Abattoir project plans met with mixed reaction at Slocan meeting

by Don Currie

A large turnout of Slocan villagers, rural residents, farmers and ranchers filled the gymnasium at WE Graham School on November 22 to hear about the proposed abattoir and other local issues.

The abattoir project had the support of the farmers and ranchers, but some Village residents were not as enthusiastic.

The Village received a $10,000 grant from the Province to do the planning for the abattoir, which would serve the entire West Kootenay area and would meet the requirements of the new Meat Inspection Regulation.

The Slocan Valley Abattoir Co-operative (SVAC) is forming to take the project on – to have the facility built by August 30, and then operate it.

A four-page report by the co-op states, “The planning stages are well underway – the facility plans are being finalized, the Co-operative is being formed and finances are in the process of being secured.”

The proposed location for the slaughterhouse is on 3.9 acres outside Village boundaries but owned by the Village, adjacent to the Fortis substation between South Slocan Road and Highway 6. This is a piece of land that the Village purchased for a pellet plant project, which fell through.

The facility will create 13 new jobs and a sizeable spin-off of support to business and industry, according to the report. It claims the abattoir will increase the income of 1,500 small producers in the area by an amount in excess of $2.25 million. The anticipated volume in years 2 and 3 would generate in excess of $3 million and $5 million respectively.

The number of animals predicted for the first year is 1,000 cattle, 300 sheep, 1,100 pigs, 12,000 chickens and 1,500 turkeys. The livestock slaughter will be for both certified organic and conventional meat, and there will be a cut and wrap facility.

A floor plan of the facility details a 14,450-square-foot plant complete with a holding area, knock down area and slaughter area, coolers, freezers, packing rooms and offices. The waste will be handled by using a system called ‘in-vessel’ composting developed by Transform Compost Systems based in Abbotsford. Materials that cannot be composted will be incinerated.

Dave Anderson of Legendary Meats said that after 25 years being in the business of killing animals for Valley residents, new government regulations forced a change that disallowed unlicensed facilities from slaughtering animals. He supported the co-op because it was a way for livestock producers to meet the new regulations and have access to a licensed facility to legally slaughter and process animals for sale to local businesses and the public. Anderson said the Village of Slocan was the only municipality to come forward in support of an abattoir.

Local farmer and forestry worker Michael Mills identified himself as the first shareholder in SVAC. He said MLA Corky Evans was in support of the plan and was also a shareholder. Mills said the forestry industry was in decline and that the facility would provide jobs and that the “spin-offs were huge.”

When asked why he didn’t volunteer to have the facility on his land, Mills said ALR rules required that 50% of the product used in a facility had to be produced on the ALR land in question, so half the animals slaughtered in the facility would have to be raised on his land. He said if Slocan didn’t want the abattoir, SVAC would look elsewhere.

Local ranchers said rising transportation costs and changing government regulations were making it more difficult for them to stay in business. One stated that without an abattoir, some could be forced to go underground and produce meat illegally.

Several questioners asked what the project would cost Village taxpayers. Jeremy Lack said the estimated capital cost would be $1.5 million with yearly overhead of $400,000 to $500,000. He said the money would come from the shareholders in the co-op. Another person pointed out that if the abattoir is located on Village-owned land outside of Village boundaries, the Village will not be able to tax the business.

Mayor Van Byen said that if the project does not go forward on land owned by the Village, the Village can sell the land and get its money back.

Several questioners wanted to know if the Villagers would be given a vote on the project, suggesting that it be put to referendum at the Village by-election on February 2. Mayor Van Byen said council was seeking consensus on the project. He said there may not be time for a referendum and said another meeting would be called in late January to answer more questions. Councillor Septer said if we are split “we will come back to the public.”

There were several questions related to the water supply for the facility, pointing to current summertime restrictions on water supplied by the Village’s state-of-the-art water treatment plant. Mayor Van Byen responded that “we haven’t got there yet” on the water issue.

Jeremy Lack, when questioned about the use of chemicals, explained that this would be minimized by the use of “pressure washing.”

The answer to a series of questions regarding the health and environmental problems associated with the operation of an abattoir was simply that the facility would have to meet BC Department of Disease Control and other government standards regarding groundwater pollution, disposal of waste, animal smells and noise.

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Columbia Basin climate change report forecasts major changes

by Art Joyce

If you want a snapshot of what the Kootenays will look like under the effects of climate change, look no further than the recently released report by the Columbia Basin Trust, Preliminary Analysis of Climate Variability and Change in the Columbia River Basin: Focus on Water Resources.

The 1950s was the hottest decade in the last 1,000 years, primarily due to human activities that have increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere by as much as 30% in the past century. The CBT report studied temperature changes and the effects on precipitation and snowpack. Temperature increases in the Basin were almost double the global average, at about 1.4 degrees Celsius. The CBT study projects annual temperature increases for the 2030s, 2050s, and 2080s of 1.7°C, 2.9°C, and 4.3°C respectively. The 3°C increase projected by the 2080s for the West Kootenay would create mean average temperatures similar to Osoyoos.

The relationship between warming trends and water in the Basin is critical. Given that mountain snowpack and glaciers supply about 30% of the summer flow. The report found that even a small increase in the average temperature “may cause profound changes in runoff by increasing the frequency of melt events (even) without additional warming in precipitation.” A warming climate means that winters are shorter and spring temperatures higher, creating an earlier runoff and potential late summer water flow shortages. This trend is independent of precipitation changes. Climate models for the US portion of the Columbia River Basin are projecting snowpack losses of 21% and 35% for the 2020s and 2040s, with serious impacts on water supplies for hydro-electric generation, irrigation and human use.

The impacts will be mitigated somewhat by the 3% per decade increase in precipitation in the Basin over the past century. Climate models indicate a further 1.6% increase in precipitation by the mid 21st century. However, due to temperature increases this will mean less snow and more rain, except during the increasingly hotter summer months when 5-10% less rain is predicted. There has also been a global trend toward more extreme weather events. In the Basin, this could translate into more spring flooding and winter snowmelt, landslides and debris torrents.

Glaciers throughout the Basin are predicted to melt at a rate consistent with global trends, which have seen a loss of 31% of ice at global permafrost which is known to affect 30% of the global permafrost.

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The CBT climate change report is available online at www.cbt.org or by calling 1-800-505-8998.

Mountain Caribou recovery plan a ‘greenwash’ says critics

by Art Joyce

The recovery plan recently announced by the government of BC and a coalition of environmental groups calling themselves the Mountain Caribou Project is nothing more than a ‘greenwash,’ according to Valhalla Wilderness Watch, and will not be enough to save the remaining mountain caribou.

VWW notes that since the planning process to save the mountain caribou began in 2003, the population has declined from 1,900 to 1,600 in 18 subpopulations, “most of which were isolated by habitat fragmentation.”

According to a report released by VWW, the red flag in the recovery plan is its stipulation that there will be no reduction in the annual allowable cut (AAC) for five years, and no more than 1% of the timber harvesting land base will be available for new projects. Millions of hectares of low- and mid-elevation forest containing critical spring and early-winter habitat for mountain caribou are being released.

Scientists agree that habitat degradation, chiefly by logging, is the main factor that has driven mountain caribou to the brink of extinction. The plan proposes 2.2 million hectares of protected mountain caribou habitat, but the VWW report notes that this includes “parks that have been protected for years or decades, including huge areas of rock and ice within these parks.” The report says old growth reserves in patches left behind by early clearcuts have already been included.

Habitat fragmentation of this kind has been referred to by biologists as creating ‘islands of extinction’ for endangered species such as the caribou.

Critical to the survival of mountain caribou has been the inland temperate rainforest found in the southeastern interior of BC. The forests at low and mid-elevation have the highest biodiversity, and provide spring and autumn habitat, but the VWW report notes that since the planning process to save the mountain caribou began in 2003, the population has declined from 1,900 to 1,600 in 18 subpopulations, “most of which were isolated by habitat fragmentation.”

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Local logging contractors to be represented in P&T court proceedings

by Jan McMurray

What's at stake in P&T & Talbot court session on December 6, a hearing on behalf of local logging contractors is scheduled to take place.

The contractors will ask for “a charge in all of Pope & Talbot’s Property...as security for repayment of all amounts owed” since October 29, when P&T filed for creditor protection. They will also ask that P&T pay the contractors in full so they can participate in the proceedings.

The requests are supported by an affidavit of Corky Evans, General Manager of the Interior Logging Association and representative of 23 of P&T’s logging contractors most operating in the Nakusp area.

Lintott argues that the services of the contractors are essential to the continued viability of P&T’s business operations, as P&T needs inventory to continue cutting and marketing.

However, the contractors still consider that the continued supply of inventory from the contractors will significantly increase the value of P&T’s operations, and thus increase in value of the farm licence.

Pope & Talbot private land sales update

At the November 29 P&T & Talbot court proceedings, the Justice gave P&T the right to execute four private land sales.

The sales represent 31 of the 36 properties that P&T declared redundant to its woodlands operations on October 29, however, four properties in September. Four of these properties are in TFL #23 and therefore cannot be sold until the Minister of Forests agrees to remove them from the farm licence.

The sales agreements have been made with Kelowna Family Golf Centre Ltd. for the Beaverdell South property for $550,000; Don, James and Bronwyn Norn for the Doray Park property for $751,000; Paterson Pole Ltd. and James Ties & Poles Ltd. for the Shusquash Creek property for $1,350,000; and JRJ Investments (Leithbridge) Ltd. for ten of the properties for $5,563,627.

The agreement with RIR includes the four TFL properties: Beatton Schedule A, Galena Bay Thumb, Arrowhead and Galena Bay.

New Democratic Forests and Range Critic Bob Simpson introduced a private member’s bill on November 29 to protect the public interest when lands are removed from tree farm licences.

“The people of the Kootenays need to know that the fate of their communities and workers will not be determined by a bankruptcy proceeding. We need to expedite this process and give the workers some peace of mind,” said Simpson while introducing the bill.

The bill, entitled the Public Interest Protection Act, would require the public to be immediately notified when a receivership is submitted to the Minister to have lands removed from a farm licence.

The bill calls on the Federal Government to establish a public commission to investigate any change in the position of any logging contractor by the Bankruptcy Court and, where appropriate, recommends that the Bankruptcy Court appoint an administrator to run the company.

Simpson said the bill is needed to “restore transparency and accountability to the process of releasing private lands from farm tree licences.”

when Westar went broke and P&T bid on the assets.

However, the Minister has said his bill follows his legal advice, which is “to let those [court] proceedings proceed because there are some offers coming in with new players.”

In the legislation, Evans has been asked to ask Minister of Forests Rich Coleman if the TFL away from P&T, engage in a public consultation process with the affected communities about the fate of TFL #23, and make a decision based on those consultations. Evans points out that this is what happened in 1992.

“We can allow the court to decide the terms and conditions with which the transfer of that licence occurs, or the minister can…take back the licence, go out to the communities and engage the communities and the workers in determining the terms and conditions,” Evans said.

New Democrat Leader Carole James told Coleman: “Lawyers in the court confirmed that if Pope and Talbot disperse their assets without intervention from the minister, workers and businesses will be lost in line and will receive dimes on the dollar. The only way workers and businesses will be treated fairly is if the minister actually intervenes and takes TFL #23.”

But the Minister was not swayed. “I'm going to take the legal advice that I have in front of me — that we should allow the stay of proceedings to proceed so that we can protect the jobs in British Columbia.”

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COLUMBIA BASIN FIRST Nation

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

PROTECTOR PILOTS’ SMALL GRANTS STREAM

Columbia Basin Trust’s (CBT) Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) is now accepting applications for community-initiated and supported environmental projects in the Basin. The EIP supports projects that address current and future issues for human communities on local and regional aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Requests for up to $20,000 per project are invited.

New this year, CBT has added a small grants stream to the EIP – this stream is for smaller and simpler applications for requests under $5,000. The small grant application forms will be available January 30, 2008. Please visit the CBT website for more details.

Support during proposal development is available through The Land Conservancy and Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership. Contact the Land CBT office for details at 1-800-505-8898 or 250-346-7090, or email gardens@cbrnte.gov.ca.

Completed applications, for both the large and small grants, must be received no later than March 7, 2008 at 3:30 pm PST/4:30 pm MST.

For a detailed program description, eligibility criteria, or an application guide and form, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.ca, or phone 1-800-505-8898.
Green/Greed

Forty years ago, people channeled themselves to their homes and orbited to defend a self-sustaining way of life. The government of the day arrested the protesters, burned their homes, and made a rich system and dammed the rivers anyway.

I've been told that the BC premier received an island in the Duncan for his hard work.

Our poor Columbia is the most damned waterway on earth. They tore the heart out of our valleys, and now they are after the arteries - selling off all the water rights to our creeks. Crown land is being liquidated before the treaty rights come into play, whether it's hydro or wind.

I own a piece of property, mines, farming, or ski resorts for the rich. If you put all the older hydro projects together, you have the largest corporation on earth with the biggest land-grab in history - waterforteen property - and they are selling as well as they can. Before it's too late, dammed in BC, and it's going cheap!

We stripped our forest of old growth to make paper, and now we are buying, turning, and temperate rainforests on earth into a desert that is burning up - all this for jobs and progress without a thought towards our climate or any future legacy.

Now they want every tree and last drop of water as the earth is drying up and can barely recover. Animals and plants are going extinct daily and still we can't stop these dinosaur corporations from devouring everything.

They buy and sell the earth like a game, make a fortune in profits then go bankrupt when there is nothing left. They don't have to honour contracts or be responsible for what they do to our environment. They sell the crown land for development as though they own it. Corporate money rules while land for development as though they own it. Corporate money rules while they don't have to honour contracts and can go bankrupt when there is nothing left. We stripped our forest of old growth to make paper, and now we are buying, turning, and temperate rainforests on earth into a desert that is burning up - all this for jobs and progress without a thought towards our climate or any future legacy.

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Frustrated with poor government service

I spent an informative few minutes on the phone at 1-800-O-Cana, our single phone connection point to all things government. I said a few things to the operator that I want to reach only a wider audience, hence this letter. My apologies to the operator — as I said at the time, I do not hold her responsible in any way, but I had no one else to yell at.

First the background. I’ve been working for a few months online for EM medical benefits, and have been awaiting word. I suffer from an immune deficiency and live an hour’s painful ride away from the nearest Service Canada office in Nelson. I have no other income, and my son and daughter have never had serious medical treatment. On Friday, November 23 I received a letter dated the 19th with my name, address, the sentence “Return all report cards after the latest period ends” and a form usage with the website and 1-800 number. At the website, I needed an “Access Code” to get in, which should be on the letter. I phoned the number to ask what to do next. After long forays through its byzantine system, I discovered there was no phone number for my local office, and that it was “you”. Back to the website, where there was no phone number for my local office, and I was thereby “a citizen of Canada, and as such the only person to be notified. Thus my rather despairing outburst, which went something like:

“You mean in this entire 4%5 of country there isn’t one phone number! How can I talk to an employee when I want to find out from my premises at 3762

This is just too classic. I have spent most of my adult life believing that government is a responsible and efficient organization when people slugged it for bad service, thinking they were just not trying. Now I need some help and some service, and here I am eating my words!

So after a weekend break, and rather than waste an uncomfortable full day by bus, I will be driven there tomorrow, sending more hydrocarbon based air to be in line and ask a question that could be answered in two minutes on the website, but the website is no other number. Thus my rather despairing outburst, which went something like:

“You mean in this entire 4%5 of country there isn’t one phone number! How can I talk to an employee when I want to find out from my premises at 3762

So much for global warming – 1-800-O-Cana indeed.

Ken Forsythe

Burton heli-pub: public consultation sorely lacking

At the well intentioned RCKD land use meeting held in Burton on October 23, the major issue for many residents was that the proposed heli-pad located near the townsite. Residents felt the decision was made without locals being aware of any proposals and that they would have known the wishes of their citizens.

Democracy is a government by the people, in which the supreme power is retained and exercised in a way that favours equality and is not snobbish or exclusionary.

Donna Campbell
New Denver

Referendum needed on cell phones

I am frustrated and feel alienated by New Denver council and the Chamber of Commerce executive by the total absence of seeking the public’s cell phone use in New Denver.

Why haven’t the citizens and businesses been given the opportunity for valid input in the decision of cell phone use in New Denver?

Any concern expressed against cell phone use is that cells phones will be used in restaurants. This is a concern for the proprietor to regulate. They can post a sign saying YES or NO.

Another is that cell phones promote poor socialization skills in children. Socialization and courteous use of cell phones is the responsibility of the user.

As for the concern that the cell phone tower will present an EM emission! Where is the empirical evidence that would assist the causation agent? Where is the empirical evidence that would assist the causation agent? Where is the empirical evidence that would assist the causation agent?

The Vallican Whole School asks for community support

The Vallican Whole School is under the threat of being shut out from its premises at 3762 Little Slocan River Road after 3 December 2007.

The school is refusing to vacate its facilities and is requesting the community’s support in preserving our school. The Slocan Valley’s most precious assets.

The Vallican Whole School originated in the mid 1960s as a very small group who decided to set up a vision for a free school with a focus on self-directed learning in order one day an artistic expression. The centre was established by the hard work of parents and community volunteers who built the beautiful building to house the school — still its primary function.

Early pioneers of the Vallican Whole School operated the business of the school through a child-directed organization, the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS) incorporated in 1971. The West Kootenay Educational Resource Society at: www.vallicanwholeschool.org

The board of directors West Kootenay Educational Resource Society

Dear neighbour

I live in your community. I’m almost 90% of the time I am dealing with loneliness. I’m sure I’m not alone in this dilemma as there are so many people moving into these smaller towns, leaving larger cities and coffee shops where I am, so it is very difficult to meet people. Where do you live? Do you have clubs, organized activities? How do I find these? Can you tell me where to find clubs or activities where I am well established in your area, to reach out to all who are new – you might reach me! Help!
NEW DENVER RESIDENTS each year to purchase a composter from a local supplier. Further information will be available at the Village office.

The official Community Plan and zoning bylaws received final adoption.

A newly appointed Corporate Town Mayor appeared to introduce himself to council and present his vision for policing the community.

Council welcomed him, and expressed concern over a recent rash of vandalism incidents.

Councilor Greenword reported on items from the recent West Kootenay Boundary Hospital Board meeting, including the request to the Province for longer term financial planning (currently limited to one year), and discussion about available medical training (nursing) through Selkirk College.

Mayor Wright reported from the most recent RDCK meeting that regional district staff will be consolidating the existing seven sub-regional emergency programs into one. New Denver might participate in a regional effort if it were to be undertaken in a rational and well thought out manner.

Council received a subsidy for up to 50 percent of the cost to initiate a "Composter Program" beginning in 2008. The program will offer a subsidy for up to 50 percent of the cost to initiate a "Composter Program" beginning in 2008.

Slocan RADS offer wonderful ATV opportunity

They black bear motorcross track may be gone, but the Slocan Recreation ATV, Dirtbike Society (RADS) lives on.

The revenue of the race track during its operation has been sitting, waiting for the right time and idea to get used. With the most generous donation of a $900 ATV by Playmor Power Products, the RADS were able to come up with an idea.

We can all remember kids who could not afford to have the same motorized fun that some of us were privileged to. Slocan RADS would like to present an ATV to a child who is between 8 and 12 years old for a two-year term. Then, the RADS will take the ATV back and do the process over again.

Slocan RADS will pick up the expense of the riding gear so the child is protected while riding the ATV, and will provide the needed training for the safe and legal use of the ATV.

The successful entry will be notified at the end of February and will receive their ATV for the 2008 season.

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Silverton council, November 27: Council debates grants-in-aid to Chamber of Commerce

by Art Joyce

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce submitted a request to the Village for a grant-in-aid to support its banner program, along with its year-end financial statement. The request generated lively debate, with most councillors of the opinion that the banner program did little to attract commerce. Mayor Everett said that both he and Mayor Wright of New Denver had discussed their dissatisfactions with the Chamber's overall performance this year. Councillor Bell, a Chamber board member, said that in all fairness, support from business owners has been minimal. "If you’re not sitting at the table making decisions, you can’t complain about the decisions being made," she said.

Councillor Wiseman felt the money spent on banners would have been better employed increasing business signage in the community or producing brochures. Bell said the Chamber distributed 5,000 copies of its brochure this year.

Mayor Everett said he has discussed with the Chamber the idea of supporting them through monies raised from the Village’s business licence fees. Wiseman said if that’s the case, there would be more in line with other communities. However, there is still little left over after administration costs. Wiseman said that if the case, using this money for grants-in-aid to the Chamber is not a viable solution.

Council voted to reply to the Chamber that no money for grants-in-aid has yet been budgeted for 2008.

Councilor Wiseman also wanted to know why businesses not based in the Village were being charged for licences. Mayor Everett answered that it was because they conduct business within the Village. Wiseman objected to the fact that Toles, Sears, and Star Choice weren’t required to take out licences, while a non-profit organization like the Red Mountain Internet Society was.

Mayor Everett thought that had to do with a misunderstanding of the society’s status. Councillor Wiseman proposed a motion that the Society’s 2007 business license fee be returned. The motion passed.

• Village Administrator Junko Ida reported that a successful metal recycling day was held November 23 and that public works was able to contribute by removing several pieces of industrial detritus on Village property. Two dumptruck loads of metals were collected for shipment to the regional district.

• Mayor Everett thought that had to do with a misunderstanding of the society’s status. Councillor Wiseman was of the opinion that the street is not usable, and expressed concern that Mengler had not yet provided the Village with engineering reports despite having two years to do so. "I don’t think we want to create a liability by plowing it when there are slope stability issues," Wiseman said.

• A letter was received from Red Mountain Internet Society proposing a motion that the Society’s status. Councillor Wiseman was of the opinion that the street is not usable, and expressed concern that Mengler had not yet provided the Village with engineering reports despite having two years to do so. "I don’t think we want to create a liability by plowing it when there are slope stability issues," Wiseman said.

Breakfast with Santa, December 9

submitted

The Winlaw Elementary PAC presents the 7th annual Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 9 at the Appledale Hall.

Breakfast will be served between 8 and 11 am with the Silent Auction opening at 11:30 am sharp. Breakfast will consist of pancakes with blueberry sauce and ham and selected beverages.

Santa will be available for pictures between 10 and 11 am. The Silent Auction features over 200 local crafts, products and gift certificates – there’s something for everyone at this year’s Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction.

For more information please contact Shannon O’Hara at 226-7708.

Slocan post office celebrates

submitted

On October 31, the Slocan Post Office held a Customer Appreciation Day. Refreshments were served and prizes were won. The event was well attended by the community.

Local Area Manager Norm Ouellet surprised Postmistress Mable Bone by presenting her with her 30-year pin. Congratulations to Mable for 30 years of service at the post office.

Euro-Rite Cabinets Ltd. is one of North America’s premier manufacturers of Ready to Assemble (RTA) cabinets suitable for DIY enthusiasts, contractors & retail outlets of all sizes.

Euro-Rite Cabinets Ltd. combines the traditional values of quality & affordability with leading edge design & production techniques.

All of our cabinets are designed for easy home assembly. Just 15 minutes per cabinet is all it takes to transform your space into the kitchen of your dreams!

SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES
216 Lake Avenue, Silverton Phone: 358-2293 Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588 sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton P.O. Box 14, 431 Lake Avenue Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0 Phone: 250/358-2472 Fax: 250/358-2321 Email: cao@silverton.ca

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON
NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF LAND
Pursuant to Section 26(3) of the Community Charter

TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Silverton proposes to dispose of the following land to: Mr. Kenneth J. Stelm and Ms. Naomi H. Thomas on December 20, 2007.

P.O. Box 14, Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0 Telephone (250) 358-2472

The proposed disposition is a transfer of the fee simple interest in the Land for the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand ($55,000) dollars.

Any enquiries concerning this proposed disposition may be directed to: Ms. Junko Ida, Administrator, The Village of Silverton, P.O. Box 14, Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0

ANOTHER YEAR HAS GONE BY AS WE REFLECT ON THIS DAY IT’S SO HARD TO BELIEVE YOU HAVE REALLY GONE AWAY.

EALIER THIS YEAR AND THE SMOKE THEY COME TOO THEY ARE ASHAMED REMINDERS OF HOW MUCH WE MISSED YOU

FOUR YEARS HAVE SLIPPED BY AND MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED BUT THE NEWNESS AND SADNESS ARE AS IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY.

THE YEARS COME SO QUICKLY WITH JUST A FEW NOTES OF YOUR SONGS MANY MEMORIES ENSWENHELUM US BUT WE STILL TRY TO STAY STRONG.

DO WE HOLD ON TIGHTLY AND CHEER ONE ANOTHER ON THAT WE HAVE YOU HERE WITH US AND TRY TO HELP BLOCK THE YEARS.

AS WE REFLECT ON THIS DAY EACH MOMENT COMES BACK CLEARLY OF HOW WE MISS YOU AND HOW WE LOVE YOU SO DEEPLY.

Subject:

Radical Advent

We are interested about the environment we live in and the foods we eat, how intentional are we about our celebrations and activities during Advent? Join us as we explore some of the key themes of Advent and how to connect them with our own lives and experiences. What does it mean to our lives today to still celebrate Christmas? Can we consider and feel the connection between Advent and Christmas? Are you curious about God, spirituality and faith, wondering if there is something more to Christmas than a commercialized holiday? Let’s take some time out of this busy season to still ourselves and come to know God.

WHERE: St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, New Denver
WHEN: Session 1: Thursday, December 13, 2007 Session 2: Tuesday, December 20, 2007
TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
COMMUNITY

Slocan meeting addresses

by Don Currie

After wrapping up discussions on the proposed abattoir for Slocan, the meeting held November 22 at WE Graham School dealt with a wide range of questions submitted in advance by Village residents to mayor and council.

An answer sheet containing brief answers to the questions that were “relevant to the larger public” was distributed. Also, a five-page summary of a report from the Integrity Group: Education and Accountability Ltd. was distributed to residents who had signed a request list to receive the document. Residents were told the report would explain what had led council to retain legal counsel at the cost of $40,000 to taxpayers. The summary of the Integrity Group report is undated and on Village of Slocan letterhead. It contains no information about the Integrity Group, and no reference to the group showed up in a website search.

The summary report states that the Integrity Group was retained to perform a fact-finding investigation of an assertion that a member of council had a conflict of interest with respect to the proposed Slocan skateboard park. The Village also retained the Integrity Group to provide a workplace analysis and to make recommendations for improvements in workplace relationships.

The conflict of interest investigation concludes: “There is no question that Councillor Ellis had significant involvement in the Park through her role as Co-Executive Director of WE Graham, and her passionate commitment to the project is apparent in the amount of time she spent to achieve a successful conclusion for the Park. It is this personal commitment that, arguably, led Councillor Ellis to confuse and/or ignore the separate roles she fulfilled and professionally conducted job performance reviews. The summary report and recommendations are available at the Village office. There was no indication in the report as to whether council and the administrator had discussed or agreed to implement the recommendations. The issues addressed on the answer sheet included the sale of Village lots, the OCP, the hydro plant, the medical centre, and the ticketing bylaw.

In answer to questions regarding the sale of Village lots, the statement said council had offered ten lots for sale to adjacent owners, and offers had been received. Mayor Van Bynen said the Village had incurred some high expenses, including legal fees and the $1.5 million cost of the water treatment plant. One questioner wanted to know if the sale of lots meant the Village had spent its reserves. The Mayor said that Village reserves were intact. Councillor Sepatt said the sale of lots would cover legal expenses and the purchase of the 3.9-acre parcel proposed for the abattoir. He said the sale of the lots would discharge all Village debts.

Councillors said the date of the by-election, scheduled for February 2 to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Joanne Ellis, was due to the requirements of the Community Charter that set specific guidelines for nominations and elections.

On the need for an Official Community Plan (OCP), the answer sheet states: “We already have an OCP done for Slocan and it will take $12,000 to update it. We need to budget that expense.” Councillor Perriee commented that the Village needed to update the OCP now because it affected such issues as boundary expansion.

Regarding the hydro plant on Springer and Goat Creeks, the written answer said that council was still waiting for licenses and that representatives from crown land had been to the Village that week for discussions. “This project is still the #1 priority for the Village.”

On the Medical Centre, the written statement said council representatives and M.L. Evans had met the Minister of Health at UBCM and there was a possibility of sharing a doctor with Nakusp. “We want to pursue the possibility of a nurse practitioner.”

Council said the ticketing bylaws would be dealt with at the January council meeting.

One resident called for a ticket to be issued against the derelict hotel. This prompted Councillor Gates to explain that council was taking steps to protect the Village from liability.

He said his capacity as Fire Inspector was not to be liable.

The Village lots won three prizes in Nakusp’s parade. First went to the Rotary Club, second to the Scrappers. Winners of the store window decorating contest were Home Hardware (first), Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic (second) and Shaggyz (third).

Rotary Dinner Theatre tickets on sale now

The Rotary Club of Nakusp’s ninth annual dinner theatre features “The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree,” a musical, performed by Mirrour Theatre.

“Obscure legends say they are the most ruthless, thieving pirates who have ever sailed the Seven Seas! They’re a nasty lot, every single one of them! Pirates! Cutthroats! Rotten to the core!” says Professor Bidwell.

The Lady Pirates capture a British sailing vessel with swashbuckling action, lots of fun, and captivating tunes until the Royal Navy makes the scene.

The evening will include a great dinner, a 50/50 draw and lots of fun and laughter. So come out and enjoy, and don’t forget to come in costume if you like.

Dinner Theatre tickets make great stocking stuffers for Christmas gifting. Tickets go on sale on December 5 at Barton Insurance.
The board will consider consolidating the seven emergency areas in service after consultation with the seven zones. Staff will prepare a plan for the consolidation, in consultation with RDCK Emergency Program Coordinators, and municipal, provincial, and partner agencies.

The General Affairs committee has come up with seven recommendations on how Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas funding should be administered. The board decided to invite Neil Math, CRT CEO, to an upcoming committee meeting to speak about the recent evaluation of the funding program. A sample contract between the RDCK and applicants to the program will be available at the meeting, as will a list of issues associated with the funding program.

The document, “Water and Sewer System Acquisition Strategy,” will be distributed to Area Directors for comment so that staff can draft a regional policy to be considered at the January Rural Affairs committee meeting. Staff was also asked to work with the Ministry of Health to clarify outstanding issues. When a policy for acquiring water and sewer systems is adopted, the memorandum will be lifted and systems will be acquired according to the policy.

A grant application for $140,843 will be made to the Public Transit Infrastructure Program for: bus shelters and stops ($107,200); four bus bicycle racks ($6,000); two NovAtel or equivalent capacity buses (50% of $350,000 = $175,000); and a contribution to Transit Exchange of $52,643.

The positions of board chair and vice chair will be voted on at the December meeting. Nominations and vice chair will be voted on at the December meeting. Nominations for vice chair have been made.

Area D
- With the Lautens Valley and Ponderidge mosquito program in a deficit of about $14,000 this year, staff was directed to obtain a legal opinion about BC Hydro’s liability for this cost.
- The increased cost of the program was caused by Duncan Dam discharges, when BC Hydro’s attempts to maintain fixed conditions during the mosquito breeding season failed to prevent backflooding.
- Staff will have discussions with BC Hydro about the proposed new boat launch at Glacier Creek Regional Park, in consultation with the Ministry of Forests and the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission.
- The new boat launch is part of the Duncan Dam Water Use Plan (WUP), which includes $120,000 for the project. However, the RDCK board has not endorsed the Duncan Dam WUP as BC Hydro has not agreed to a financial contribution to the mosquito program. The board also has concerns about assuming responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the boat launch.
- The board will advise the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) that it does not support issuing the Grabowskys a grazing permit within the vicinity of the Glacier Creek Regional Park.
- The Grabowskys applied for a grazing permit to allow 20 horses and two cows to graze in the lower Glacier Creek valley, lower Hoover Creek valley and the main Duncan River valley from Glacier Creek to the Westfall River junction. A stipulation in the permit is that livestock is not allowed within the boundaries of the RDCK’s Glacier Creek campground. However, the Glacier Creek Park Commission stated that the Grabowskys’ animals have always entered the park in the past, despite requests to keep them out. The Commission is also concerned that it will be responsible for the cost of keeping the animals out of the park under the permit.
- The Bylaw bringing Fletcher Creek into the Kako and Area D fire service was adopted.
- The McDowell Creek Watersheds Amendment Bylaw was adopted. The Operational and Maintenance Service Agreement between the RDCK and the Village of Kako for the operation of the McDowell Creek Water Distribution System will be signed.
- The Kako and Area D Regional Parks Extended Service Amendment Bylaw was adopted.
- An alternative approval process will be used to obtain elector consent to borrow $50,000 for the purchase and upgrade of Albowet Wharf. The deadline for receipt of elector responses is January 16.

Area H
- The board received correspondence from the Silver Ridge Community Club and from Sandon residents Dan Florence and Christine Meerman asking for the board’s help in having BC Hydro become the electrical service provider for the planned Sandon Regional Historic Park.
- The RDCK board will write a letter to the Chair of the BC Utilities Commission, asking the commission to investigate the public’s concerns about service provided by the local Sandon utility, Silverstream Power & Light Company. The letter will also ask that, should a satisfactory response not be provided to the commission, that the commission consider scheduling a public hearing to determine if Silverstream Power & Light Company should retain its Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity.
- A letter will go to BC Timber Sales, asking that they hold off on their proposed road building and logging on Perry Ridge until the board receives word on its Municipal Green Fund application for a hazard mapping project on the ridge, and on any recommendations arising from the hazard mapping. Also, Al Skakun of BCTS will be invited to attend the January meeting of the Rural Affairs committee to discuss this.
- An application for a Roads in the Slocan Valley Fire Protection area was given three readings.
- The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society has been invited to apply for $23,500 for a Senior’s Fitness Pilot Project under a program offered by Local Government Program Services. The board confirmed its willingness to provide overall financial management of the project.

Area K
- The Minister of Forests will be requested to hold community meetings in the communities affected by the transfer and/or sale of Pope & Talbot TFL 21 lands prior to the transfer of such lands and licences. The board will also call for public consultation over the removal of private lands from the TFL.
The Valley Voice December 3, 2007

COMMUNITY

by Jan McMurray

Local people made it clear at a meeting November 21 in Fauquier that they are not happy about BC Transmission Corporation’s (BCTC) choice of location for a ‘capacitor station.’ The property proposed for the site is on a 358-acre plot in the Fraser-Hedger Settlement Road, between Edgewood and Faquier.

This proposed capacitor station, along with another one proposed for Trout Creek near Summerland, west of Kelowna, would require 5.3 more power to be moved through the hydros lines in the southern interior. This power would enter the grid and be distributed throughout the province.

The station would cover an area approximately 150 by 100 metres, enclosed within a minimum 8’ high fence. Inside the fence would be the equipment, sitting on platforms about 25-30’ above the ground, and a small control building. A new transmission tower would also be required to connect the transmission lines to the capacitor station.

BCTC has already purchased this property. The tower will be partially visible from Whananorte Settlement Road and from Highway 6. BCTC reps said they would like to work with the RDCK, which owns the adjacent property, to build a berm for further screening.

People at the meeting were clearly opposed to this industrial development in such a rural residential area. It was pointed out that the location would be moved there specifically to get away from this type of development. In fact, three nearby properties are not even on the grid, by choice. Also, the school bus stop is right where the capacitor station is proposed to be built.

“...All you are doing is pushing your weight into a community that doesn’t want you,” stated one resident.

One man asked why they were not consulting with the RDCK, which owns the adjacent property, to build a berm for further screening.

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Nakusp council, November 27: Hot springs restructure discussed

by Jan McMurray

Councillor Mueller reported on the hot springs committee meeting of November 21. She stated that preliminary projections show a $60,000 loss by the end of the year. “We are in dire straights and we really need to do something,” she said.

She brought forward a recommendation that council consider the idea that the Village take on only the urgent work they had understood BC Hydro described in the agreement included in the zoning bylaw. “We are surprised to see that the repair work would cost $20,000 this year, and is already booked for next year’s Music Fest weekend. The Chamber thanked the Village for the opportunity to leave the campground for the past three years. The lease is up on December 31.”

Council asked staff to provide a recommendation for tendering the campground contract at the next meeting of council. Mayor Hamling also asked treasurer Richard Mahoney to put together a report on the costs of the campground. “Are we spending more than we’re getting? We should look at it as a business,” she said.

Council discussed the Village land adjacent to Pope & Talbot that was advertised for sale. No offers came in by the closing date of November 23. “So effectively it is off the market, unless we re-advertise it,” said CAO Bob Laffeur.

Councillor Mueller reminded council that they were going to use the $1.5 million from the sale of the hot springs and hire a consultant. “We really need to think of where to get the money [for those projects],” she said.

Councillor Dahlen asked if council still wanted the property zoned Resort Residential as had been discussed in the OCP process. The zoning map is not necessarily the same as the land use map.

The issue was referred to the OCP process.

“Council received word that a Community Initiatives funding program is available for the development of a community of businesses against the idea of a one-way lane for two blocks south of Broadway. Councillor Hopper spoke strongly in favour of having the lane for safety reasons. Dahlen said the delivery trucks were the reason the businesses were damaged.”

Council also received a report from Public Works Manager Dominic Castellano on the one-way lane proposal. He estimates that the “minimal signage” required would cost $6,000-$8,000 and he questioned the effectiveness of the signage.

The CAO was asked to find out why the costs were so high and to speak to Fire Chief Terry Warren about the implications of the proposed one-way lane for the fire department.

Councillor Dahlen asked that a report from the Music Fest accounting show a $60,000 loss by the end of the year. If it didn’t work, they could end up asking the committee to go to the public and say we have $1,650. Mayor Hamling gave an update on the Pope & Talbot situation. She said the current model, “is cumbersome.” She said a more business-oriented model is what the facility needs. “Anyone else would have looked at staffing pricing, advertising, tried to get more services up there… Council should not run a business. It’s just a political football up there… Council should not run a business-oriented model is what we need,” she said.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with an expected start date of January, 2008.

To apply for this position please email resume, including 5 references to Doug Switzer, Executive Director at dswitzer@aslcs.com.

Applications for Development Variance Permits cost $150. Applications to amend the OCP Bylaw or the Zoning Bylaw will cost $500; a joint application to amend both these bylaws will cost $600.

The bylaws increasing the water and sewer rates by 2% were adopted.

The CAO reported that council gave permission to submit an application for a grant on a strong support of a local company. Since the meeting, the local group has decided not to submit a bid.

Council also decided to ask the Ministry of Community Services about the Communities in Transition funding program.

A meeting with Peter Peterson on the arena tax allocation was scheduled for December 4 at 2:30 pm.

A public hearing will be scheduled for Isaque Vieira’s application to reduce the minimum lot size from two acres to one acre on his property zoned heavy industrial on Hot Springs Road.

•fisheries are given to the bylaw that will amend Development Permit fees (Bylaw No. 355-2007). The bylaw sets application fees for Development Permits on the basis of estimated project development costs. For example, for projects worth $100,000 or less, the application fee will be $100; for projects worth $1 million or more, the fee will be $1,650.

•Mayor Hamling gave an update on the Pope & Talbot situation. She said local business people were organizing to place a bid to purchase TFL 23 and possibly the Castlegar mill. Lawyer Bob Macquisten advised that an affidavit of support for this bid from the Village would be helpful. Council voted to write a letter in strong support of a local company. Since the meeting, the local group has decided not to submit a bid.

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•Councillor Mueller reminded council that they were going to use the $1.5 million from the sale of the hot springs and hire a consultant. “We really need to think of where to get the money [for those projects],” she said.

•Councillor Dahlen asked if council still wanted the property zoned Resort Residential as had been discussed in the OCP process. The zoning map is not necessarily the same as the land use map.

•Applications for the Communities in Transition funding program are available to eligible Indigenous communities.

•Mayor Hamling gave an update on the Pope & Talbot situation. She said the current model, “is cumbersome.” She said a more business-oriented model is what the facility needs. “Anyone else would have looked at staffing pricing, advertising, tried to get more services up there… Council should not run a business. It’s just a political football up there… Council should not run a business-oriented model is what we need,” she said.

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KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo council, November 27: Council wants another business case study on provincial building

By Jan McMurray

• The Village has asked for another extension, to March 31, to conclude negotiations with the Province on the provincial building. This would give council time to receive another business case study on the purchase.

• A motion to have Am Naqui update his original business case was defeated. Council will put forward some proposals for a comprehensive business case study on the purchase of the building if the Province grants the time extension.

In an email November 19, the Province indicated that it would like to know if the Village is prepared to spend its interest in purchasing the provincial building so it can be sold to the private sector, or if the Village would like to continue negotiations.

• Correspondence from campground contractor Trish Bennett, outlining recommended improvements to the campground, was referred to the Planning and Development committee for further discussion with Bonnet. She hopes a sani-dump can go in at the sewage treatment plant, as the one she hopes a sani-dump can go in at the sewage treatment plant, as the one She hopes a sani-dump can go in at the sewage treatment plant, as the one

• Tom Humphries, lawyer, attended to present more detail about Mr. Radford’s request for access to his private property via roads on Village property near the airport. Mayor Holland suggested that a properly dimensioned plan would help council in considering the request.

• Lynn van Deursen contacted council on the Spirit Square project proposed for the old bowling green. The funding application was initially turned down because council had not guaranteed the space for the project.

However, van Deursen indicated that there was an opportunity to update the application. Council confirmed that the space can be used for the project and that it is creating a bylaw that designates the lots as “Front Street park reserve.”

• The North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society submitted to council on Community Health Promotion funding for the “Kaslo Good Food Mobilization Project” and the project was endorsed. The project goals include developing the community garden as a demonstration garden, implementing a “lawn to garden” program, matching local and regional farmers to consumers, engaging young and low income people in food self-sufficiency, and exploring the possibility of a food based economic development centre.

• Anne Malik of the Kaslo & District Public Library requested support for a proposal to bring more of Area D into the library vicinity. This was referred to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council.

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Sentimental journey to Octopus Creek

In the five years I've been in New Denver most of my writing has been about the life and landscape within a radius of about an hour’s drive. But I did spend 25 years at Nakusp, and in fact saw much of it driving the winding logging road, and later with the Forest Service.

Octopus Creek feeds into Arrow Lake, near the town of Nakusp, and down the Kootenay range of the Selkirk mountains, which could be considered a sister range to the Valhallas. This part of the valley gets really severe in the winter, and you won't find many motorcyclists around Castlegar area, but don't hold your breath on that.

A friend of mine from Hills needed a hand getting her canoe back home from a cabin down Arrow Lake last week, so we decided to take the day off from work to see the beautiful Vietnam at Fauquier at the Mushroom Addition café, do some sightseeing, then worry about the canoe that is blonde now snowed on the valley bottom, so this trip may be to keep in mind for next spring.

From Fauquier we took the Applegrove Road south, down the east side of Arrow Lake. This is a great gravel road that passes a number of private driveways on route and often you won't find any other cars around. This is a great place to new the canoe and commented that it resembled an octopus! Upon arriving there I was impressed to see that a big leasing company was there with a tiny access trail, so it deserves great marks as a fine spot to complete an afternoon drive.

We picked out Fauquier’s统计 it is 8.5 kilometers to the lake, which seems quite a bit further than the 4 kilometers that I have been told, but it was a very enjoyable drive with a great espy nest on top of it.

From this location you can look north up the lake on a day when the weather is clear, with some snow back from the lake and the coffee shop nearby. It is definitely worth a visit.

During my days logging, and later with the Forest Service, I have been plagued with technical problems. It seems that the reasonable course of action would be to simply import one of these vehicles from Asia or Europe if one desires a dependable, efficient, small vehicle. Fortunately this is now possible.

My friend Doug, who lives and drives in Vancouver, recently purchased a remarkable vehicle, imported from Japan. It is a 4-wheel drive mini van that is powered by a turbo charged, direct injection diesel. Not only does it get very good fuel economy, but it is also very small and you normally see Reasoning

One of the missions this comes across while traveling in the Kootenays is how they have developed appropriate vehicle transport for themselves. I have discussed the prevalence of smaller motorcycles and scooters in previous columns, but I should also remark on the fact that many other countries and areas have taxis and cars are also appropriate for their conditions. Like most of Europe the vehicle of choice usually is equipped with a small displacement diesel engine. The fuel is cheaper and the mileage much higher. They are commonly built very small and efficient in seating capacity. If you have been reading this column for any length of time, you will know that I have questioned why this technology is not commonly here in North America.

Now it would be wrong to suggest that it is impossible to purchase a small vehicle with an efficient diesel engine here in the valley despite the cars and the few that are available have been plagued with technical problems. It seems that the reasonable course of action would be to simply import one of these vehicles from Asia or Europe if one desires a dependable, efficient, small vehicle. Fortunately this is now possible.

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Now it would be wrong to suggest that it is impossible to purchase a small vehicle with an efficient diesel engine here in the valley despite the cars and the few that are available have been plagued with technical problems. It seems that the reasonable course of action would be to simply import one of these vehicles from Asia or Europe if one desires a dependable, efficient, small vehicle. Fortunately this is now possible. My friend Doug, who lives and drives in Vancouver, recently purchased a remarkable vehicle, imported from Japan. It is a 4-wheel drive mini van that is powered by a turbo charged, direct injection diesel. Not only does it get very good fuel economy, but it is also very small and you normally see Reasoning

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Passmore seniors branch welcomes members both old and new

January 14, 1987. The Passmore Hall seemed like the best place to gather but it was in need of renovations. The hall was built in the 1920s and had served as the local school. So the seniors applied for a New Horizons Grant from the Federal Health and Welfare Department. The Minister at the time, Marc Lalonde, sent them a personal letter, letting them know they were awarded $7,880 towards refurbishing their meeting place. In 1996, a further grant from the Seniors Lottery for $3,000 was awarded to replace the furnace.

Medical sources say isolation can cause stress, which can harm the heart. Be kind to your heart and give the Passmore Seniors a try. For more information call Cynthia at 226-6860.

COMMUNITY

Seniors Branch #116 welcomes you and maturing "boomers? Passmore area in the Slocan Valley?

In the Passmore senior citizens branch welcomes members both old and new December 5, 2007

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Streamkeepers and students work to restore Slocan River

Now in its third year, the Slocan River Riparian Restoration Program provides funding to help landowners who want to restore native vegetation and conserve their riverfront land. Erosion and loss of soil along riverbanks due to livestock activities are serious issues along sections of the river. This year alone, the restoration program, which is supported by Columbia Power Corporation and the Columbia Basin Trust, has provided funding to fence over 550 metres of riverbank.

To complement this important work, students and Streamkeepers planted over 1,000 trees on the fenced banks and, with help from a local permaculture specialist, stabilized badly eroding sections using bioengineering techniques.

The efforts are part of a larger initiative to restore our riparian landscape and provide habitat for fish. However, like many things that address a serious need, the program speaks to multiple issues.

We know the value of vegetation for wildlife but the plants also help offset effects of warm water as well as providing nutrients and reducing erosion. The students that collect stems and plant trees are also learning to work together to care for the river and help the environment while earning funds to do other community building efforts. The partnership is unique and the Slocan Valley can be proud of the example being set.

The Slocan River Streamkeepers would like to thank hard-working students from the WE Graham Alternative Education Program, Mr. Sentinel’s Help Mexico Project students, and riverside land owners who participated in this year’s program. We look forward to working with you next year! Thank you Springer Creek for supplying wood chips for mulching trees and West Kootenay Plants for donating trees.

To learn more about the Slocan River Streamkeepers call Jennifer at 226-7339 or Eva at 226-7309.

Edgewood checkers challenge

Brady Milne is the undisputed checkers champion of Edgewood Elementary School – and beyond. After Brady had neatly secured the school championship, he decided to challenge Pattie Adam, chair of the School District 10 board of education, to a game.

When Adam received letters from students in the grades 4-7 class at EES at the beginning of November, she was very curious, as she doesn’t often get letters from students. “I was so excited that I was being invited to participate in a checkers challenge at EES that there was no way I could not accept!”

Adam admits that she was feeling a bit nervous as she entered the school for the big game. After all, she had not played the game in about 30 years. However, the class went through the rules to refresh her memory, and she says she was “put at ease” by her opponent’s smile. Although she lost, she feels she gave Brady a challenging game.

There is a very important lesson in an article entitled “Unstable Perry Ridge put up for logging bids by BCTS,” it was reported that the Perry Ridge Water Users’ Association (PRWUA) is proposing that the provincial government allow Perry Ridge to be set aside as an ecological reserve managed by the Regional District of Central Kootenay. In fact, PRWUA is asking the RDCC to support the proposal of a Perry Ridge ecological reserve, but not to manage the reserve. The Ecological Reserve Act is provincial legislation and is administered by the Minister of the Environment. The management of a reserve must be in accordance with the regulations in the Act. Visit www.perryridge.org for more information.

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Valley Voice wishes everyone a
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thanks for another great year of serving your communities

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In 2008, the Valley Voice will be a Thursday paper

Friday deadline remains the same

Biweekly schedule remains the same

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