good to us we do need to mention some individual “thank you’s.” First of all “thank you” to our dear friends Darcy, and Ken, Doog and Dormaine, and John and John, Mo and Dave, and Trish and Colin for everything, and we meant it guys! To Heather, Braine and Jan for the “point of view” show. To Nicole, to Joyce and Vem and to “Rhonda and support gal” Wow! The supper was great and we appreciate it you are all so supportive! To Deb Guest, to all of the Nakusp Elementary School, Dorene and the “Lost Society” ladies for the tea. Thank you. To the bed and breakfast places that so kindly opened their doors to us: “thank you” Pat and Jan Dion. The Secret Inn. Ralph and Tammy Ditchett. The Coy Cabin. Jody and Brenda Scott. Sunset Ridge. Uelil and Willy Jabique – Frog’s Leap.

Thank you to Jennifer and Steve Marks from On The Marks Printing for the programs. Thank you to the Gordon families for their support and the Arnold/Wanstall and Martin families for the flowers. Thank you to the people, Gwinn, Joseph, Marilyn and others who paid tribute to Triniy by speaking so well. Thank you to Andrew Holden and Father Scott for the service. Thanks for the jokes, Andy! If we have missed anyone please know your kind thoughts and care have gotten us through this sadness and we thank all of you who have helped so much.

For a small community you picked in and made us so proud. From Doug, Brenda, Lake, Brjuy and Adam McQuair and Randi Nesbitt. We sincerely thank everyone who has supported us in the recent School Board elections. I am looking forward to the next three years on the School Board and will do my best to serve the residents of New Denver - Silverton as School Trustee. Lora Lee Broke

Many, many thanks to those who came to the Silverton International AIDS Day at the cenotaph in New Denver December 1 and to those who came to the Silverton Heritage Centennial BBQ afterwards for the jam session. Special thanks to all the musicians.

Ann Bunka

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Soup, Sandwiches & Desserts
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Mon - Sat
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Soup, Sandwiches & Desserts
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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION WINTERGURUDE—Should be in mailboxes before Christmas. Watch for it, SVRC 226-0008.

FOR INFORMATION ON MEETINGS in New Denver and adjacent towns, call Dave at 358-7265.

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Kay Costley White, 358-7791 or Lorna Obermayr, 358-7965
Scholarship triples for top high school grads

The Premier’s Excellence Awards, given each year to 15 top high school graduates who plan to continue their studies in British Columbia, have been increased from $5,000 to $15,000. The increase in the amount of the scholarships — the first since the program was created in 1986 — coincides with the 20th anniversary of the awards, which will be celebrated in January.

Leonard Booth was presented with a plaque and a blue cedar tree in appreciation of his service to the Village of Slocan from November 1998 to May 2005, when he retired.

Terry and Sylvia wish all of our customers a warm, happy and safe Christmas and a joyous New Year!