A shortage of paramedics in our area is becoming a concern. At Nakusp’s March 9 council meeting, council voted to send a letter to BC Ambulance Services (BCAS) to address full-time staff and the situation if the fire is out of control.

“The citizens had their last winter because it’s too big and one ambulance wasn’t enough,” said Nakusp councilor Tim Chalmers. “They were calling the paramedics to attend the fire, and another ambulance was covering.”

Nakusp councilor John Bickel, who is also the Skills Link program director, said that the lack of paramedics affects the entire community.

“The problem is that we attract wonderful people and they get their training at their own cost, and there’s not enough people to come into our community,” Bickel said.

MLA Corky Evans said, “The problem is that we attract wonderful people and they get their training at their own cost, and there’s not enough people to come into our community.”

Evans said that it’s not an issue isolated to New Denver and Nakusp, and that the problem is affecting communities throughout the province and across the country. Nakusp councilor Karen Hamling said that the ambulance service could be better coordinated in the area.

“We have to look at how we can get more paramedics into our area,” she said.

Evans said that the ambulance service could be better coordinated with other health care services. “The anomaly is that other health care services like seniors’ facilities, home care, doctors and hospitals are all administered by the币 Kootenay Boundary district of B.C., and the ambulance service is administered by the币 Kootenay Boundary district of B.C. We would like to attract more people to the community. We also like to get more paramedics working in the community.”

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Open house shows public support for Nakusp Hot Springs

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Nakusp hopes to have the hot springs opened up again by July, Mayor Hamling said at the recent council meeting.

“Just as long as everything goes smoothly, that date is doable,” said Village Manager Edie Horrey. “There’s also a bit of a Mahony money, adding that the job would be out to tender March 24.

Village officials and project manager Chris Fairbank of Fairbank Architects Ltd. were available to answer questions at an open house held March 15 in the arena hall.

Although people expressed concern about the cost of the work, in potential future benefits, and how the facility got into its current state, council came away with the message that people wanted the Village to go ahead with the project.

“Make sure we do it right this time and hurry up,” was the message Counsellor Geoff Roberts reported he got from the open house.

In order to re-open the facility, the Village is planning to borrow $37,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) and service the debt from future hot springs revenue, not tax money will be used for this first phase of work.

"Computer Broken?"

Call Ron at the Old Gery Ram 250-265-2163

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Area ‘H’ North TV Society

Thursday, March 30, 7 pm
Hidden Garden Gallery

Agenda will include the election of officers and discussion of a new TV channel.

All members are welcome.

Now is your opportunity to support your executive.

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines, artists, culture and heritage groups in the Columbia Basin to apply for project funding.

For a brochure outlining funding opportunities, call the OKCA: toll-free: 1-877-755-0325
email: wkcm@telus.net
info: www.okca.com
Deadlines: March 24 & April 7, 2006

COLUMBIA MAIN ERUPT!

Arts, Culture & Heritage Funding Programs 2006-2007

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Every Sunday 10AM

Causal Family Friendly Service
Nursery & Children's Programs
Mtn. Sentinel School Drama Room
“Milk” Weekends Group Tuesday 7pm Mt. Sentinel Library

Another stumbling block for Kaslo skatepark

by Jan McMurray

KASLO — The legal opinion is in and is favourable to the Vimy Park location for the skatepark. However, one more concern has come forward — the need for an archaeological Impact Assessment.

“It’s a go for once a last hurdle,” said Don Page of the skatepark committee in a telephone interview on March 11. “An archaeological review has been thrown at us, and we would like to pursue it now rather than later.”

Page said he had contacted the Kumsan Kuktsah Tribal Council on the issue and was waiting to hear back from them.

“If there were to be an archaeological review and it’s significant, it could delay us up to a year, so it’s a big deal,” explained Page.

The letter raising the concern was submitted to the Village office on March 3 and will be on council’s March 14 agenda.

Councillor Leathwood, in a telephone interview March 12, commented that the skatepark committee for looking into all of the community’s concerns.

“They really made an effort to try to answer all questions, cover all the bases and keep everybody happy — and their expense. I have to give them credit for that,” she said.

The legal issue was dealt with at a special meeting of council on March 7. Acting Mayor Susan Hewat read the letter from Village lawyers Stapples McIvandale Stewart stating their opinion that the Vimy Park location for the skatepark fits in with the Official Community Plan (OCP).

With that, in keeping with motions made at the February 21 meeting, council confirmed that construction can begin at the Vimy Park site, as long as all other permits and approvals are received and copies are submitted to the Village office.

Village staff was instructed to inform the committee and council of any other permits or approvals that may be necessary.

In the interview with Page on March 11, he gave an update on the permits and approvals and the committee has yet to obtain. He said that he had contacted the Ministry of Environment and is now waiting for a surveyor to come to the site.

“The Ministry of Environment and Land Use have said they don’t see a problem with the site, but they need to see the report and the site plan,” he said.

He added that he had yet to hear from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Page explained that the main issue for the surveyor was the elevation that the skatepark should be built at.

The February 28 council meeting, attended by approximately 35 youth in support of the Vimy Park location. Some people had the impression that the skatepark committee did not hire engineers/planners.

“That’s totally erroneous,” said Page. “We spent $15,000 for engineering plans and $1,500 to have an addendum for plumbing to mitigate against flooding. So we are prepared for that scenario. By hiring engineers, we’ll do away with the flooding concern. It’s thousands of dollars more expensive.”

He added that the elevation issue “does not affect the plans whatsoever.”

He said that Spectrum Skatepark Creations designed the skatepark and Fulton Engineering, an affiliate of Spectrum, did the engineering drawings. Council received the plans and the addendum and approved them about a year ago, he said.

Another issue cleared up at the February 26 council meeting was the possible alternate arena location for the skatepark.

Councillor Leathwood asked Mayor Holland to read an email dated February 20 from Phil Best of the Ministry of Transportation in Nelson, who says there would be “a magnitude of costs” to place a skatepark up by the arena. It would be necessary to install a sidewalk and a roadside barrier. The shoulder of the road would have to be widened; the ditch would have to be relocated; and slope would have to be reshaped to accommodate the barrier and sidewalk. The cost of the barrier and widening work would cost over $17,000. The Ministry had no budget for that.

“I feel like we have said they don’t see a problem with the skatepark up by the arena. It would be necessary to install a sidewalk and a roadside barrier. The shoulder of the road would have to be widened; the ditch would have to be relocated; and slope would have to be reshaped to accommodate the barrier and sidewalk. The cost of the barrier and widening work would cost over $17,000. The Ministry had no budget for that. The cost would have to be borne by the Village.

The Ministry was not supportive of the arena location because it would place children adjacent to a highway; would result in reduced safety on the highway, and would result in increased “riding” on the highway and increased maintenance costs (snow plowing and clearing).

In February 2004, council accepted the Vimy Park location. At that time, there were petitions for (about 500 signatures) and against (about 100 signatures) the location. Other locations for the skatepark were also considered, and rejected for safety reasons.

The future of Jumbo Valley is still being debated

The future of Jumbo Valley is still being debated, and now the regional district directors have decided to give East Kootenay residents a say in the decision. In a near-unanimous vote March 3, directors chose not to give the final decision on the proposed resort to the province.

Jumbo Glacier Resort, the company which wants to build a massive resort in the valley, had petitioned the board to “eliminate another costly, redundant and time-consuming regulatory process” by allowing the province to make the decision, however, directors rejected the motion.

Opponents of the resort say local residents can now have their opinions and concerns heard and participate in the decision-making process.

Even small ads get noticed in The Valley Voice

March 15, 2006

The Valley Voice
Giving children choices in rural schools.

Like most parents, I grumble about the school system quite a bit. I know that my parents did as well. My complaints, like theirs, tend to revolve around the lack of choices in education. My father would complain that he never had the opportunity to study music. My mother was at the notion of Language Arts, whatever happened to English, and why didn’t they teach grammar? What’s this Social Studies? And what connection has it to History and Geography?

That said, I had many more things in my elementary school than they did in their childhood schools. There was a large, fully stocked library with full-time librarian and two assistants. We had art and music teachers who remained with the same class for a year or more. We had larger classes, it’s true, but we learned to help each other through.

For me, the biggest failure in our rural public schools has been our lack of commitment to funding our schools. We feel it is a worthy issue, has never been an issue in rural British Columbia. I have always been more concerned that my children have the opportunity to explore a variety of ways of expressing themselves: through writing, music, art and math. That they have a basic knowledge of history, geography and literature, so that they can participate in society. That they learn to think critically.

Obviously, there are financial constraints placed on small rural schools by the funding formula of the provincial government. We can’t offer the range of educational choices through our schools, as they can in more densely populated areas of the province. We don’t have enough students, despite the music and the sport teams. We can’t hire full-time librarians. Don’t even think about a drama program.

If the government of the province has decided to withhold this kind of education from our children, they ought to make fewer demands on the artists and action to step into the breach. But they don’t. The arts, and art education in particular, has always been a low priority for government. It’s a shame, because in a post-industrial economy the work of artists will become more valuable than it has ever been. It is our cultural industries that will dominate the economy in the 21st century. Of course class sizes play a role in educational outcomes for children. But the answer is not to cut funds. Without the chance to explore a variety of forms of expression, they may never find their passion.

Kaslo Jazz Etc. provides clarification

I would like to contact Mr. Bainbridge’s account about the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society (KJES) in this letter. “Meeting a circus,” published in the March edition of The Valley Voice. First, although Jim Holland did establish the Kaslo Jazz etc. Festival and was president of the board for 11 years, he stepped off the board this past year to become an employee of the KJES board. As an employee, he carries out the policies which are decided upon by the board, not the other way around. Second, KJES has no intentions of using any part of the Van Parys purchase for any festivals. The first festival at the Kaslo Bay Park was in 2008; it was totally satisfied with the present size of the festival and its ability to help with the large annual festivals that are a world class venue at Kaslo Bay Park. Kaslo Jazz etc. Society Board and Dani Calhoun (Artistic Director KJES, Past President of the Board of KJES)

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 libelous or offensive, news releases or press releases. A bi-weekly newsletter, and e-mail 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.

Open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

How many have to die before the “resolve” is broken? 2000? 200? The rate Canadian soldiers are being killed in the war in Afghanistan will be dead by Christmas! Will that be enough or will you send more? 

I want to clear the air. My “resolve” is broken! This is not peacekeeping. This is suicide.

Leon Prindiville
Edgewood
Skatepark location should be carefully considered

As present taxpayer and future resident, I find this topic most interesting and certainly understand the potential divisive nature of it.

Two questions must be asked: 1. Must the skatepark be built? The answer is most definitely! All the proponents of a skatepark point to this merit the best skatepark board available. Certainly the kids who will be using it, both present and future, also deserve a real fun place as well.

2. Must the skatepark be built on the beach? The answer is a resounding yes! Provided of course, that no other land is available, suitable for this type of structure.

We have seen the beach and its environments several times over the past two years, and are awestruck by its beauty. Have some of you become so immune to the serenity this unique parcel of land affords to all the thousands who come, and will come, that you now want to sacrifice it to please a few? I’m sorry, but the logic of that thinking escapes me. You can always build on the beach, but remember this once built, you cannot restore the classic beauty that it now possesses.

And forth you this will impact all of the others. While you may feel this heritage for your future generations as well.

Who would now ask all of you to consider carefully the location of the skatepark; build it for the benefit and pleasure of all people - not just a select group.

Arnold and Helga Dyck
Kaslo/Calgary

Government should deliver what students deserve

It was dimming to see the vast army of the BC Liberal Party was local in places on March 1, 2006. The ad, which ran in community newspapers across the province, was titled “Parents want the facts on class size: the facts on declining class size”.

So what are the facts on declining class size? When I look at the facts, I see that the number of grades are essentially the same as those given out by the SD10 Superintendent of Schools at the October 25, 2005 board meeting.

The only real change since then is that a new 20 million province wide, devoted to class size and composition. School District #10’s share of this funding was a mere 5%

Teachers are gratified by the high level of public support for firm class size limits and support for students with special needs. But we’re growing increasingly worried that the government appears more willing to talk around the issues than solve them. An expensive advertising campaign and yet another round of “facts and figures” to provide students with the support and attention they need in order to succeed.

It’s time for the government to deliver the firm and lasting learning guarantees that students deserve.

Henning von Krogh
Arrow Lakes Teachers’ Association

Skatepark proponents flout the law

To concur with Jane Lynch’s letter published March 1 in The Valley Voice regarding the Kaslo skatepark “go ahead and build it,” is perfectly correct about the mis-information, lack of information and undermining procedures taking place with respect to the location of the proposed skatepark.

It is appalling how breaking the laws that are already in place and contributing to the economy of the Village.

Where does the interest of the taxpayers of Kaslo have a voice? Many do not see the maintenance and upkeep of the 10,000 sq. ft. concrete skatepark on a floodplain as a wonderful thing for the Village. The size of this plan grew from 200 sq. ft. two years ago, as a park for the youth of Kaslo, to its current 10,000 sq. ft. to attract world class boarders. Does the Village tax base have the means to support this? As Jane Lynch stated in her letter, Council has other “big ticket” decisions proposals on the plate.

Who is going to explain to the local and rural youth that the actions (faction) of the previous mayor were as inappropriate as the children’s placid wave building behaviour in the Village council meeting of February 28? To hold the current council responsible for the decisions of the previous mayor’s office is a very regressive step for the skatepark concept.

Are the youth of today being taught that not following through on long last 90 days of life, one must question why our elders are being treated like road kill. We all know the law is broken! This is not peacekeeping. Shame on the adults who publicly bash the elected official operating within the law.

C. Boulianne

Essence of the underworld

There are concerns about the quality of life as we dive deeply into the meaning of death. When 80% of the money is spent on health care during the last 90 days of life, one must question why our elders are being treated like road kill. We all know the law is broken! This is not peacekeeping. Shame on the adults who publicly bash the elected official operating within the law.

In 1991, the FDA made plans to try to destroy the alternative health industry, making constant public costs to the consumer. They did not succeed. Now they want to destroy the alternative health movement. Yet studies are proving that the mind and emotions are a major factor in physical disease thus the alternative healing movement is able to successfully fight the medical establishment. And now we are experiencing the order of control structures becoming barbaric only because we are finally discovering how to cure the ailments we want. It is therefore hopeful that someday we will be living with a beautiful blend of ailments and healthy. In the meantime, the erratic weather and earth changes are the result of the violent and controlling patriarchal mind; hopefully they will examine their own thought patterns for completeness that destroy Earth. We must move beyond the physical trap of fear to access other dimensions in order to feel the focal point of consciousness organized in an energetic system. At the same time moving beyond the myth that we are all sinners in need of redemption so we only need to forgive ourselves for playing the game of duality, forgetting that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. And now to know how to live in harmony with the wisdom and the higher self.

Jan R. Nicholson
Kaslo
IH needs to engage communities in health system

In the recent municipal master plan, the BHA revealed their media release on the Albo case on a Friday morning, February 10. The release was written by Alison Pane, chief HBA spinster, who when everyone is sipping their coffee in the coffee shop, quietly goes about her business and doothes the wheel of health for the unfortunate Albo family.

With the recent Woffenden@McHoon recommendations of the internal review is published at www.ruralhealth.bc.ca, but not the full report.

Without the context of a report, it is extremely difficult for the criterion for the recommendations. However, as expected the recommendations are tied with principles and policies. No blame is mentioned or any outcry of responsibility delivered.

In particular, the lack of acknowledgment resembling person language is mentioned. The closest term is to "suggestions to restore the Kaslo..." or "case needs," i.e. "1.2. recommendations are rife with..."

The workshop was called "Designing a theme for how..." and must conform to the goals and objectives of the..."

The Slocan's winter tourism consists of cross-country oriented ski lodges for alpine touring and one local ski hill. How about several affordable, family-friendly ski areas, perhaps tied by horse-pulled sleighs, dog sleds, skis, or skis? How about co-operatives of local groups? Running a sled dog race, running a ski race in the xc ski race or take a winter survival course.

Some may be wondering about ski doo activities, but so many other areas already have well established service providers.readers may be won over by the new public relations initiative.

Kip Drobish
Hills/Kila, Montana

Nakusp and Definded Area K
Call for Project Submissions

Community Initiatives Funding Program

Nakusp and Definded Area K (Idler Road North to Nakusp, Tap of Summit Sils and Nakusp Hot Springs) is accepting applications for funding of public initiatives for the next fiscal year. Applications for new initiatives or the enhancement of existing programs will be accepted. The purpose of this funding is to provide funding for projects and objectives of the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

Application packages are available at the Village of Nakusp (38020 2nd St, NW, Nakusp, BC) or online at www.rbc.ca

Completed Applications must be submitted no later than March 1, 2007.

Office: Box 220, 911 St. NW, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0 or the Post Office: Box 230, 911 St. NW, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0.

For more information, please contact Trish Gaidack, RDCG, Phone: 1-800-268-7325 or 250-352-8190 Fax: 250-352-8190

A Public Meeting to receive submissions will be held as follows:

Date: Sunday May 7, 2006
Time: 12 - 4 pm
Place: Nakusp Arena Auditorium (Presentations at 12:00pm, Voting between 1-4pm)

Nakusp and Definded Area K
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New Denver council, February 28: Two delegations attend
by Michael Dorsey and Leah Main

Mayor Welch spoke on behalf of the May Days Committee about this year’s festivities, and requested Village financial support. Since council has no Grant-In-Aid monies this year, it suggested that the committee apply for CBT grants. Mayor Wright also pointed out that the Village makes in-kind contributions, Welch asked that the Village consider budgeting some extra money for 2007, which will be the 100th year anniversary of May Days in New Denver.

At last Thursday’s meeting, the council received a letter and presentation regarding garbage issues, and brought forward the perspective that we all as a community need to manage change. Mayor Welch suggested “principles for sustainable community growth” as outlined by SmartGrowth BC in the development of the Official Community Plan (OCP), and suggested imposing a higher taxation level for non-Community Plan (OCP), and suggested BC "in the development of the Official Community Plan (OCP), and suggested imposing a higher taxation level for non-

SUGGESTIONS FOR SLOCAN VALLEY COMUNITY SERVICES

The Valley Voice

APRIL 4TH, 7 TO 9:00 PM

ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS INVITED!

Conversation with New Denver Mayor and RDCK chair, Gary Wright:

What is the official community plan (OCP)? What are the current housing by-laws in New Denver?

KNOX HALL • NEW DENVER

With tea and treats

APRIL 4TH, 7 TO 9:00 PM

This community meeting thanks too: Interior Health Healthy Living Grant, Circle of Habonia and the Healthy Housing Committee.

The Valley Voice March 15, 2006
SLOCAN VALLEY

by Jan McMurray

Lavan said there is a possibility that customers will not need to light a fire to the wood chopper, as it is as safe as a toaster. The hotel's service is being enhanced, according to Lavan, and the hotel's six-segment lines are under the property. Mayor MacLellan explained that the fire department is planning to buy two fire engines. The meeting closed with a recommendation to create a budget item in next year's budget. The new budget will be considered at the next meeting.

Slocan Council meets: March 8

• Works Foreman Jerry Simmonds reported that work is progressing on the new boat ramps. The work is expected to be completed by the end of June. Three boat ramps will be in place, and a floating barrier will be installed.

• Council supported a proposal by councillor Mark Soper to apply for grants from UBCM for the development of community trails. The application will identify the trail layout, the estimated cost, and the route of the trail. The application will be submitted to the UBCM planning and development committee.

• A letter from Peggy Ingram, requesting a response from councillor to her February 16th application for a second water connection for a proposed subdivision at 8832 Slocan West Road, was read. Works Foreman Simmonds said that there was a slight delay in the installation of the water connection, but the work is expected to be completed soon.

• A letter from Jean Charette, a resident of the Slocan Valley, was read. Charette thanked the council for their support in his snowmobiling trip in 1984 to Etienne Blanchard, owner of Loiselle Sports and Ski-Doo dealer, in Quebec. Charette's group had their snowmobiles stolen, and he was unable to make this trip since he met me in 1984," said Fisher. "This is the crown glory of 40 years of snowmobiling." Fisher expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to appear at the end of the line in Morrisburg on February 25, Fisher presented the letter in hand in hand to the council members. The letter stated that the vehicle, which was left at the end of the line, had been destroyed by the snowmobiles. The letter then went to the council members. The letter then went to the council members.

• Council directed administration to assess the feasibility of creating an access point or point of service outside the village at this time, an application for water be made. Simmonds said that there was a slight delay in the installation of the water connection, but the work is expected to be completed soon.

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SmartGrowth precipitates

by Jan McMurray

Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC has visited both Kaslo and Silverton to speak about planning for sustainability and livability in our communities.

It seems that two of his messages have been taken to heart. Kaslo residents have acted on his suggestion; they have been taken to heart. Kaslo communities.

Kaslo Mayor Gary Weirig will speak about the Village’s Official Community Plan (OCP) and bylaws. Lancaster stressed the importance of adopting a “supportive local policy environment” to implement SmartGrowth principles into community growth and development.

He explained that local policy should be a community’s OCP, which directs the community’s bylaws. He said that removing regulatory barriers to SmartGrowth principles was key.

SmartGrowth principles “enhance the quality of life; protect the environment, conserve finite developable land and use tax incentives wisely for the benefit of all,” he said.

To get people together to start talking about planning, Lancaster recommended a community organization that would act as a clearing house for planning issues before taking them to local government.

“Our Future Leaders Need You!

Are you currently caring for children in your home? Would you like to care for children in your home?

Child Care Resource and Referral Programs (CCRR) are looking for suitable, compassionate caregivers to provide quality home-based child care.

By registering with a CCRR you will have access to:

- increased subsidy rates
- toy and resource lending library
- workshops and networking meetings
- support
- newsletters
- a professional child care community
- start up funds
- and so much more!

If you live in Nakusp, Kaslo, Salmo or Points in between call: Nelson CCRR 1-250-352-6678 Or 1-800-223-8966 www.childcarechoices.ca

The CCRR recognizes and supports the invaluable service that caregivers provide!

Local sculptor shares China experience

by Jan McMurray

Fujibayashi, internationally known sculptor from Nakusp, was in China last fall to attend two sculpture symposiums.

He stayed in China for two months and was based in Beijing, where he worked with two Chinese sculptor friends he had met at the Okanagan/Thompson International Sculpture Symposium. He travelled to the city of Penglai to participate in a steel sculpture symposium and to the city of Tai’anzhou, where he sculpted a steel sculpture at the symposium there.

“I would go back in a New York minute,” said Fujibayashi. The reception was tremendous, and the respect for sculptors and their work was incredibly inspirational for me.”

In Penglai, Fujibayashi’s three-metre-tall steel sculpture, a symbol of world peace, is on display. At this symposium, there were 15 Chinese sculptors, and one each from Australia, England, Russia and, of course, our own Tom Fujibayashi from Canada. At the Tai’anzhou symposium, Fujibayashi joined:

FLIKS brings Why We Fight to the Kootenays

Why We Fight. Grand Jury Prize winner at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, is an unflinching look at the anatomy of our war machine, weaving unforgettable personal stories with commentary by a who’s who of military and illegitimates. Featuring John McCain, Gort Vidal, Willm Kristol, Chalater Johnson, Richard Perle and others, Why We Fight launches a bipartisan inquiry into the workings of the military industrial complex and the rise of the American Empire.

Inspired by Dwight Eisenhower’s legendary farewell speech (in which he coined the phrase “military industrial complex”), the film surveys the scorched landscape of a half-century’s military adventures and concludes that nation has become a system whose survival depends on a state of constant war.

The film moves beyond the headlines of various American military operations to the deeper questions of why—why does America fight? What are the forces—political, economic, ideological—that drive them against an ever-changing enemy?

“Today, with our troops engaged in Iraq and elsewhere for reasons far less clear, I think it’s crucial to ask the questions: ‘Why are we doing what we are doing?’ What is it doing to others? And what is it doing to us?”—director Eugene Jarecki.

For more info, and to view the trailer go to www.FLIKSc.org, or call 1-503-797-0141.

New Denver credit union manager Shelley Welch (right) hands Lane Haywood a 411 Kootenay St. Nelson 354-4722

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Our Future Leaders Need You!

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The CCRR recognizes and supports the invaluable service that caregivers provide!

The Valley Voice

March 15, 2006

This is exactly what Kaslo has done. In the works is the registration of a non-profit society called Kaslo and Area Residents’ Association (KARA). It’s purpose will be “to preserve and enhance the livability and quality of life in Kaslo and Area D.”

Tinus Mei-jen Drines is one of the local citizens organizing the group. “We will embrace the idea of SmartGrowth in that good planning leads to a better environment,” she said. “We can’t speak growth, so plan for sustainable growth. We may as well do it wisely. I have realized how planning raises people’s fears, so we need to be aware of that, but planning is the essence.”

She says the society will liaise with Kaslo council, Area D Director Andy Shadrack and any other governmental or non-governmental body or individuals that would like to action behalf of Kaslo and Area D residents in a non-partisan fashion.

SmartGrowth BC is a non-profit organization that helps communities plan for sustainable growth.

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Social co-ops present a viable alternative

by Julia Greenlaw

Cheryl Hewitt of the BC Co-operative Association visited our area in February to share information about social co-ops. She gave her presentation in Slocan and in Kaslo.

A social co-op is a co-op that offers a social service, as opposed to a marketing or commodity-based co-op. Social co-ops are either community service co-ops that manage social welfare, health and educational services, or employment or education training co-ops that undertake commercial or social activities with the purpose of integrating disadvantaged persons into the community and economy.

Hewitt showed the film “Civilizing the Economy: Social Co-ops and Social Care.” The film described social co-ops, their benefits while offering a superior service with continuity of care to their clients.

Members of social co-ops see themselves as empowered and satisfied to make their own decisions about how to run a social co-op. The employee shareholders were all happy to have a say in the design of the work and ongoing decision making. They were able to keep jobs in their own community and maximize wages and benefits while developing a sustainable alternative community service.

Another social co-op, Bologna, offers mental care and occupational training to the physically and mentally disabled. The secretarial services provided by the co-op now serve different businesses.

Currently in BC there is limited government support for co-operatives and our health care and education systems are more and more centralized. With increased pressure to privatize many of our public services, social co-ops represent a truly viable and accountable alternative.

For more information on the BC Co-operative Association, contact Cheryl Hewitt at c_hewitt@bcca.coop or 604-662-9066. The video is also available for viewing locally by calling 358-7198.

The Lucerne Parent Advisory Council (PAC) decided early in the year that it wanted to promote healthy eating at the school, so PAC provided funding and Pati Sebben’s Foods classes have been providing a weekly lunching snack for free or hot lunch for $2.

“Patti is doing such a great job — she deserves to be recognized.”

Sebben says the lunch program has become more and more popular, growing from 40 to 400. The first time to over 600 meals is served the Friday before March break.

When her students return after the break, they will be busy completing their FoodSafe certification. The lunch program will resume April 21.

And this is TRUE — COWPUCCINO is moving indoors at a new location with takeout sweets & treats and longer hours.

Ph. 226-7266

RUMOR MILL

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR!

#1 Our Laundry Service is still up & running - with 35 minute wash and 1 hour dry. - Look for our new hours of operation.

#2 We are still the most “Fully equipped Automotive Shop” in the Valley Open Monday-Saturday.

#3 And the UDDER Rumor - Yes, we now own & operate the COWPUCCINO!

And this is TRUE — COWPUCCINO is moving indoors at a new location with takeout sweets & treats and longer hours.

COMMUNITY

Healthy eating promoted at Lucerne School in New Denver

The two Foods classes at Lucerne School have been providing students with delicious and nutritious snacks and lunches for extremely affordable prices.

The Lucerne Parent Advisory Council (PAC) decided early in the year that it wanted to promote healthy eating at the school, so PAC provided funding and Pati Sebben’s Foods classes have been providing a weekly noon-time snack for free or hot lunch for $2.

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Rumor - Yes, we now own & operate the “Fully equipped Automotive Shop” in the Valley Open Monday-Saturday.

EXPERIENCED TREE PLANTERS

LOCAL PLANTERS NEEDED

WORK IN THE SLOCAN VALLEY & NAKUSP

10 WEEKS OF WORK

APRIL TO JULY

CALL 226-7611

Evergreen Forest Services
P.O. Box 100, Slocan Park, B.C., V0G 2E0
Ph.: (250) 226-7611 Fax: (250) 226-7374
Email: egn@netidea.com

New Service Transit

Central Kootenay Transit

Health Connections offers you transportation options and increases your access to medical appointments. Customers with medical appointments have priority over customers who will be traveling for shopping only.

Please phone to book your seat.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY Nakusp to Nelson

The bus leaves Nakusp at 8:35am, Slocan at 9:45, arriving in Nelson at 11:05am. The return trip leaves Nelson at 3:30pm, arriving in Nakusp at 6:10.

WEDNESDAY Kaslo Area - Balfour - Nelson

The bus leaves Kaslo at 7:20am, Balfour at 7:53, arriving in Nelson at 8:35. The return trip leaves Nelson at 3:15pm, arriving in Kaslo at 4:40.

THURSDAY Argenta - Nelson - Trail

The bus leaves Argenta at 7:15am, Nelson at 10:15, arriving in Trail at 11:45. The return trip leaves Trail at 3:16pm, arriving in Argenta at 7:30.

Visit www.busonline.ca and check your transit system information needs under Nelson, Slocan Valley or Kootenay Boundary.

Health Connections... linking communities and healthcare.

Contact: 226-7266
Nakusp council, March 9: BC Hydro wants to delay boat launch maintenance

by Jan McMurray

Council did a roundtable on each member’s impressions of the March 7 council meeting, March 9. At the suggestion of the Village of Fruitvale, council voted to send letters protesting any hydro rate hikes for the valley to the BC Utilities Commission, the Pinnacle, Fortis BC and BC Hydro.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

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 to programs and workshops, and notification of current programming. If you or someone you know is interested in giving us your feedback, please call either Nancy or Julia at 265-3734.

The month of March is known as the ‘blooms’ in the valley. It’s also famous for cabin fever, slush and getting a case of the blahs. The folks in Edgewood have been cooking up a diversion from the inevitable doldrums. A call for entry is Friday, March 24. For all other Programs, deadline is Friday, April 7.

The folks in Edgewood are planning a Grand Re-opening event for the hot springs. The village group is planning a Grand Re-opening event for the hot springs, and future hot springs development. The group had met with Ministry of Forest and Area Co-operative Marketing had informed the Village it will ask for more funds for the project.

Beat the March blahs at Carol’s Garden Café

Put on your Spring colors and come down for a visual feast. This event for the hot springs.

Grant applications due for arts funding

Grant applications from individual artists as well as arts, culture and heritage groups or organizations within the Columbia Basin, are now being accepted by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance for the 2006/07 funding cycle. A descriptive brochure outlining eight CBT Funding programs and eligibility criteria is available upon request. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council (ALAC) says that eligible individuals or groups in Nakusp and district should submit grant applications for programs one and two (project and minor capital project funding) directly to ALAC at Box 985, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0.

Program one funding is designed to support new initiatives and is not available for capital, regular operating or existing deficits. CKCA may consider funding the same project for a maximum of two years, but does not fund projects retroactively.

Program two funding is available for renovations, equipment (lighting sound), upgrading or initiating facilities, or acoustical improvements.

Nakusp, March 9: BC Hydro wants to delay boat launch maintenance

The council approved a performance appraisal for Tim Brown, the Water Comptroller. The policy regarding expenses while at conferences was amended. The mileage rate was raised to 50 cents per kilometre, and the per diem rate for meals bought on the Lower Mainland was increased.

The RDCK sent a letter off to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General encouraging the Office of the Fire Commissioner to continue with the previous level of support.

Council voted to support the Nakusp Music Fest by advertising the same amount it did last year.

Diane Horning of Nakusp won Curl BC’s Male Athlete of the Year award. Dave Hogge, President of the Trail Curling Club, presented Horning with the award on February 25 at the BC Winter Games. Horning was also handling out awards at the Games in Trail, to winning curling teams.

The RDCK regarding policing costs - that these not be imposed unless other sources of the venue except taxation were provided to recover the costs. She also reported that Justamee contracting out of Burton was awarded a five-year contract for the operation and maintenance of the Nakusp landfill.

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**COMMUNITY**

**Knapweed night at the Vallican Whole**

by Eliza Moir

Summer’s coming and you’d like to get the knapweed under control, right? Well, taking over the pasture and road allowance, and it’s too widespread to do by hand.

Juliet Craig, co-ordinator for the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, will talk about mechanical and biological controls for knapweed and other noxious invasive plants on Thursday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

Once established, spotted knapweed is very difficult to get rid of. Prevention is the best control, and maintaining areas not infested as needed. Moving or otherwise controlling plants anywhere they can be easily spread, such as along a driveway or roadbed, is also important to reduce spread.

Biological control is another method of controlling noxious weeds and is considered a sustainable approach.

Free and confidential help with completing and filing tax forms

Submitted by Marilyn Boxwell

Need free and confidential help in completing and filing your tax return?

Recognizing the importance of each individual to file a return as consistently as possible prior to the April 30 deadline, the Community Volunteer Income Tax (CVI) programs continues to DOShelli locally as well as throughout Canada.

In February of this year, four local residents received training and updated information regarding 2005 medical expenses/travel deduction as residents received training and updates on the program.

The trained volunteers have pledged the following:

- to respect the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- to protect the client’s privacy;
- to decline any offers of monetary reward for services;
- to return the completed income tax and benefit return and any other personal documents to the client;
- to make every effort to assist the Revenue Canada contact person for help in dealing with problems or questions which we cannot answer immediately;
- to promptly report any unusual incidents to the Revenue Canada contact person;
- to obtain proper authorization before using equipment, materials or facilities that the Crown purchases, uses, leases or owns.

While a majority of our clients do not have electronic service, we are offered to adults of any age, who meet the income ceiling criteria or other specific restrictions as determined by Revenue Canada. We will also do our best to accommodate shut-ins and persons experiencing transportation problems.

For more information concerning the CVI program, to arrange an appointment, to have your tax package processed, or to obtain details of when a volunteer will be available, you should contact Marilyn Boxwell at 265-0800.

Ballad is our co-ordinator for Revenue Canada’s community volunteer tax program.

Vallican Whole coffee house

The stage is set and the mood is right and it’s time to get ready for an enchanting evening of music, delicious Indian meals and decadent desserts.

The Vallican Whole School’s annual coffee house takes place Saturday, April 8, with the proceeds going to support our community school. From 5:30 on you can enjoy the music of local musicians and a fantastic silent auction.

The auction ends at 9pm and music goes to 10:00 or beyond. There will be coffee and tea for those who want it, for $2 per child. Admission is $5 for adults. People are welcome to bring whatever they wish so come on out and enjoy.

Need a new Computer?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn 250-265-2163


**Communities**

**Knapweed (Centaurea maculosa) in the Kootenays since the 1990s. It involves the use of predation (usually insects) that attack knapweed and other plant species. Current biocontrol agents for knapweed include seedhead-attacking weevils and flies, and root-attacking weeds and moths.

New Denver Seed Swap

The GRUBS, a north Kootenay Valley gardening club, hosts a community seed swap on Saturday, March 26 from 3 till 4 pm at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver.

Seed swaps are a great way to get into the gardening season by sharing locally adapted seeds. Heirloom local is a term we all are familiar with from our Kootenay heritage that are difficult to find in stores. Exchanging seeds encourages more seed saving and self-sufficiency in our region.

So come down to the Hidden Garden on the 26th, whether you have surplus seed or not. We welcome all kinds of seeds (flower, veggie, herb, etc.) and will supply some bowls for display and envelopes, but mostly we want to make this an annual event.

 Amita Turner of Kaslo wins in provincial hockey tournament

Submitted by Wanda Turner

The BC Outback AAA senior women’s team won the provincial tournament in Golden March 5, beating the Pacific Steelers 5-2. Now they’re on to Brandon, Ontario for one of the world’s largest women’s hockey tournaments April 12-17.

The team is made up of talented young women from around the Kootenays. Oakaan, gcarhtoo and Northern BC. Amita Turner from Kaslo was one of 20 people who tried out for the Outback team in March. During the season the women travelled to Vancouver, Edmonton and many stops in between for games and tournaments. They also had weekends set aside for practices, showing low of dedication and determination which paid off for them.

Ministry of Forests

**TIMBER SALE LICENCE A77732**

Pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, a Timber Sale licence is being offered for sale.

Closing Date: March 23, 2006 at 11:00 A.M. (LOCAL TIME)

BC Timber Sales Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC.

Geographic Location: Limpid Creek, located approximately 40 km southwest from Salmo, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District

Estimated Volume: 37,796 cubic metres, more or less

Upset Stumpage Rate: $12.61 / cubic metre

Term: 2 (two) years

Estimated Species / Volume: Grand fir 18,373 m3, Lodgepole pine 6,477 m3, Bigtooth aspen 4,477 m3. Douglas-fir 3,877 m3, Balsam 2,558 m3, White spruce 1,275 m3, Lodgepole pine 3,359 m3, Spruce 168 m3.

The upset stumpage rate was determined by Variable Rate Calculation. The Bonus Bid applies to alloulos sawing grades (including G1).

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Business Area

Tenders must be submitted on forms supplied by the Ministry. The bids must be submitted to the Ministry of Forests, North Kootenay Business Area, Box 160, New Denver, BC. Tenders must be received by 12:00 noon MARCH 23, 2006.

The lowest tenderer will be selected in accordance with the Forest Act and the Forest Licence Agreement.

This licence is subject to, among other things, Take or Pay Waste Billing and the Take or Pay Indemnity Agreement.

Comments: Harvesting method is clearcut with reserves, utilizing a combination of ground-based equipment and overhead cable-yarding equipment. The licensee will be required to construct approximately 3.7 km of permanent and temporary roads within the timber sale area.

This licence is subject to, among other things, Take or Pay Waste Billing requirements, new maximum terms limits and exclusion and for surrender provisions. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the impact of these changes when formulating their bids. Further information on these changes may be found in Advisory Bulletin 04-29.4.

Tenders will be fixed for the duration of the licence term and for the duration of any extension to that term.

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Kaslo council, February 28: Two delegations speak on skatepark location

by Jill Brayle

There was clearly not enough room in the Village council chambers to accommodate the six people who attended this council meeting. About 35 of Kaslo’s youth, with posters in tow, held a quiet demonstration in support of a skatepark to be located off of D Avenue in Virny Park.

There were two delegations on the issue. Teresa May spoke about the responsibility of council to act with due diligence on the matter. She said she had contacted the Ministry of the Environment and was advised that no permits or applications had been taken out for a skatepark.

Councillor Howat responded that the skatepark committee was not in a position to apply for permits until it had received permission from council to proceed.

The other delegation was Don Page of the skatepark committee, along with ex-councillor Jacqui Murdock. They spoke in favor of the skatepark location in Virny Park.

Councillor Read named several members from the public regarding the deliberations, most against the Virny Park location.

Councillor Leathwood asked Mayor Holland to read an email dated February 20 from Phil Best of the Kaslo Bay Park. The letter explains that the skatepark committee, along with Jill Braley, who outlines the costs and safety issues for consideration. They also request that the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society be referred to the City Hall by the Langham Miracle. Certified Lunatic and Master of his craft, Kubínek deserves the title of "Physical Poet" among the unbelievably bad magic, missing finger tricks, and absurd acrobatics, Kubínek deserves the title "Physical Poet." His comments were referred to both the Planning & Development and City Hall Conservation Committees for recommendation to council.

“Council received a memo from Public Works Foreman Rob Lang regarding the potential construction and expansion of the Kaslo skatepark. Expansion included adding onto the building and installing the third floor, which would increase the Village’s waterfront supply.

However, the memo also says that certain deficiencies in building design and labors need to be addressed, and that Interior Health has requested certain changes to the plan to comply with the operating permit.

Lang said that Councilor Rich Jones and Randy Ranrico of Lightborne Systems had compiled a list of items that should be included before Westech Engineers in March to bring the third floor online. The cost of these improvements is $55,000, with a 10% contingency built in. The money to pay for these improvements is in a reserve account earmarked for waterworks improvements.

Council authorized waterfront construction to proceed to a maximum cost of $30,000 including amenities, bear proof tin, plaques, interpretation panels, and a hand-held scanner to allow visitors to the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society with the trail map and budget.

The Kaslo Golf Club wrote to council requesting approval of a Development Variance Permit to allow construction of a golf course clubhouse. They would like to reduce the setback from the front property line, laying south and east of Highway 31, from 24.6 feet to 5 feet. Anode of council’s intention is to consider the permit will be sent out to all affected properties.

The Kaslo Inlet Echo Society is the Village’s third request for the $20,000 in grant monies for a fire station in Kaslo Bay Park. The letter explains that the society “understood some fairly major improvements to the park has asked the Village to have these expenses assessed against the community,” but that it has not received a reply. The society asks again for this, justifying with the huge benefit the Jazz Festival brings to the local economy and the "very small cash cost applied against the town," the letter demanded and asked once again that the account be paid. Mayor Holland referred the request to the City Hall building committee to restore the City Hall building. His letter was referred to the City Hall building committee for recommendation to council.

Council granted permission to the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society to remove a beachside hattered shed into the first floor bathroom area of the Village Hall.

The front entrance stairs to the Village Hall will be painted with non-skid in 2006.

Kaslo Public Library “gets the program”

by Rachael Adams

The ABCs of the Kaslo Public Library (KPL) have been updated. Now, A is for Automation, B is for Budget and C is for Computerized Card System.

The KPL has a brand new budget to play with. At a special meeting of council on February 26, the request to increase the KPL’s budget for this area was approved, making possible some changes to an old system.

The KPL is in the process of becoming fully automated to serve the community better and faster. A hand-held scanner is replacing the manual system and late fees are tracked by computer.

Librarian Deborah Barrett is pleased and eager to embrace the new system, despite the time it has taken to get it going. The fund for automating the library system was approved last year but the request for the money fell through the cracks between the library board and the Village of Kaslo.

It has just been a few years that all Kaslo’ers have been able to enter the database, “says Barrett, “so it’s far too slow functioning.” Also of concern is the number of the wages paid to Barrett. The hourly wage paid to her was considered the lowest around when the job requires, so an increase has been approved, bringing her closer to the lower standard for librarians. This, according to Area DD Director Andy Shadrick, is a justified wage rise.

The Kaslo Public Library, in my opinion, the most under-funded library in the region’s district. We are making great step towards changing that,” says Shadrick. “If people work for the community, they should be paid some sort of living wage.”

The KPL has also received a Provincial Grant, which will help fund new library programs and purchase new materials. A new collection of graphic novels and a story time program are examples of how the grant money is being spent. The grant has allowed for a weekly story time every Saturday until March. Children between 3-5 will once again be asked to attend the session this Saturday from 11-12.

Just how much will all this cost taxpayers? Nothing, Barrett says, but that will change in a few years. As it stands now, the library is just now starting to be a real asset.

“We are looking into starting some special services for people who have problems getting to the library,” says Barrett.

Just how much will all this cost taxpayers? Nothing, Barrett says, but that will change by the end of the year. As it stands now, the library is just now starting to be a real asset.

“TOMAS KUBÍNEK - CERTIFIED LUMINIC

The Langham presents Tomas Kubinek: Certified Luminic

Tomas Kubinek, "Physical Poet and Verbal Acrobat!" Needless Risk-Taker. Known globally for his innovative and usefull Imagination...Arduous Advocate of The Commonplace Miracles. Cinematographer. Boffin of the Impossible... These are a few of the dissidents of this brilliant comic who will perform at the Kaslo Cultural Society in Kaslo at the Lighthouse Theatre, JVF School March 29 at 7:30 pm.

Kubinek’s internationally acclaimed solo performances play to capacity audiences around the world. After a sold-out run in Broadway, New York Times lauded his work as "Absolutely expert! Suited to his view, between the unerringly bad magic, tricks the chicken chacking, water-bubbling, the hair standing on end, mis-ting fingers tricks, and absurd acrobatics, Kubinek deserves the title "certified luminic." He also deserve the reaction from those members of the audience, who, had they not been so busy rolling around on the floor like mirthful marvels, would have applauded even louder and longer."

"I saw him at Pacific Coast in Vancouver last year," says the Langham’s manager, Maralina Blanche. "He is the funniest man I have ever seen! Everyone in the audience had tears rolling down their cheeks as he performed the impossible. His visual feats, along with heartwarming, side splitting jokes. Just didn’t want the show to end. Truly one of a kind. I believe he is coming to Kaslo!"

Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals or Portobella Interiors in Kaslo or call 353-2122 to order. Kids under 16 accompanied by one adult are free!
PAYNE MINING

PAYNE MINE concentrator is a roadside attraction

...in Kaslo

OPEN DAILY
6:30 am to 8:00 pm

LICENSED

Located at the Heart of Front Street • 353-2955

"Best Eggs Benedict Ever"
"Mexican, Salads, Dinners, Wraps & Stir Fry"

This restaurant has the finest hollandaise sauce that I ever tasted. Their dinner menu has enough choices to please the most picky eater.

- Daniel B. Nicholson, The Valley Voice
COMMUNITY

Another better day in Winlaw!

Join Biologist Juliet Craig as she combines forces with the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission to present the third annual Bat House Building Day. This year’s event takes place April 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Why not come to the Winlaw Hall where you can build a bat house for a nominal fee and get an update on the Kootenay Community Bat Project?

In the past two years more than 100 bat houses have been made and the results are starting to show. The bat houses are all pro cut and only a screw driver or outsized drill is needed to complete assembly. If you have a caulking gun and staple gun, bring them along, but there’s usually some share to but.

The bat houses will be constructed throughout the afternoon and at noon Juliet will give a talk on all things batty and an update on the Kootenay Community Bat Project that she’s been working on for the past two years. You don’t have to make a bat house to take part in the talk. Bring any bat questions along because Juliet is the person who can answer them. You can meet a live bat too!

All bat houses must be reserved, so call Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008 by March 24 to make sure there’s enough supplies to make one for your property.

Virgil

At last year’s bat house building event, soon-to-be MLA Corky Evans (right) joined his friend Tom Bradney to make some bat houses.
Nakusp Secondary School sent 21 students to compete with 300 of BC’s best boarders and skiers in the BC High School Alpine Provincials at Runners Resort February 26 to 28. The girls’ ski team — Jaimee Hendling, Kristin Likness, Kristen Sokolowski, Sam Tuing, Sara Varga, and Liz Waterfield — placed sixth overall, pulling out of eighth place after the first day of racing.

The boys’ ski team — Dane Olsen, Bryar McQuair, Brent Wanstall, Robyn Crosby-Bone, and Cameron Carruthers — also placed sixth.

The girls’ snowboard team, Tierre Bekker, Lan Eigishoven, Shannon Fulmore, Chelsea Grofken, Jesse McDonald, and Carly Thorp, rode to success and placed an amazing second out of 13 teams.

The boys’ snowboard team came in 11th overall. Lukes Andrews, Justin Detta, Connor McKee, and Alex Thorp displayed the outstanding sportsmanship that Nakusp is known for.

The fastest eight individuals in each discipline, and our athletes topped the list. Jesse McDonald came fourth in her category, Carly Thorp placed fourth in hers, and Alex Thorp pulled himself from third after the first day’s race to place first. LESS student Amber Brown-Dahl competed as an individual and placed sixth.

Allison Alder, who was voted with the team, commented that they are “amazing athletes who showed excellent sportsmanship.” The kids are exceptional ambassadors for Nakusp, with a completely amazing team spirit. They were utterly a joy to ski with, travel with, and coax!

“The three of the girls’ team, one of the boys’ snowboard team and two of the girl skiers were new racers, never having raced at all. What a thrill to try it out, work hard and bring home great memories.”

• The BCSSA Provincial Snowboard Cross was held March 5 at Big White. Although the day was cold, the Summit Lake Racers were there in force. Alex Marshall placed third in the amateur men 19+. Jessica Hogg placed third in the amateur women 19+. Alex Thorp placed third in the amateur men 13-14. Jesse McDonald placed fifth in the FS-Pro women, while Carly Thorp placed eighth in the same category. The racers showed great team spirit despite numerous delays in the race.

Most municipalities sign on to RDCK proclamation

Only Slocan and Castle-gar are holdouts from the list of municipalities and areas who have signed on to the regional district’s proclamation for regional development. Kaslo’s mayor Jim Holland added his signature to the list February 25, joining the rest of the regional district’s proclamation holdouts from the list of municipalities and areas. They now hold the distinction of being the only municipalities that have not signed the RDCK proclamation.

The document sets our voluntary standards of “close, full and friendly co-operation” operation on matters of boundary restructuring and referenda for joint services. It calls on local governments to co-ordinate planning and development activities with neighbouring jurisdictions. “Support for the protocol is really symbolic of our members’ desire to communicate honestly and work together for our residents’ benefit,” says RDCK board chair Gary Wright.

Nelson Detachment

• Black ice on the road caused a double accident near the Taghum Bridge March 1. A Slocan Park woman lost control of her pickup truck and slid off the road into the rock face. A Nelson woman driving in the same direction lost control of her car and slid into the rear of the pickup, severely damaging both vehicles.

Neither driver was injured, but the Nelson woman was ticketed for driving with extreme caution.

Police remind drivers there is black ice forming on the roads and they should be driving with extreme caution.

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