Radcliffe Ridge logging proponents and opponents address RDCK committee

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Park residents Evelyn Kirkaldy and Kirsten Chase-Olsen, and BC Timber Sales representative Al Skakun and Ministry of Forests representative Jim Guido were invited to the RDCK Rural Affairs committee meeting on January 16 to speak about the contentious Radcliffe Ridge timber sale in Slocan Park.

Evelyn Kirkaldy outlined the residents’ concerns, which include: slope stability (the area has a history of washouts, and terrain stability and hydrological reports on two of the four cutblocks were not completed until after the logging contract was awarded); lack of liability protection if residents’ water supply or property is damaged as a result of the logging; lack of community consultation; visual quality (the very visible cutblocks will affect real estate values); and lack of adequate on-the-ground monitoring.

The residents asked the RDCK to write to the Premier and Minister of Forests, asking that the timber sale be set aside until the FPB has had a chance to review the file. They also requested that the RDCK invite to the RDCK Rural Affairs meeting on January 28, 2009 representatives from the Forest Practices Board (FPB), the Sustainable Forests Alliance, the BC Forest and Range Practices Act, and the RDCK Rural Affairs committee.

Director Binks asked if the licence, as there seemed to be justification to rescind it. The FPB has a broader mandate than the FPB process would be done long before that.

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submitted by FairVoting BC

In the upcoming May provincial election, there will be a referendum question on electoral reform. Voters have an opportunity unique in the history of democracy – for citizens to determine how we elect our politicians.

Be informed, and be a part of democracy history. Come hear Gladys Brown, Citizen’s Assembly representative from Midway, speak on the Citizen’s Assembly process and Single Transferable Vote referendum. Public awareness sessions will be held on the following dates: February 1, 4 pm at Landeau Valley Community Centre; February 2, 7:30 pm, Nelson Library; February 3, noon, Hidden Garden Gallery, New Denver and 7 pm, Selkirk College Castlegar; February 4, 7:30 pm, Rossland Old Fire Hall.

At present, about half the voters get the MLA they vote for, and the number of seats they win.

The push for reform came about because we have increasingly been losing trust in politicians and becoming cynical about the possibility of making effective change through traditional legislative processes and political involvement. Young people, in particular, see less and less reason to vote or participate politically, and if this is allowed to continue, we will sooner or later face a serious crisis of legitimacy.

The proposal for change came from the BC Citizens’ Assembly for Electoral Reform, a group of 160 women and men randomly invited by the Legislature from all across the province to represent BC in all its regional and social diversity. They took nearly a year to listen to the public about how government is working (or not) and what we value in our system of voting and representation; to learn about how other places in the world vote; and to deliberate carefully about what way of voting would best suit our province and set us up for the future.

Our Citizen’s Assembly recommendation is that we start using the Single Transferable Vote, or STV – a voting system designed to give as many voters as possible the specific candidate they choose. You will get a single ballot which lists several candidates – typically more than one from each party. You will mark your preferred choice with a ‘1’, and can also indicate as many additional choices as you wish (with a ‘2’, ‘3’, etc.). With our current system, if your preferred candidate is not elected, your ballot is tossed away. With STV, counting is done in rounds so that if your first choice does not have enough support to be elected, your ballot is transferred to your second choice so that you can still have a say in who gets elected.

Many voters will choose to give their next couple of preferences to candidates of their ideological persuasion, and not to their preferred parties, but you are free to support candidates from more than one party if you wish.

This tour is sponsored by: FairVoting BC-Kootenay region and Selkirk College Student Council Association.

For more information contact info@kootenaystv.com or 250 825-9282.

STV referendum tour comes to region

Meadow Creek Cedar has filed for creditor protection, thereby stopping the court bailiff’s sale of all its land and assets in Cooper Creek.

The sale was ordered by the court as a result of legal action taken by the company against two of its creditors – Picture Valley Ranch and Mallard Logging – and was supposed to happen on January 23. Operations Manager Roland McCulloch is very happy that the sale was averted.

“We don’t want a forced sale,” said McCulloch. “Once the lumber market increases, we want to carry on with the logging operation here. Right now, we’re just market logging until the market turns around and we can make money at sawing.”

While under creditor protection, creditors cannot come after Meadow Creek Cedar for money owing. It buys the company some time to figure out how to pay its debt.

“What it does is freezes the creditors that we have and gives us time to restructure our debt. It doesn’t mean we don’t have to pay them,” explained McCulloch. McCulloch explained that Meadow Creek Cedar hired a trustee to deal with the debt restructure. He said the company will negotiate with the trustee and the creditors to devise a repayment plan. The legal process allows them 60 days to come up with the plan, with the possibility of an extension. However, McCulloch says they are aiming to have the plan in hand within the 60 days, and to have their creditors paid off by the end of the summer.

When asked how much the company owes, McCulloch replied, “I’d rather not say, but it’s not a lot – it’s not a huge amount of money.” McCulloch says that the company is not creating any more debt. “Anyone we hire from now on, we pay. We don’t buy what we can’t buy. We don’t do it unless we have the money. We’re sorry this thing came about, but it’s a sign of the times – everyone in this industry is trying to pay their bills and not create any more.”

Valley Voice launches new website

The Valley Voice has revamped its website to start the New Year on a new page.

“We wanted to make the site more lively and attractive, and to re-organize the information a bit. We hope that people will find it easier now to place their advertising with us online,” says Jan McMurray, editor of the Valley Voice.

The site was designed by Nikta Boroumand of Maverick Design and highbrowneys.ca. Boroumand lives in New Denver and has built up a successful design business, specializing in websites.

“We were pleased to re-design the Valley Voice site,” she says. “The Voice is everybody’s favourite newspaper, so it’s no surprise that the site is getting lots of hits.”

The site gets about 1,500 visits per month. Many people read the paper online, and many also refer to the site for advertising, subscription and publication information.

Check it out at www.valleyvoice.ca.

For more information contact:
Hugh Eberle, District Technician Phone: 250 354-6628

Advance Public Notice
Load Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 66 of the Transport Act, advance notice is hereby given that load restrictions may be placed, on short notice in the near future, on all highways in the following highway districts:

West Kootenay District

Restrictions will be imposed, as conditions warrant.

The restrictions may limit vehicules to 100 percent, 70 percent or 50 percent of legal axle loading, as allowed under regulations pursuant to the Commercial Transport Act.

Overweight permits will not be granted and all term overweight permits are void for the duration of the restriction.

The public, and trucking and transportation companies, should supply themselves accordingly.

Restrictions can be viewed at www.drivebc.ca.

Glenn localization District Manager, West Kootenay

Dated in Nelson, British Columbia this 12th day of January, 2009.

For more information please, contact:
Hugh Eberle, District Technician Phone: 250 354-6628

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Nakusp and Area Community Forest

CONTRACTOR CALL

The following is a call for Expressions of Interest by qualified contractors wishing to obtain eligibility to conduct forestry operations within the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) license area. The following categories are included in the eligibility list:

- Road Construction
- Road Maintenance
- Road Deactivation
- Bridge Construction
- Conventional logging
- Cable logging (grapple)
- Cable logging (tower)
- Log hauling
- Site preparation
- Treeplanting
- Brushing

To be considered eligible in any given category, contractors must possess the following minimum requirements:

- Safe Company Certification from the BC Forest Practices Code
- Anactive WCB number and appropriate classification
- Good company standing
- Liability Insurance
- Experience, with references

Interested parties can complete an Expression of Interest form on the NACFOR website at www.nakuspcommunityforest.com. Copies can be obtained at the Nakusp Community Forest office at 119 Broadway Street in Nakusp. To be considered eligible, applications must be received no later than February 27, 2009.

NACFOR’s contractor hiring policies will be finalized following receipt and review of applications.

NACFOR is a newly licensed tenured holder with an Annual Allowable Cut of 20000 cubic meters. It intends to start operational activities as early as spring of 2009. For a description of operating areas and other information, please refer to our website.

The Valley Voice January 28, 2009
The four women vying to replace Corky Evans, the NDP candidate in Nelson-Creston, participated in an all-candidates meeting for NDP members in Kaslo January 21.

Kim Adamson, Rhonda Barter, Bev LaPointe and Michelle Mungall are all well-spoken, passionate and knowledgeable, and though they agreed on many issues they definitely had different ideas and approaches. Adamson, LaPointe and Mungall are all from Nelson; Barter lives in Creston. All have impressive resumes, with memberships and volunteer work in multiple organizations, societies and charities.

The issues they are concerned about include climate change, job loss, affordable housing, child care, privatization of public services including BC Hydro and medical clinics, and cuts to health care, home care and the arts.

They disagreed on minimum wage. Barter, as a former small business owner, was alarmed at the NDP’s proposal to immediately raise the minimum wage to $10. While she acknowledged $8 was too low, she acknowledged $8 was too low, the minimum wage to $10. While the NDP’s proposal to immediately raise the minimum wage was rejected by the NDP convention, the NDP did endorse a gradual increase in the minimum wage over several years. Barter called for “well-thought-out, bold moves to deal with climate change. The political will has to be in Victoria.” LaPointe said rural BC can’t endure another term with the Liberals in power. She paid tribute to Evans’ years as an MLA and said “it would be an honour to follow in your footsteps.”

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The left should work together

I had a lot moment as I finished reading the letter in the last issue of the Valley Voice from Scott Leyland. The letter rather confirmed my first impression of him when I had the opportunity to meet him at last fall’s garlic festival in New Denver.

My first impression was that he is all about promoting Scott Leyland ahead of everything else, including environmental stewardship.

On the other hand, I had the tremendous privilege to run against a party member of his, Ralph Moore, who in my mind is the kind of environmentalist we should all be.

He truly put environmental integrity before self interest. In the end, Ralph endorsed my candidacy over his own because he had grown to realize the length of the federal campaign that I shared his intense desire to put environmental issues front and centre in every community, in and out of our own.

I truly believe it is long past time we on the left begin to put our people first, not profit, and start working together for the sake of our grandchildren’s ability to live as we have on this planet.

Because for sure, Stephen Harper and his kind are all about promoting the tar sands as a ‘sustainable development’. 

Leon Pendleton
Edgewood

Where will the children play?

A couple summers ago my house burned down and I found myself living helplessly across the street from a logging yard. With trucks pouring living helplessly across the street from children play?

Where will the sanitation of our children be taken with no foreseeable hope for his children might do. I packed my cheap little backpack, escaped the gauntlet of the traffic lights and confusion, and went all the way to the coast and up to the north of the island where I hitched from boat to boat to get to the little station. On the way I managed to take in a few marine conservation courses and crash courses in hatchery work and talked to a lot of people about community food systems, I talked with some very important people on my journey about the salmon. They all said there was absolutely no planet twice as fast as twice the capital they can put in their pockets.

I met Alexandra and the Living Oceans Society; they really need our help in a sincere and desperate way. They are a loving family, not unlike residents of the Kootenays, and have to deal with the same proverbial traffic light problems as we do. I left a big part of my life and my story out there on the road to learn. Mainly because my only true protector seems to be the sanctity of nature. A fragile web must not be broken.

Joseph F Bernie
Rossland

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should not be longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your name, position and contact information in the body of your letter.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

Need more ultrasound equipment

In September, I injured my shoulder. My doctor prescribed physiotherapy and also ordered an ultrasound examination. I started the physiotherapy and my physiotherapist responded very well to this.

I found all about the ultrasound until this week, when a lady from the hospital in Trail phoned to make an appointment. I asked her why it has taken three months just to make an appointment. She informed me that the waiting time for ultrasound procedures is six months. I know my shoulder is not that important, but there are patients with more serious ailments and they also have to wait that long.

My question is: is there not more ultrasound equipment available in New Denver or Nakusp? Or why not have a technician travel once a month in to the Slocan Valley to visit all the health centers, do the procedures and take it back to Trail? Then a doctor can look at all the recordings and send the diagnoses to the family doctors.

I was in contact with an American company that sells ultrasound equipment. The quote that I got for a portable ultrasound machine is approximately $10,000 depending on the accessories wanted. I think this would be a very good investment, and in line with what the government preaches by bringing health care closer to home.

I think it is bad that people from Nakusp and New Denver have to travel two-and-a-half hours to Trail for a procedure that takes maybe 15 minutes, but have to wait six months for that. I know Interior Health has all kinds of excuses why this cannot be done and it is too expensive.

I would like to say to the people that make the decisions about all of this: we do not all live in Kelowna where you have your other party. Did you ever drive at 0500 hours to Trail so you can be at your appointment at 0800 hours in any weather condition?

I hope this letter will not put me in the black book of Interior Health.

Albert Boers
Hills

More thoughts on the Conservative Party

I was encouraged to read Alice Wailer’s passionate assessment of the Conservative Party in her “Open letter to Rob Zander” recently, and I would like to add a few comments of my own.

Every significant move the Conservatives make shows they value moneyed interests above people, power above democracy, and ideology above truth. They want a majority government so badly because they wish to force into law things that are contrary to what the people want.

I find their cold, merciless determination very alarming. It expresses itself most viciously with long sentences. I feel chilled at the thought of 14 year-olds into adult prisons for behaviours.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Community food reserve

Those of us who garden may be interested in growing one additional crop each year for a community food reserve. In the interests of crop rotation, one gardener might grow a plot of carrots, while another grows potatoes, kale, beans or turnips, or any other food that can be stored without reliance on electricity in a root cellar, dried or preserved.

The idea is to maintain a yearly off-season supply of locally grown food for emergencies, and to move us closer to being able to feed ourselves without reliance on outsiders. A backyard garden can grow an amazing amount of food, and an organized group of backyard gardens can grow enough food to have an impact on our community food supply. There is no way of knowing how bad the economy might get, or how important this emergency supply of food might be in hard times.

Even in good times, it is still a good idea, especially for a somewhat small community, to cooperate and improve our ability to produce and store enough food for an unexpected emergency. That one extra garden plot grown for the community food reserve is relatively easy to do and it doesn’t have to cut into one’s own personal garden produce in any significant way. It would be a voluntary effort, so there wouldn’t be any complaints.

Well, gardeners, do what you think? I, for one, would be quite happy to have my local community garden plots for a community food reserve if the idea catches on. We just have to get together to decide who grows what and it is relatively easy to do and it doesn’t have to cut into one’s own personal garden produce in any significant way. It would be a voluntary effort, so there wouldn’t be any complaints.

John White
New Denver

During National Non-Smoking Week - January 18 – 24, the Canadian Cancer Society encourages British Columbians to speak out in support of initiatives that prevent youth from starting to smoke and encourage adults who wish to quit.

Canadian Cancer Society BC and Yukon is urging the BC government to enact legislation that will see the removal of tobacco continued on page 5
continued from page 4

from pharmacies and align with British Columbia with the rest of Canada. Although smoking continues to plague the health of hundreds of thousands of British Columbians the sale of tobacco products is still allowed in BC pharmacies. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon are the only remaining jurisdictions in Canada without any regulations for tobacco products in retail locations containing a pharmacy.

Cigarettes - which can kill when used directly as intended - should not be sold in a location designed to improve a person's health. Selling tobacco products in places that sell vitamins and medicines sends young people the message that smoking is acceptable. It is time to get BC's number one disease-causing product out of BC pharmacies.

As we look towards 2010 and the Olympics we must stop the sale of tobacco in pharmacies; when you look to fill your next prescription consider filling it with a pharmacy that doesn't have tobacco on its product list.

It is time to urge our provincial politicians to ban the sale of tobacco products in retail locations that sell a pharmacy.

Phyllis Boates, Kootenay District Region President
Patti Moore, Community Action Coordinator
Canadian Cancer Society

Comments on Gaza

We would like to clarify a few false facts with the truth. A doctor working in Gaza stated that the war has intentionally inflated the number of casualties from the war. The number of deceased stands at more than 500 to 600 people, and 10,000 people are wounded, the ages of 17 to 23 who were recruited to the ranks of Hamas. We have already asked Hamas commanders why they insist on inflating the number of victims.

Fiction: Gaza has no medical and other aid supplies.
Fact: During the first five days alone of Operation Cast Lead Israel has facilitated the delivery of 6,500 tons of aid.

Fiction: There's no food in Gaza.
Fact: The World Food Program informed Israel that it would cease shipment of food to Gaza because the weather renders any shipment impossible. Even as Hamas fired rockets, Israel facilitated the delivery of 2,500 tons of humanitarian aid, medical supplies and medications.

We are saddened by the fact Hamas forced innocent children to be used as shields, knowing Israel did not want to hit children, whereas Hamas for the last eight years has been firing rockets into Gaza aiming at schools, kindergartens, etc. In the last three years since Israel pulled out of Gaza more than 16,000 rockets have landed in Israel killing and maiming and terrorizing residents.

In a display of remarkable restraint, only after two months and thousands of unprovoked attacks did Israel finally feel justified to lead a defensive response.

Daily Telegraph correspondent Tim Howser: “For the first time since the war: ‘I knew Gaza well before the attacks, so when Israel ended its ban on foreign journalists reaching Gaza on the day the ceasefire was announced, I was able to see for myself. One thing was clear – Gaza City 2009 is not Stalingrad 1944. There had been carpet bomb attacks on large areas, no firebombing of complete suburbs. Targets had been selected and hit. Buildings nearly had been damaged and not when cleared into a maze like the firebombing of the UN aid headquarters. But, for the most part, I saw the primary target had been the brunt. For the most part, I was struck by how cosmically unchanged Gaza appeared to be. Of course, in the Palestinian People’s Party said the resistance fighters were firing from positions inside fortresses, sacred places, and the UN building, making it a set-up for the Israeli soldiers.”

We would like to quote Golda Meir: “[Women] are used as human shields by the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us.”

Danny and Joan Law

Water Watch out for the birds

Now that winter has arrived I would like to ask motorists to slow down a bit of care and caution when encountering the flocks of birds that come onto our highways in search of grit and salt. This winter, rather than chastising the callous behaviour and poor driving habits that result in the slaughter of hundreds of birds needlessly, I would like to help educate people about these interesting creatures in the hope that they will be more knowledgable about what motorists would care more about the birds’ welfare.

Pine grosbeaks, pine siskins, and two species of hawks (white-winged and red) are the birds most commonly seen on our roadways in winter. All four species belong to the finch family (Fringillidae) and have evolved to feed primarily, if not exclusively, on conifer seeds. They wander over large areas during the winter searching for good supplies of conifer seeds.

Crossbills have bills so adapted to prying open conifer cones that they can strip the cones clean in seconds and feed their chick regurgitated seeds rather than insects, and have been known to raise a brood of chicks in the winter, with a cone in a pot in a country house in Florida evergreen in all abundance of cases.

Pine grosbeaks and pine siskins have less specialized beaks and pursue a greater variety of seeds, berries, and insects. Golden-crowned and red crossbills will eat berries as they find them, but they too rely on conifer seeds in winter.

All these birds exhibit nature’s beauty. The rose mantle and contrasting black wings with white bars make the male white-winged crossbill the most colorful of all. The brownish pine siskin may appear drab from a distance, but it is closely related to goldfinches and the yellow highlights on its wings and tail make it a very attractive bird.

The birds used to be called the black crossbill, European crossbill, and green crossbill before they were renamed as a group in common synchronicity. This flock behaviour protects them from predation by pygmy owls and accipiter hawks. It is difficult for a predator to catch a immense mass of birds and the predator often ends up confused and empty-handed.

The salmon-bellied crossbill flock behaviour puts these birds at great risk along our highways. Their seed diet requires large amounts of grit to grind the hard seeds in a flock of birds. This is not only needed energy that helps them survive the winter. They are also attracted to salt, particularly pine siskins, and the combined salt and salt on our highways brings flocks of birds to our roadways. Having such an ingrate flock mentality, they gorge for grit in numbers, and wait to leave the roadway in bulk these days. The increases their mortality from motor vehicles.

The avian carnage on our roads can be greatly reduced if people would make two minimal adjustments to their driving habits. When you see a flock of birds on the road, honk your horn. You paid for it and it is for your safety and the use it. Secondly, remove your foot from the accelerator for a few seconds to give the birds a little more of a chance to escape. How hard is it? It works very well for me.

Brian Barney

Beacon

Hamas is the bad guy

It seems incredible to me that in our midst, there are people who support Hamas.

Just in case you forgot, Hamas is one of the groups, along with Al-Qaeda, Hizbollah and the Taliban, that was dancing with joy in the days after 9/11 and 2001.

-has no human rights for women or Christians, has no free press, denies the last Holocaust as it prepares for the next one;

-builds hundreds of tunnels for smuggling arms and rockets, but cannot build shelters to protect its residents.

Those of you who bemoan the lack of Israeli deaths should realize that the lack of deaths is due to every citizen having a walkie-talkie handy that alerts them to their neighbor’s nearness. That is just good planning!

Hamas receives billions of dollars in international aid and is very clever about not using any of this money for infrastructure to make its citizens’ lives better.

Hamas lets in amnesty and ‘leadership’ hide under umbrellas in hospitals while leaving its citizens on their own. Uses human shields by firing from booby-trapped schools, hospitals, and homes.

Send suicide bombers to kill civilians in cafes, schools, and fired thousands upon thousands of rockets into nearby towns trying to kill civilians over an eight-year period without any human rights organization in the UN protesting. If you would like to see Hamas representatives ranting tolerate about how women, the elderly, and specially old people are “especially suited” to be human shields, check out the videos at www.merri.org, a media outlet which monitors and translates all TV stations in the Middle East.

If you would like to see a YouTube video of Hamas shooting up a local wedding because they didn’t like the music, they would invite the bride and groom by a Palestinian who just couldn’t stand it any longer. I can also send you a link showing Hamas lining up fellow Fatah members and shooting them again and again? WARNING – Not for the faint of heart!

Let’s not forget the nature of Iran-backed Hamas. Hamas is the terrorist arm of the terrorist organization or the UN protesting?

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New Denver Council, January 13: Health service issues discussed

by Leah Main

• Council received a letter from Interior Health Authority asking for a meeting to discuss "regulatory and health improving activities and roles which support and serve [your] community," with a focus on developing "a healthier environment for residents of the community." This would include such community health issues as drinking water, air quality, etc. Council suggested that IHA might benefit from a visit to the community gym and exercise centre as a start to their understanding of what this community already does to help improve community health.

• Councillor Greensword referred to a press release from IHA announcing that lab and x-ray services at Slocan Valley General Hospital will be accessible to the Village of Silverton for their assistance clearing snow at the Health Centre during the recent storm.

• Mayor Wright reported that RCMP services in New Denver will be providing "shovel ready" projects for small local volunteer departments. This would require training and may require all fire departments to supply medical first responder and road rescue services, which would likely be unacceptable for small local volunteer departments. Questions also arose about funding and new requirements for planning, training, and administrative and management support. After detailed discussion, Council authorized Greensword and Casley to draft a letter to UBCM advising them of council’s concerns, with copies to be distributed to Regional District and other municipalities.

• A complaint was received from Linda Main regarding vehicles traveling on the dike along Carpenter Creek. This area is "posted to no motor vehicles on dikes" on both sides of the river. Council agreed to forward such complaints to the RCMP, and will look into additional measures they can take regarding enforcement.

• New Denver is applying for a Towns for Tomorrow grant. The Village is looking for a way to continue to improve the Village, including an addition to create expanded office space. The plans include a new ventilation system as well as wired lights. Affordable solar panels, geothermal, lighting and insulation upgrades, and a wheelchair accessible washroom. The entire project has been looked at with a view to environmental sustainability. Eighty percent of the funding for the $500,000 project would come from Towns for Tomorrow, and council will need to budget for the remaining 20%. A decision on the application is expected by the end of May, and if approved, construction would be undertaken this summer.

TV Society serves North Slocan Valley

submitted by Peter Roulston

The cold days and long nights of winter find many of us indoors more of the time, perhaps reading that great book or enjoying viewing something on the radio or television set. For more than 30 years now, the Area H TV Society has provided quality reception found on the radio stations and television channels in our homes and cars. The society is a committee of local folks who meet from time to time to ensure that the signals and content broadcast around the valley are suitable and sufficient. Over the years, these volunteer efforts have provided several channels and stations that are deemed to be informative and entertaining to the general area population. Questionnaires have been circulated and comments from interested residents solicited in an effort to determine what programming may be delivered, with content and cost as prime considerations.

Silvercreek town council holds planning meeting

by Leah Main

At its January 12 public planning meeting, council reviewed priorities for the coming year, with items brought forward by each councilor and by Administration, Finance, and Public Works.

Items were prioritized as follows: High priority: garbage pick-up (including the possibility of sharing with or contracting the service from New Denver); playground upgrade; building relationships with local governments; boulevard and Village properties maintenance and improvement; Gallery building (undertake an engineering study, with particular attention to furniture, plumbing, and exit stairs); Day Park (upgrading washrooms, locating solar panels, etc.); traffic calming outside of school; fire hydrants and inspections; sidewalks, streets and lanes assessment (with annual budget allocation for upgrades and maintenance); arena (working with Arena Society to complete renovations); Finngiland Cabin area (work with Historical Society and Community Club); and review all leases held on Village owned properties and facilities.

Next priority: Boulevard Bylaw; Community Club storage facility; septic systems (evaluate, locate, maintain); park benches; fire truck and equipment (in conjunction with regional fire service); Public Works shop upgrade (insulation, electricity, efficient use of space); campground (advertise new adjacent contract, planning for new washrooms, showers, etc.); beaches and picnic areas (dock repair, signage, swimming raft); Lake Avenue (angling, parking, tree planting); chicken bylaw; signage (Day Park, campground, etc.).

Low Priority: Municipal Hall; Fire Hall; website; bus stop gazebo; community garden and compost project; Devlin Park; additional public washrooms; schedule committee meetings for daytimes.

All unallocated matching financial commitment from the Village will be discussed in detail at ongoing budget meetings.

Mayor Everett and Administrator Ida reported that they are developing a Towns for Tomorrow grant application, to be submitted immediately, as the Province has announced they are seeking to fund “shoved ready” projects that can be completed quickly. The grant would be for water system upgrades, potentially including fixing the existing storage tank, installing a new storage tank, fixing existing lines, decommissioning obsolete lines, and other related items. Total project cost will be approximately $500,000, with $200,000 coming from Towns for Tomorrow. The Village already has $89,000 Gas Tax Rebate money to use toward this project, and expects to receive another $400,000 in 2018 this year, as well as $17,000 unused from last year’s budget that can be brought forward for this project. If approved, the application would start as early as March 1 and be completed in approximately two months.

Because this meeting was held at the beginning of the Whole Village residents were allowed to participate in discussion, and brought forward some valuable input.

Council will ask Destination Silverton to report on the upcoming beautification plan, and will work closely with Silverton Historical Society and Silverton Community Club on other shared projects.
Silverton council, January 20: Corporal Bowden reports on RCMP activities

by Leah Main

• RCMP Corporal Todd Bowden attended council’s meeting on January 28 and reported to council on the Slocan Lake detachment’s activities in the last calendar quarter. He said that from October 28, 2008 through December 28, 2008, the detachment had responded to only six calls in Silverton, one of which was a commercial break-in (which has been resolved), and said this is a problem throughout the entire community with a commercial zone and a substantial residential area. He congratulated the community on such progress.

Bowden then reported that the Slocan Lake Detachment now falls under a new, expanded regional administrative area, Kootenay-Boundary Regional RCMP Detachment, which encompasses essentially the same geographic region as H.A. (Interior Health). Bowden indicated that this will enable the local detachment to call on more resources, including plainclothes surveillance staff and vehicles, which he anticipated would be used primarily for drug interdiction. Bowden indicated that RCMP interdiction activities here in Silverton have been affected by an increased interest in this area on the part of organized crime.

Additionally, both the Traffic Enforcement Integrated Road Safety Unit and a Traffic Services Unit comprised jointly of RCMP and Nelson City Police have been assigned to work in the Silverton area, in an increased level of enforcement throughout this area. Both council and community members indicated that highway speeding is still an issue, and asked for suggestions of what can be done to keep the Silverton stretch of Highway 93/95 to reduce speed through town.

Bowden indicated that, while RCMP will continue to explore traffic enforcement, it seems that the Village is limited to using “environmental design” – visually making the highway through town more have a sense of being “downtown”.

• Mayor Everett reported that the Towns for Tomorrow grant application has been getting positive feedback from the Ministry, but a decision won’t be made on the application till probably the middle of March.

• Councilors Bell and Johnson both attended the Regional District orientation session, and reported that it was extremely informative. The possible restructuring of the Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital Board is trying to set a meeting date to discuss emergency service at Slocan Community Health Centre.

• Administrator Junko Ida reported that a meeting is scheduled with Trainer Mechanical for new week regarding the Memorial Hall projects. Approval of a Heritage Legacy Fund grant has been received, in the amount of $19,934.25 (exclusive of GST) for refinishing the Hall floor, work to be completed by March 31.

• Further to discussion at the January 12 planning meeting (attended by Whole), Mayor Everett and Councillor Barbour, both members of the Facilities and Recreation committee, proposed that a select committee be appointed to oversee completion of the current hall renovations, within the already established time frame and budget. Council approved the proposal.

• Councillor Provan brought forward ongoing discussion regarding the Community Club/Christmas By The Lake temporary buildings on the gallery lawn. Community Club was asked for a detailed plan of their proposed storage building, to be located in the vicinity of the old recycling building. They will work with administration, and develop a plan to move the temporary buildings as soon as feasible.

• Councillor Provan, project manager (kitchen and other renovations). This committee will meet at its earliest possible opportunity to ensure success of these projects.

• Other council committees were asked to set meeting schedules, so that members of the public who wish to attend would be aware of when the meetings will be held.

• Council approved application for a Village debit card through Kootenay Savings Credit Union, with a spending limit of $3,000 to be held by Administrator Ida and used for Village purchasing when needed.

• Council received a letter from Destination Silverton, renewing the request from last year that a policy protecting lakeshore values and prohibiting rental or sales of houses and jet skis be included in the Official Community Plan. This matter was referred to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Silverton mayor’s report – Memorial Hall renovations

Many citizens of Silverton have asked me to clarify the source of funding for the ongoing renovations to the Memorial Hall.

In 2006 the Village received approval from the Spirit of 2010 Legacy Fund to make upgrades to the hall and to provide security for the hall so it could be used for a venue for folks to view the 2010 Olympics/Paralympics. The upgrades included new washrooms, improved fire suppression (sprinklers), air conditioning, floor refinishing, painting, and an audio/visual system. The original grant was for $176,000, of which the 2010 contribution was $88,000 and the Village had to provide a matching amount of $88,000. Council agreed at the time we would not use tax dollars to fund our share but would use the proceeds from the sale of land on Leadville Street and our tourism grant.

We quickly learned that we could not do all the planned work with the $176,000 and the project was scaled back. Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall were formed as a group of citizens to raise funds and apply for additional grants to complete the work not covered by the 2010 funding. Friends have been very actively fundraising and were able to raise considerable funds on their own. In addition they obtained Columbia Basin Trust grants for kitchen improvements ($30,000) and a business/marketing plan ($5,000). They were also instrumental in the Village obtaining approximately $16,000 from the Legacy Heritage Fund of British Columbia for fire suppression (sprinklers). Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall are contributing $15,000 to the kitchen improvements and are also paying for painting of the interior.

New tables, chairs and staging were purchased by the Friends for use by the community.

The Silverton Community Club has offered to paint the exterior of the hall at their expense along with volunteering to help with the removal of the old washrooms and equipment repaired and running. Additional staff and contract workers were required for these efforts, and costs are being tracked.

In 2008 the Silverton Memorial Hall Society, with the support of Nelson City Police, started a select committee to be appointed to oversee completion of the current hall renovations, within the already established time frame and budget. Council approved the proposal.

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Yes, the renovations have been ongoing for some time and some but has been careful not to use tax dollars for the improvements. The plan is to have the work completed this spring.

Thanks to the partnership of the Village, 2010, CBT, Celebration 150, Heritage Legacy Fund of BC, Silverton Community Club and Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall Society, we will have a vastly improved facility. My hat goes off to all the parties for a job well done.

HANDY REFERENCE GUIDE FOR AREA “H” NORTH T.V. SOCIETY

TELEVISION CHANNELS

CH. 3  PBS  Seattle  87.8 Knowledge
CH. 6  Knowledge  91.7 CBC #1
CH. 7  CTV  Vancouver  93.5 KBS Trail
CH. 8  NBC  USA  94.3 Country 105
CH. 10  CBS USA  98.3 CBC #2
CH. 11  ABC  USA  103.7 Rock 101
CH. 12/17  CBC  Vancouver  107.5 CJLY Nelson
CH. 13  GLOBAL Vancouver

RADIO STATIONS

Kootenay Co-op Radio

All the above programming is available on any television set or any FM radio receiver at home, in your car, or the great outdoors!

Comments? Info?
Call 250-358-2375 • 250-358-2133 • 250-358-2479
Long overdue protection coming for logging contractors

by Jan McMurray

The Province will re-draft the Woodworkers’ Lien Act so that logging contractors are adequately protected in the event they are not paid by a licensor.

“People in the industry are looking for good protection, especially in challenging economic times,” said Minister of Forests Pat Bell in an interview.

He said that the current act is “outdated and not of any particular value. We want to give logging contractors the same sorts of rights the system, you have no proof of eligibility for a range of financial benefits and tax breaks.

John Shantz
• 250-308-7941 (cell)
Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.
250-547-9296

WANTED TO BUY:

CEDAR AND PINE POLES

Donation store re-opens February 2

Submitted

Marilyn Boxwell

The Donation Store in New Denver will re-open February 2 after a one-month shutdown so the volunteers could do some serious culling. White elephants (such as outdated computer and unsafe electrical equipment), decrepit household wares and unwearable clothing of several decades past, occupy more hours than the store has staff for.

“We appreciate the many donations of clean, useable, and invaluable ‘stuff,’” says Carol Bell, “but discarding the cross plays a larger part than we would like.”

Volunteers are sorting, organizing and categorizing donation. Bell calls the store “our El Dorado, filled with gems and treasures.”

The Bosun Hall is the beneficiary of this gold mine. Revenues from the store enable LACE (Lucerne Association for Community Education) to upgrade the kitchen, the heaters and lighting, and take care of many other maintenance concerns. Rentals are held to affordable rates while LACE works towards supporting youth and other vulnerable individuals.

At the AGM on February 4, at 7 pm, members will establish the process for the Great Front Wall Project. “We need the help of those interested in our community, both in the donation store and at the Bosun Hall,” says Bell. “Will you lend a hand?”

CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Funding Programs

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is accepting proposals for funding consideration from the Community Initiatives & Affected Areas programs sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust. Funding for 2009 is to be used for new initiatives or the enhancement of existing programs and is open to all non-profit/not-for-profit community groups.

Application forms are available at the Regional District of Central Kootenay main office, at all member municipal offices, or can be downloaded from our website at www.rdck.bc.ca/corporate/grants/cbi.html.

Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. PST on March 19, 2009.

Completed Applications must be submitted to:
Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Program
Attn: Trish Gerald
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
or by Fax: (250) 352-9300
or by email: tgerald@rdck.bc.ca

For more information, please contact Trish Gerald:
1-800-268-7325 tgerald@rdck.bc.ca

Volunteers for tax preparation needed

Submitted by Marilyn Boxwell

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Return (CVITR) program sponsored by Revenue Canada is about to spring into action for the sixth year running.

Mike Thomson will offer a one-day training workshop for those who want to volunteer to help persons of any age to complete and file their income tax return.

Last year the income ceiling for this free, confidential service was set at $25,000 for individuals, $30,000 for couples and families, plus $2,000 per child. More than 100 people from throughout the district were helped last year.

Filing an annual tax return is strongly advised. Some low-income individuals who don’t have to pay income tax believe this process is not necessary. Unfortunately, if they don’t file they may not receive certain financial benefits to which they are entitled, or may be overpaying their medical services premiums.

Unless your income is entered into the system, you have no proof of eligibility for a range of financial benefits and tax breaks.

The training workshop will be held in Nakusp February 12 from 9 am to 3 pm at Robertson United Church hall. The session is offered free of charge and participants will receive updated tax return guidelines and related information. Bring your lunch and also a pencil and calculator.

To register for the workshop call Revenue Canada toll free, 1-888-322-3622. A volunteer representative from the CVITR district co-ordinator Marilyn Boxwell at 265-0075.

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Summit Lake Racers rip Whitewater

Submitted

The Rio Tinto Alcan Nancy Greene Ski League’s first zone race of the year was a success. The course and logistics were well-managed by the Whitewater team.

All of our E’ level Summit Lake Racers competed. There was exceptional parental support, and thanks to outstanding volunteer coaches Frances Swan, Barb Lewis, Nicole Nicholson, Roger Waterfield, and Dan Nolan, our racers were prepared.

The 2009 season is off to a great start.

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No Excuse and Lazy Poker to rock 17th annual Winter Blues Boogie

January 28, 2009

The Valley Voice

The OCP has received first notice that the enforcement of the bylaw is somewhat unfair. He said local people had listened to him that he was under a Notice on Title in his property that was on the highway, thus more exposed to the building inspector. Also, a previous owner of his property constructed a bedroom and had not submitted a building permit or follow the building code, and no Notice on Title was placed on the property as a result.

The cost of the building permit would come about one third the cost of non-RDCK building times. This will be the most important part of the OCP.

The Albert Fick Review. Along the way they have picked up a couple more players, enjoyed notoriety, held three funerals for Albert and are now enjoying a huge resurgence of popularity, playing balls and ski lodges across BC the past few years. As always, this event is a community fundraiser. Proceeds this year go to the preschool and to Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall. The club, including regularly groomed tracks, a trade-up ski program, and the expansion of activities offered by Area H Director Walter Popoff.

Area H North residents invited to OCP meeting

by Jan McMurray

A review of the RDCK building bylaw is coming down the pipe, following a discussion about Notices on Title at the Rural Affairs Committee meeting of January 16. At the meeting, there were seven Notices on Title on the agenda – six of them were in Area H16. The OCP process in a referendum. Area H Director Walter Popoff told the committee that he received many complaints about the building bylaw during his election campaign.

He wanted to refer all six items back to the building department to give him time to become familiar with the building bylaw. This did not go over well with committee members. Several directors spoke up to tell Popoff that the job of directors was to give a government department the benefit of the doubt that it was staff’s job to administer bylaws.

Popoff commented that the bylaw clearly requires filing a Notice on Title, and if they were not to be open to liability, the committee agreed to refer back one of the six items to the building department for Albert and to prepare a report for the board outlining why the RDCK would want to retain the bylaw and why they might want to change it.

The one case that was referred back to the building department was discussed in detail because the Notice on Title was not filed by the previous owner of his property until he goes to sell the property and the potential buyer is uncomfortable with the notice.
Coffeehouse musical comedy

by Art Joyce

Religion, Politics and Neurontology is an unlikely title for a musical comedy show, except in the capable hands of Kevin Murphy, who can turn the lyric to any song into a wry comment on the political landscape. The Silverton Gallery was jammed to standing room only Friday, January 23 with an audience eager to be shed of its January blues and help raise money for the Rosebery Parklands Society legal defense fund. The show raised over $1,000 for the cause.

The subtitle was Putting the Duh Back in Fundamentalism and Murphy’s wit ranged from piercingly subtle to punning groaners. Although cheap shots, below-the-belt jokes and off-pitch singing were plentiful, Murphy was careful to be gracious and the results were hilarious. The political theatre became literal with the performance of several skits. Kevin Murphy turned Obama’s (“Obi-wan”) spirit of inclusiveness on its head by telling jokes and singing ditties that were equal opportunity jokes at Muslim, Christian, Jewish and New Agers. Not content merely to criticize, Murphy chose songs that “accentuate the positive” in human nature. The show brought everyone on board with singalong numbers like “I'm Just a Woman” (the ancient Sumerian goddess of love and war) and the Bellamy Brothers’ “There's A Reason.” That song’s refrain, “Just let your love flow, like a mountain stream…” was augmented by an audience chorus of the meditative chant “Aum.”

Guest performers included Eric Fausts with his version of the Ian Tamblyn song Black Spruce, Richard Burzon’s deft keyboard stylings, and the epic Dylanesque songs of Soleil. Judy Maltz got some unplanned laughs as she tried to extricate herself from a tangled mishap of sheet music and stretcher tape. She handled it with grace and humour and performed a resounding Broadway version of Ann Mortifee’s feminist Creation Song at the piano. Lilliania Wright and Jeremy Down pulled off a slide-guitar, blues mama number written by Wright called Looks Like Rain that shook the house.

The political theatre became literal with the performance of several skits. Murphy took our classic cheese shop skit, retitled Ajaxesque songs of Soleil. Burton’s deft keyboard stylings, and milking the “Lord Cheeses” pun to the hilarious limit. Hastings and Sue O’Donnell pulled it off with consummate skill and led the choir in a spirited rendition of Every Sperm Is Sacred from Monty Python’s Meaning of Life.

Lilliania Wright and The Deciders featuring MC Jake closed the show with rousing energy and professional polish, featuring several of Wright’s original compositions in a genre she calls “socially conscious hip-hop with gospel influences.”

Kevin Murphy’s saxophone wizardry spiced the mix seamlessly. Wright’s voice is soulful with with depth and control, and her lyrics prove that poetry still has a role to play in social evolution.

The Valley Voice January 28, 2009
Health co-op forming in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A group of people in the Nakusp area is in the beginning stages of forming a health co-op. Beverley Darnell is one of the movers and shakers behind the initiative. “The idea behind the co-op is that it will offer natural health practitioners a place to work out of,” explained Darnell. “We’re hoping to have a naturopathic doctor, a nutritionist, an acupuncturist, a registered massage therapist – a well rounded choice of complementary medicine.”

Darnell says the co-op will deliver the message that people need to have as many choices as possible for health care, both natural and mainstream. She says her family has put together a “health team” that includes a general practitioner, a naturopath, an acupuncturist and a chiropractor. “We all need to work together. We need to take responsibility for our health and not hold the government accountable for it. We can’t afford to not go this route.”

Darnell says the local group has 12 members so far, with three of them willing to sit on the steering committee. “We plan to do a membership drive, and get our feeders out there a bit more – can we find that need in our community for alternative care?”

Darnell says the group is pursuing one possible opportunity for a building in downtown Nakusp to house the co-op, but this is in the preliminary stages.

The group invited Doug Stoddart from the Nelson health co-op to come and speak to them on January 15 at Selkirk College. Darnell said the meeting was very informative, and it was good to hear from someone who had already formed a co-op similar to the one the Nakusp group has in mind.

The group has also thought about being part of the solution for the Nakusp Hot Springs, “but right now, we’re focused on setting up the co-op. We want the co-op to go ahead, regardless of what happens at the hot springs,” said Darnell.

She says the group has received pledges totalling $301,000 to go towards developing the idea of holding workshops and retreats at the hot springs. Also, a person who has the qualifications to run the hot springs has come forward. “At this point, it is a dream – a possibility – for the co-op to hold workshops and retreats at the hot springs,” she said. Contact Darnell at 265-9777 or bdarnel@telus.net.

Celebrate Spirit of BC Week in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp library to host poetry evening submitted

The Nakusp Public Library, committed to constant fine-tuning and upgrading its collection, is in the process of enlarging its poetry section. Head librarian Evelyn Goodell has submitted the Nakusp library to host poetry evening Spirit of BC Week. This year marks the one-year countdown to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

On Friday, February 6 at the arena auditorium, there will be a celebration of Nakusp’s arts, culture and heritage from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm called ‘A Night at the Opera.’ There will be disirelows and local groups, an array of refreshments will be served. As well, some lucky person will win the door prize of the anthology ‘Poems to Change your Life’.

The library invites the public to enjoy an evening of poems from around the world, read by local readers. Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music for the evening and a delicious array of refreshments will be on hand.

The Nakusp Public Library will host ‘For the Love of Poetry’ on Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm. The library invites the public to enjoy an evening of poems from around the world, read by local readers. Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music, and a delicious array of refreshments will be served.

The Rotary Club of Nakusp is accepting Nominations for 2008 Citizen of the Year in 3 categories: Citizen of the Year, Lifetime achievement, Youth Citizen of the Year.

For the Love of Poetry

by Katrine Campbell

Nakusp & District Rotary Club presents its 11th Annual Dinner Theatre Bedside Manor is “a tune-filled evening in an elegant, historic hospital setting.”

Don’t disappoint your Valentine! Get your tickets today!

Tickets are $35.00 each, available at Hub International Barton Insurance.

For the Love of Poetry...

An evening dedicated to poetry

Nakusp & District Rotary Club presents its 11th Annual Dinner Theatre

Bedside Manor

February 13 & 14, 2009

Don’t disappoint your Valentine!

Get your tickets today!

Tickets are $35.00 each, available at Hub International Barton Insurance

202 Broadway, Nakusp
Starting December 8, 2008

CBAL Spirit of BC Week one year countdown February 6-14, 2009
Residents want winter access to Arrow Lakes boat ramps

by Jan McMurray

Boat ramps at Burton, Faquier, Edgewood and MacDonald Creek, who work in and residents are not happy about it. They feel that BC Hydro is obligated to make sure they can access the boat ramps year-round.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents
In performance at the BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

OPERA WITH A TWIST & A KISS

With Paul and Melina Moore

Friday, Feb. 6th at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $27 Adults and $22 Seniors (60 and over)

Students $10.00 (17 & under)

Concession is included in ticket price!

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host: The Old Grey Barn

‘A Night at the Opera’ wine and cheese Social and Music Chat at the Nakusp Arena’s Auditorium from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Phone: 250-265-2141
Toll free: 1-877-265-5565
nakusp@nakuspmusicfest.ca

Looking for the Nakusp Music Fest 2009 EMCEE!!

Are you outgoing, enthusiastic and organized?

We are looking for an energetic & reliable individual to emcee this year’s festival.

Submit a 3 – 10 minute video showcasing your emcee skills

No previous experience necessary! Deadline March 1

Competition is open to locals and out-of-towners.

Must be 19 or older to apply.

Wanted: Earth Committee Supervisor

Nakusp Music Fest is committed to making the festival environmentally friendly.

If you are a reliable BCBYCC or DCCD with others, we would welcome your involvement.

Together we can come up with solutions to make the festival greener.

Please drop off your resume at the Music Fest Office, 619 Broadway Street, with a cover letter indicating how and why you would like to get involved.

Volunteer position with supervisor benefits.

Nakusp Music Fest – July 17, 18, 19, 2009

Volunteer position with benefits:

Transport Drivers for Hospitality and Backstage Equipment:

Duties to include:

• Running Errands, Hotel runs, Possible Airport Pick Ups,
• Transporting equipment between two stages
• Must have respect for privacy and positive attitude
• Must have copy of Driver’s Abstract
• For passenger transport you must have a valid Class 5 Drivers License
• All other transport must have a Class 5 Drivers License

Since 2006, when BC Hydro was ordered to provide access to the Arrow Lakes reservoir via boat ramps, residents have been through a public consultation process with BC Hydro about boat ramp improvements. People who attended the public meetings were under the impression that BC Hydro was striving for year-round usage of the ramps. When residents complained to Area K (Arrow Lakes) Director Pat Peterson about the lack of snow removal at the ramps, he contacted Jennifer Walker-Larsen of BC Hydro. Unhappy with her response, Peterson took it to the RDCK board. The board is going to write a letter to the Comptroller of Water Rights, asking him to order BC Hydro to provide year-round boat access to the reservoir. In an interview, Walker-Larsen pointed out that winter boat access is available at the Nakusp launch and the Faquier ferry landing, as in past years. She said there has never been winter access to the BC Hydro ramps in Burton, Faquier and Edgewood, to her knowledge.

BC Parks administers the existing ramps at Burton, Faquier, Edgewood and MacDonald Creek, and is responsible for their day-to-day maintenance, while BC Hydro is responsible for their structural maintenance, she explained. “The day-to-day operations will continue to be the responsibility of BC Parks [after BC Hydro has made the boat ramp improvements] and as far as I’m aware, the ramps have never been made available in winter,” said Walker-Larsen. She added, “BC Hydro does not maintain any boat ramps anywhere in the winter, to my knowledge. BC Hydro believes that providing access to boat ramps in winter conditions poses an unacceptable level of safety risk to ramp users.”

She said BC Hydro has committed to improving access to the Arrow Lakes Reservoir as recommended by the Columbia River Water Use Plan and clause in requirements of the water licence. “The intent is to improve reservoir access during the summer recreational boat season and in the case of the Fauquier boat ramp, improve access during the shoulder season,” she said.

Walker-Larsen said BC Hydro is currently focusing on the planned boat ramp improvements at Faquier and MacDonald Creek Park, but does not yet know when new access to the Arrow Lakes Reservoir will be available in winter. For the new low-level ramp south of Burton, BC Hydro is working on the property transfer and required authorizations.

Future activities include celebrating our 100-year anniversary with BCWCL, hosting the spring tournament of the New Dawn/Shawap District, and raising money to help with the expansion of the BC Children’s Hospital. The goal is to make a $100,000 contribution to our provincial member.

We write many letters to address concerns, e.g. the decision by the University of BC board of governors to eliminate or greatly reduce the UBC farm income. We are very concerned about this decision to eliminate the farm income of the farm property.

Ewodeed Women’s Institute have been supporting children of the makers of Nutella. 

The couple are "visually appealing, vocally stunning," and this duo performs with "dynamic energy from beginning to end." These guitar-trained vocalists deliver their music with wit and charm in a program that opera and musical theatre aficionados won’t want to miss. Prepare to be delighted, moved, riveted and reminded that the music of love makes for an extraordinary show. opera with a twist and a kiss includes everything from opera to Broadway and beyond – tunes from Phantom of the Opera, Carousel, La Boheme, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and many more.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council plans a gala kickoff to the 2009 season. In a celebration of Arts, Heritage and Culture (A Spirit of BC Week Event), everyone is invited to A Night at the Opera, a wine and cheese social and music chat, to be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the arena auditorium, prior to the concert.

In keeping with the spirit of celebration, attendees are encouraged to come dressed up in their most extravagant costumes as one of their favourite opera characters.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door, then they will be available at the door of the arena auditorium during the reception. If there are any left, they will be at the Bonnington when the doors open at 7:30 pm.

The same performance will be presented at the Langham in Kaslo on Friday, February 6th.

Edgewood Women’s Institute report

Since it is a new year we want people to know the Edgewood–Inonokl Women’s Institute is still active, but still badly in need of new members to help make a difference in our world. This past year we have been able to accomplish many things: continue to support the Edgewood clinic, polling centre and community club; sponsor an annual anti-litter poster contest at the school; knit blankets for the homeless; crochet lap robes for the seniors and baby blankets for the nursery at Vernon Hospital; deliver shoe boxes for ‘Operation Christmas Child’; donate personal items to the Nakusp Safe House.

In conjunction with the Federated WI we have made quilts, toques, baby sweaters and many warm items to be delivered to the needy of communities in northern Canada; donated to a project of the international WI, which is a food supplement for undernourished children from the makers of Nutella.
Nakusp council, January 13: Geothermal systems for arena discussed

by Jan McMurray

- Just back from a two-day trip visiting the Fort Nelson BC with Arena Parks Manager Gerry Little, Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering attended as a delegation to update council on the arena and water system.

An $885,000 grant has just been announced for a more efficient heating system for the building. Shephard showed council pictures of several different types of geothermal systems, which can save up to 80% on the heating bill compared to conventional systems. Council decided to have a separate meeting to discuss the options further.

- Shephard let council know that he wanted to submit a grant application under the Towns for Tomorrow program for the water system. The application would be for well #2 and a backup generator. Council authorized Shephard to go ahead with the grant application.

Shephard explained that when well #1 went dry, a new well was drilled and the new building was set up for well #2 also. He said that bringing well #2 online could almost double Nakusp’s current water supply, coming from well #1 and the geothermal system.

The grant will pay for 80% of the total cost, estimated to be $521,830. Treasurer Richard Mahoney said that the 2009 gas tax, which would likely come from 2009 gas tax revenue, would be available for inspection within 7 days after it has been requested. A copy can be made of any applicable agreements under Section 9(5), between the Village and Provincial government.

The grant application described an ambitious project to scale it down to about 1/3 the size, concentrating on the sewer lagoon, cenotaph and campground.

“I don’t think we will have the staff and machinery time for this project before the season is over, but many projects right now between the ice plant, geothermal system, virtual cemetery and sewer and water systems. I think the worst thing we can do is overload staff and ourselves...” said Mayor Hamling.

- Neil Muth, President of Columbia Basin Trust, responded to council’s letter requesting CBT to consider funding a fueling station in conjunction with the whale and boat ramp being built by BC Hydro. Muth stated that two CBT reps met with Mayor Hamling on December 4. At this meeting, it was agreed that there was a need for a plan for the waterfront area. Muth encourages council to continue discussing this with Lynda Lafleur, local CBT community liaison, as CBT may be able to assist with financial support for the plan.

- Mayor Hamling reported that the community consultative group is looking at an education program for youth and the community about ATVs on the trail and is discussing speed limit signs with the Ministry of Transportation.

She also reported that there has been a rise in domestic violence in the area. The Stop the Violence program will be putting on a Healthy Relationships workshop in the fall. Mayor Hamling met with Deb Austin and toured the new complex care wing. It is expected to be completed in February. Hamling said it was originally to be finished in June, but “they had one problem after another.”

- A request from the Rotary Club for a fee waiver for the use of the auditorium and kitchen for its Dinner Theatre on February 13 and 14, and for rehearsals, was granted. Mayor Hamling said she spoke to Area K Director Paul Peterson, who agreed.

As the Rotary Club pays their funding back into the auditorium.

- Council agreed to write a letter of support for Mirror Theatre, which will be hosting the Theatre BC Kootenay Zone Festival 2009 in Nakusp May 14-18.

- After receiving a copy of a letter from Premier Campbell from the Village of New Denver regarding the newly announced property tax deferral program, council asked staff to write a similar letter from the Village of Nakusp. Treasurer Mahoney confirmed that if a significant number of people are able to defer their taxes, it could impose an economic hardship to the Village. The Province pays the 20% of the deferred taxes to the Village, but the question is when that payment will be made. The Village of New Denver asks that payment to municipalities be made subject to August 1st of each year, regardless of whether the taxes have been collected or not. Late payment of deferred property taxes by the Province will in effect cause further strain on capital and operational costs for small municipalities by delaying projects until funds are received.” states the letter from New Denver.

- Council will meet on January 31 at 9 am to come up with a three-year plan. Budget meetings were also set for January 21, February 4 and February 25. The budget is due May 15.

- Accounts payable of $281,383.99 for the month of December were approved.
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society

Community Counsellor: Adult Mental Health and Addictions Case Manager / Child Youth Mental Health / Full Time

North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society is seeking a unique, inspired caring professional to work in beautiful Kaslo BC as an Adult Mental Health and Addictions Case Manager and Child Youth Mental Health Counsellor. The position entails providing assessment, treatment planning, implementation and outcome evaluation for adult clients of the Mental Health and Addictions Outpatient Program in collaboration with physicians, psychiatrists and families. The position also requires experience in child centered and expressive therapies for children experiencing the onset and occurrence of mental health, emotional and behavioural issues. A working knowledge of DSM is required.

The position is 37.5 hours per week.

Benefits and professional development provided.

A Masters Degree in Social Work, Counselling Psychology or equivalent is preferred. A Bachelors Degree with equivalent experience and training in expressive therapies for children and the mental health system may be considered.

Only candidates that can confirm long term commitment and residency in the Kootenay Lake area need apply.

Please indicate a possible start date in your cover letter.

Send resume and cover letter to administrator@nklics.org or fax 250-353-7694. Closing date for applications is February 8 at 5pm.

For more information see our website: www.nklics.org

Kaslo Council, January 13:

by Katrine Campbell

The meeting of John Steinman, who appeared as a delegation to speak about genetically engineered crops, council adopted a policy that “the Village of Kaslo opposes the cultivation of genetically engineered plants and trees within the municipality, and that the municipality agrees to revisit this resolution as pertinent new information becomes available that affects this resolution.”

• Staff reviews were referred for discussion to the labour management committees. The Municipal Services Committee project list, and the authors will be thanked for their interest. The municipality insurance review was struck from the Municipal Services Committee project list, as this project is complete.

• An agreement for fire prevention inspections in the three-year period for 2009 budget was referred to the Municipal Services and SCM Risk Management Services Inc. will be signed by the mayor and CAO.

• The Outdoor Burning Regulation Bylaw permit schedule will remain.

• The Village will write a letter to the Ministers of Forests, Lands and Environment supporting the position that there has been a lack of landscape level planning in the matter of carbon habitat protection process.

The following projects were progressed: the Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition was accepted as the new name Lt. Col. Arnold H.G. Kemball, commander of the 54th Kaslo Battalion who was killed in France and died in 1916.

The Public Works foreman was directed to explore any need to rekey the building. The floor ball vault will serve as a cold storage area.

• Mayor Lay reported on the RDCK inaugural meeting, invitation to the recreation block for a new fire hall, and discussion of a regional district fire service with a blended tax rate, rather than continuing with a fire contract.

• Bly 1080, Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw, was recommenced and adopted. Bly 1081, Municipal Services Procedure Bylaw, was reconsidered and adopted.

The draft RDCK Recreation Community Plan was referred for approval. The long and short term plans for the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society to harvest timber in the Kaslo watershed. Correspondence from the Ministry of Community Development regarding Trees for Tomorrow was referred to the committee for recommendation to council. The 400 block lane between 4th and 5th Streets will be named Penny Lane.

• Mayor Lay was appointed on an interim basis as liaison to the Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition.

• A sewer selection committee will be established to review the sewer bylaw. Council will retain a licensed professional, experienced and knowledgeable sewer classes of use and usage units, to review and make recommendations for amendments to Bly 1006, Schedule C to Village of Kaslo Bylaw 973. Staples correspondence regarding sewer line regulation was referred to committee.

• Auke Elzinga will be advised that condominium sewer rates will not be reduced for the adjacent Vimy Park ring road. The campground attendant will be permitted to live on-site year round for a period of one year on a trial basis. The campground will be reserved for recreational camping purposes only. Permanent signage regarding biodegradable effluent standards will be installed at the campground, and the attendant required to supervise inputs from recreational vehicles.

New Dorset

North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society

The first venue is the Silverton Fringe Festivals this summer. In Kaslo, tickets for the Kaslo show are $18 in advance at Sunnyside Naturals, or $20 at the door. The first concert is at the Langham Hotel at 8 pm by a concert at the Langham Hotel at 8 pm. The second CD, Nelson musician Aspen Switzer is about to kick off her CD release party. The new name honours Lt. Col. Arnold H.G. Kemball, commander of the 54th Kaslo Battalion who was killed in France and died in 1916.

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The Kaslo Fire Interface Project will keep them working and living in the area, hopefully until the industry recovers, and remove much of the hazardous dead wood which could fuel a forest fire.

John Addison, a project planner with WREN Consulting, says the project grew out of a 2006 report which rated fire danger to the village forest interface as high to extreme. A January 12 public meeting to let people know where the project was at and where it was going was not well attended, something Addison blames on the weather and the season – people aren’t worried about forest fires right now.

The workers reduce the fuel load by cutting small trees and saplings, and pruning large dead branches. Anything good enough for firewood is cut and stacked; the rest is burned.

Addison says Minor Hockey took some of it to sell as a fundraiser, and he’s open to other not-for-profit organizations picking up what’s left. The workers are also cutting trails to provide access for firefighting equipment and personnel. These will be the only trails outside of recreational trails.

For the future, Addison is in the process of looking for area for training and around the village, feature one of the many things people think it’s a good thing.

Initial funding of $192,500 came from the Ministry of Community Development’s Job Opportunities Program; that was matched by a grant from the UBCM. Three companies manage the project: WREN, Progressive Forest Management Ltd, and Appropriate Forestry Services.

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Laid-off workers reduce Kaslo’s interface fire hazard

by Katrine Campbell

Twelve laid-off forestry workers from the Kaslo area are back at work in the bush, thanks to funding from a provincial job opportunities program and the Union of BC Municipalities.

The Kaslo Fire Interface Project will keep them working and living in the area, hopefully until the industry recovers, and remove much of the hazardous dead wood which could fuel a forest fire.

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Nature Boy runs amok!

Reading the headline this week you may think this is about some hermit gone crazy with cabin fever, but in fact Nature Boy is the name of a mine gone crazy with cabin fever, but in fact Nature Boy might be farther east than the cable car at Alamo, but that seemed pretty optimistic.

Next I decided to go up Galena Creek from the YRB yard and see what kinda carnage the trail had indeed suffered. The snow was crusty and awful, but not bad going. There were a couple of snow slides at the rockslide area, but only snow, without serious consequence. All fine past Denver Canyon and way on up past the wooden ramp things. Finally, I came to the results of the slide at the 4.5 km sign on the highway above. It was impressive, an icy trough some 20 metres wide with some trees down, but much of it will melt away and cleanup will be only some saw time.

Fumis is located just north of Winlaw on the west side of Highway 6

Phone: 250-226-7104

fomis@columbiawireless.ca

LIVING

Natural Green label: a utopia?

This week I read about the large number of organic farms and wine makers in the Okanagan. It seems that there is a growing trend towards sustainable and organic farming. It is encouraging to see this growth in the region and I hope it continues to expand.

The future of electric vehicles

With the increasing focus on climate change, electric vehicles are becoming more popular. It is important to consider the benefits and drawbacks of these vehicles, such as range and charging infrastructure. I hope that this article provides a balanced view on the topic.

FOMIS is a great restaurant

I recently visited FOMIS and highly recommend it. The food was delicious and the service was friendly. I was particularly impressed with the variety of menu options available. I look forward to returning in the future.

Natural Green label: a utopia?

I read an interesting article about the Natural Green label and its impact on the environment. It seems that this label is making a positive impact and I hope that more companies adopt similar initiatives.

The future of electric vehicles

Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, but there are still challenges to overcome, such as range and charging infrastructure. It is important to continue to invest in research and development to make these vehicles more accessible and sustainable.

FOMIS is a great restaurant

I highly recommend FOMIS. The food was delicious and the service was friendly. I particularly enjoyed the variety of menu options available. I look forward to returning in the future.
For the Love of Poetry evening at Nakusp Public Library Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00pm. Poetry, music, refreshments. All invited. Free.

The Kootenay DANCEFLOOR SOCIETY will be hosting a dance on February 14th, 2009 at a local venue in Silverton. Everyone encouraged to come and dance the night away with live music.


SATURDAY, February 21st at 5:30 pm. The annual celebration of local talent, the Silverton Talent Show, will be held at the Silverton Community Centre. Watch as our performers showcase their skills.

SILVERTON GALLERY Hall. Continuous serving from 5-7 pm. Saturday, February 7, '09 at the Burton Hall. The Community Futures Foundation is sponsoring a Stew & Chili Night, featuring local artists and performers....

Thursday Jan. 29, 2 p.m., at the gallery: 803 available all over town or call 358-2828; or Switzer kicks off her CD Release Tour at 7:30 pm Nelson singer / songwriter Aspen SILVERTON GALLERY Hall. Continuous serving from 5-7 pm.

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PAN HOPE NASMYTH

The Nasmyth family is sad to announce the passing of their father, Pan Hope Nasmyth, on January 9, 2009.

Born in Vancouver on Sept. 21, 1917, Pan’s life was one of adventure and new beginnings. Pan graduated from UBC in 1942 as an engineer and left soon after to serve in World War II with the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Sicily and Italy, finishing with the rank of Captain. Having honed his photographic skills taking beautiful photos of his travels in B.C., he snapped many historic photos during his tour of duty in Europe.

Pan’s long and creative life spanned three careers. On his return from the war he married Frances Sandall in 1946 and the two moved to Cornwall, Ontario where Pan worked as Chief Engineer at the Courtaulds rayon manufacturing plant while beginning a family. In 1956 he returned to the west with his family to prepare for his second career as a high school science teacher.

In Vancouver in 1959 he completed a high school teaching certificate at UBC. Practical work in the Cariboo and in Castlegar led to a position as Science Teacher at Mt. Sentinel Secondary School. Pan settled with his family in Crescent Valley in 1960 and taught until 1974. During this time he completed a Master’s degree in Education through summer school courses at UBC.

Pan’s next endeavor was the acquisition of community grocery stores in New Denver and Slocan. Recalling the region’s gold mining history, and utilizing the historical name of New Denver, he named the stores the Eldorado Markets. These stores served their communities for a period of 32 years until 2006.

Pan had many interests to which he devoted his time and energy over the years. He was a devout student of Christian teachings throughout his life. In his younger years he was an avid fisherman who loved the ocean and a good trout stream, an expert photographer and a keen hiker and camper. Later he originated many projects on the family farm, utilizing his engineering skills to construct buildings, irrigation systems, fences and a duck pond.

Pan survived by his four children, Monica of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Michael of Nelson, Peter of Surrey, and Patricia of Victoria, who remember Pan with “Pops” with love and admiration, and by ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Pan was predeceased by his wife Frances and his brother Patrick.

A special thanks is extended to all who assisted Pops in his last years, particularly Patricia Bambrick for her dedicated work and the wonderful nurses at Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the KLH Foundation.

Pan dearly loved the garden at Crescent Valley and for this reason a memorial garden and reception in honour of Pan and Frances will be held at the family residence in the spring.

COMMUNITY

NORRIS, Mackenzie Charles (“Mac”)

Passed away after a brief illness peacefully and with dignity, with his family at his side on January 25, 2009 in Lion’s Gate Hospital. Beloved husband of Clara (Ogawa) loving father of Mark (Fiona) and cherished grandfather of Hilary, Emma and stepdaughter Aletia Stoltz and family. He is also survived by his brother John, former wife, Patricia Norris (Wastell), and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sisters Hallet and Doerta. Mac was born June 2nd, 1925 in Silverton, B.C. and raised in Nelson. During World War II he served as a pilot in the RCAF and the RNVR Fleet Air Arm. He returned to Canada graduating from UBC (B.A.Sc. – Forest Engineering) ’51. During his undergraduate years at UBC he worked in the industry in sawmills, logging camps and timber cruising throughout BC. He had a long and distinguished railroad career spanning 20 years with Canadian Pacific Railroad (CP Rail) and 20 years with PGE/BC Rail. From 1978 until 1990 Mac was President and CEO and Director of the BC Rail Group of Companies and during his tenure as Vice-President and President the railway was rebuilt and reorganized and became a very profitable venture. He had a special 20 year association with Peter Armstrong, Executive Chairman and CEO, Great Canadian Railways, Co-Rocky Mountain Vacations. He was a founding director of Rocky Mountaineer and upon retirement he was honoured with a life time Honorary Director award. He served as a Director of Pacific Insight Electronics Corp and was a Paul Harris Fellow of the Vancouver Rotary Club. Mac had a successful career in public service and gave generous support to his Church congregation, his Rotary Club, the Lions Gate Hospital and the Lions Gate Hospital ICU and for the exceptional personnel at Lion’s Gate Hospital ICU and for the exceptional care by Dr. Greg Phillips. Cremation will have taken place. Memorial Service to be held Friday, January 30, 2009.

Wapp collages at Oxygen residency and exhibition submitted

Local artist Judy Wapp is the January artist-in-residence at Nelson’s Oxygen Centre. Tableau residents with images that she has imaginatively and intuitively selected from magazines since the 1970s. During her month-long residency, she will create multiple simultaneous collages for her exhibition opening, Appropriation and Recycling, on February 6. Wapp will also introduce a community wall collage component that takes place every Saturday until the opening.

Oxygen Art Centre is located at 320 Vernon, alley entrance, behind Hipperson’s Hardware. For more information, check out the website at oxygenartcentre.org.
COMMUNITY

RDCK board, January 24: resolution to include regional districts in consultations for IPPS

by Jan McMurray

The board endorsed the following resolution to be forwarded to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments for consideration: That Regional Districts be included in the provincial consultation process for independent power projects in their areas.

The board received notification that Glacier Resorts Ltd., proponent of the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal, had requested a five-year extension of the Environmental Assessment certificate, which is due to expire in October 2009. The Environmental Assessment Office gave the RDCK until January 16 to comment on the extension request. The board agreed that Director Shadrack provide comments to the EAO directly, comment on the extension request. The Environmental Assessment certificate, requested a five-year extension of the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal, had independent power projects in their areas.

That Regional Districts be included in Local Governments for consideration:

January 28, 2009

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by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Councillor Tony Frary held a public meeting on affordable housing on January 19 at the senior’s hall.

Frary opened the meeting by saying he was not an expert on affordable housing but was very interested in the issue. He attended a symposium held in Nakusp late last year, and has been in contact with the administrator of the Revelstoke affordable housing society.

Frary explained that there are a few things that municipalities can do to encourage affordable housing. Some of these are to require developers to provide a certain percentage of affordable housing, to support individual homeowners, or to form a housing society to build and manage affordable housing units.

Frary went over excerpts from Kaslo’s draft Official Community Plan that deal with affordable housing. The draft OCP includes: encouraging secondary suites, density bonusing, and manage affordable housing or to form a housing society to build affordable housing units.

Frary spoke about the Revelstoke experience. The affordable housing society there received $100,000 from the City and $100,000 from Columbia Basin Trust to build a housing complex on land donated by the municipality. To be eligible to live there, people must have ongoing employment, be residents of Revelstoke, have no other residences, and have an annual household income of $85,000 or less.

It was pointed out that an income of $85,000 was very high for Kaslo. Frary agreed, and showed a chart he had made with an estimate of the mortgage a person could get based on their income. The chart showed that a person making $10 per hour may be eligible for a $75,000 mortgage; a person making $20 per hour may be eligible for a $150,000 mortgage. With housing prices way up, it was easy to see that an adequate mortgage is unobtainable for many people in Kaslo.

Frary also went over the various funding programs offered by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. A lively discussion followed Frary’s presentation. Andy Shadrack suggested that Frary get in touch with the Kaslo Housing Society, which hired a consultant to do a market survey for a seniors housing development. The result of the survey was that the cost of constructing the housing would not be affordable, given the average incomes of the people in the target market group.

Ramona Faust related a success story told by people from Langford at Nakusp’s affordable housing symposium in the fall. She said that local Langford builders did the construction work on their affordable housing development during the off season at a very good price, and other professionals, such as lawyers, volunteered their services. “They really pulled together as a community,” she commented.

Greg Lay said he felt a mixed neighbourhood concept would work best for Kaslo, as some people would want to buy and others would want to rent. “It would be good to have those options available.” He also suggested that there could be a sweat equity program, where people who wanted to live in the development could invest labour rather than cash.

Faust pointed to the need for a needs assessment study, which “could be instructive about what kind of housing to build” as well as give demographic information.

Lay suggested that a valuable contact would be George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development at Selkirk College.