First step taken toward watershed plan for the Lardeau River

by Jan McMurray

The Friends of the Lardeau River (FLR) are working with the Columbia Basin Trust to come up with terms of reference for a Lardeau River watershed plan.

A show of hands at a meeting held November 4 in Meadow Creek, with about 75 people in attendance, indicated that the great majority supported the development of the terms of reference. A similar meeting held the next evening in Nelson was attended by more than 100 people who were supportive of a watershed plan for the river.

The Meadow Creek meeting began with a slide show of stunning photographs by Jim Lawrence to illustrate the natural values along the Lardeau River, which include a wide variety of fish, wildlife, habitats, vegetation and landscapes.

Grant Trower of FLR told the people at the meeting: “The Lardeau River is the only unaffiliated major river system in the Columbia Basin. Wherever we go, people tell us we have something unique.”

He emphasized the importance of the river to the Gerrard rainbow trout: the Lardeau River is the only place where the Gerrards spawn naturally. “They tried to milk the eggs and send them all over the world, but they didn’t grow anywhere else,” he said.

Trower listed some of the things threatening the natural values of the river, including siltation from erosion, washouts, and natural slides; forest fires; logging in the riparian zone; highway development; tailings from Trout Lake mine draining into Trout Lake, which feeds the Lardeau River; invasive weeds; forest in-growth; invasive species; human conflicts with wildlife. He also mentioned Duncan Dam, which has neither a generator nor a fish ladder.

“There is no such thing as green hydropower for fish and wildlife or their aquatic, riparian and mountain habitats,” he said.

Trower also outlined some of the successes in protecting the river corridor. Two hundred and seven acres have just been purchased by a collaborative group, including the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, CBT, the Nelson Rod and Gun Club, BC Conservancy Foundation, Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, BC Trust for Public Lands and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. Also, the Nature Trust and the Ministry of Environment own seven conservation properties at the head of Kootenay Lake, totalling just under 600 acres. There is also some land on the east side of the river that is being considered for purchase for conservation.

Trower explained that the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan’s Protected Areas Strategy identified several “Goal 2” sites for protection, and the Lardeau River riparian corridor is one of them. “This has been signed off by everyone except the ministers involved,” said Trower.

Guest speaker Bill Green spoke about the watershed plans he worked on in the Upper Columbia and in Salmo as former coordinator of the Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership. Unfortunately, there has been no funding to implement either plan.

Green said he felt the watershed plans completed so far were too focused on the conservation of fish and fish habitat, and encouraged the community to think about a wider scope for the plan to address all the issues and concerns in the watershed.

“Fish and wildlife are only part of the reason why we need to consider the Lardeau River watershed,” Green said. “There is no such thing as green hydropower for fish and wildlife or their aquatic, riparian and mountain habitats.”

“People asked about funding and the legal authority of the plan,” Scott-May acknowledged that there was cynicism in this region because of the lack of government commitment. She said government agencies had recently indicated they don’t have any resources to bring to the table, but they would like to see the Lardeau River watershed plan done. One potential funding agency would not make a clear commitment, and first wants to know that the community supports the plan. “So it’s a catch 22,” she said. “The government wants to know there is community support and the community wants to know there is government funding.”

One woman wanted to know what scientific information had been gathered on the Lardeau River.

Trower said the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Ministry of Mines all had pieces of scientific information on the river, “but they don’t necessarily talk to each other. They don’t look at the whole watershed in their specific plans. So let’s bring it together and find out what we know, where the gaps are, and whose responsibility it is to fill those gaps,” he said.

Trower also informed people that the FLR had just joined the Columbia Basin Watershed Network, “and would work with them to do basic monitoring that will paint a simple picture of the health of the river.”

Someone expressed concern that the demand for waterfront property could come to the river. Trower said that 97% of the land along the Lardeau is crown owned, so this is not a pressing concern. However, someone else pointed out that the government could decide to create lots from that land, so they should not be too complacent.

Leslie from FLR said that the Friends want the whole community on board with the planning, “We don’t want it to be just the Friends of the Lardeau River. Everybody has something that connects them to that river.”

The Meadow Creek meeting ended with a slide show of stunning photographs by Jim Lawrence to illustrate the natural values along the Lardeau River, which include a wide variety of fish, wildlife, habitats, vegetation and landscapes.

Rene Bruneau, Nakusp’s Legion president, and Liza Christie, Nakusp’s Legion Ladies’ Auxiliary president, lay wreaths at the cenotaph during Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Slocan Island property procured for conservation

submitted

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and The Nature Trust of British Columbia (TNBC) have announced the successful purchase of a 142-acre conservation property called Slocan Island, located near the community of Winlaw.

“Considering the property’s important ecological values, Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to support this securment as part of our Land Conservation Strategy,” said Kindy Gosal, CBT, Director, Water and Environment. “CBT has made a commitment to ensuring long-term stewardship of the Columbia Basin’s natural assets and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Investing in this property helps CBT fulfill those ongoing commitments.”

The Slocan Island property is located in the Slocan River flood plain and has several distinguishable overflow channels intersecting the productive riparian site. The property is comprised of cottonwood forest, mixed conifer forest and wetland plant communities, and valuable rainbow trout rearing areas. Waterfowl, moose, elk, and Townsend’s big-eared bats are also natural inhabitants of this property.

As a leading land conservation organization, The Nature Trust along with its partners is working to ensure that the amazing variety of life in this area of BC is sustained through habitat protection. The acquisition of the Slocan Island conservation property is an excellent demonstration of this partnership in action,” said TNBC’s Kootenay Conservation Land Manager Rob Neil. “Our principle land management plan for this property is to ensure that the biodiversity values of this property are maintained in perpetuity.”

CBT provided $130,000 toward the total value of $370,000. CBT provides funding towards land conservation efforts, which will assist in maintaining a range of community values on lands in the Columbia Basin. CBT partners with the East Kootenay Conservation Program, which researches various parcels of land each year and recommends the highest priorities and best-suited projects to meet CBT’s goals for the Land Conservation Strategy. Over the last ten years, CBT has contributed $2.25 million to land conservation efforts in the Columbia Basin.

Other contributors towards the purchase of the property are the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, the Land for Wildlife Fund and the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund. The owner of the property also provided a portion of the total cost as an eco-gift.

For more information on the Ecological Gifts Program, visit www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde or contact The Nature Trust.
Local power conservation initiatives recognized by FortisBC

by Jan McMurray

Several local businesses and organizations were recognized with FortisBC PowerSense awards on November 4 in Castlegar.

Among the winners were Kaslo Hotel, the Village of Slocan and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The Kaslo Hotel won a Conservation Award for the energy efficiency features incorporated into the newly renovated building. Ground source/geothermal heat pumps provide hot water to the restaurant and hotel, and the building is outfitted with LED and compact fluorescent lighting and energy efficient doors and windows. These features result in a savings of 300,978 kilowatt hours per year.

“I am proud to restore a piece of Kaslo’s history and make it even better by integrating modern energy efficient technology that will help ensure it is here for decades to come,” says hotel owner, John Eckland.

The Village of Slocan was a Leadership Award winner for replacing the old forced-air heating system in Village hall. Upgrades included EnergyStar low-E windows, a new air source heat pump and improved insulation.

“It feels good to do the right thing by setting an example for our community with energy conscious choices when making these improvements to our facilities,” says Shana Paivarinta, Slocan’s Chief Administrative Officer.

The RDCK also won a Leadership Award for two initiatives that reduce power consumption – the new water treatment plant in Ymir and the server upgrade to the IT (Information Technology) department.

Selkirk College received a Conservation Excellence Award for its innovative new heating and ventilation system, and School District #8 was also a Conservation Excellence Award winner for the Crawford Bay School project.

North Slocan Valley looks for ways to build a healthy economy

by Katrina Campbell

Almost 100 people showed up for the Healthy Housing Society’s November 5 meeting on ‘Building a Healthy Economy in the North Slocan Valley.’

They listened, but they also talked; a broad range of ideas were tossed out and discussed.

Jan McMurray opened the meeting on behalf of the society and introduced the speakers. The participants listened to presentations from Mike Stolte (Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership) and George Penfold, Selkirk College’s Regional Innovation Chair.

Penfold reviewed research regarding population statistics, job stats and challenges facing the economy in our area. The challenges he cited are:

- regional competition, lack of transportation; lack of broadband capability; limited land, services, infrastructure and facilities; distance from larger markets; the age and skill level of the labour force; even our reputation for a pot-based economy.
- Our advantages/advantages include:

  - low cost of living
  - the ability to produce
  - centralized government, low overhead costs
  - lower wages, greater personal safety, great outdoor amenities
  - proximity to the Okanagan, and the recent in-migration of ‘zoomers’ with skills and capital.

Stolte reviewed the New Denver, Silverton and Area A North OCYP and previous economic studies, then led the tables in brainstorming exercises.

Three questions were asked: What will be the key drivers of the economy in 10 years? What are some untapped opportunities? Any other ideas for spurring economic activity?

Several major themes emerged:

- the aging of the population (66 percent of us are over 45 and many out-of-town property owners plan to retire here),
- the need for food security, energy conservation/sustainability, and the need to lure families here.

The school and the health centre were also identified as key components of the community.

Many of the ideas for projects fit into one of three areas:

- more services and facilities for seniors, greenhouses for producing fresh vegetables in the winter, a campaign to attract more broadband access, getting cell service, utilizing the retirees to mentor younger entrepreneurs.
- Other suggestions focused on better ways to market the area to visitors and potential new residents – everything from building on the Selkirk Loop’s marketing to building a convention centre.

All the ideas and suggestions thrown out were written down and handed over to Stolte, who will sift through them to come up with a report that he will present in February. From this, the HHS hopes to find one to three solid, do-able projects, and ‘community champions’ to take them on and make them work.

Waneta Expansion project stalled

Bobafleur

The Waneta Expansion project is a proposed second powerhouse located adjacent to Teck Cominco’s existing Waneta Dam on the Pend d’Oreille River south of Trail. The expansion project would share the existing dam’s infrastructure and generate 335 megawatts of power from flow that is currently being wasted.

The Province acquired expansion rights in 1995, the primary mandate of CPC is to undertake clean and renewable power project investments as the agent of the Province on a joint venture basis with the Columbia Basin Trust. Some of the profits from the power projects go to the CBT’s delivery of benefits program.

The NDP has issued a press release stating that “the BC Liberal government is putting the clean, green public energy project in jeopardy so they can justify buying expensive electricity from their private power industry friends and donors.”

John Horgan, NDP energy critic says in the release, “When the utilities commission turned down the long term plan to build more private power, Premier Campbell changed the rules.

Now he is stalling the Waneta Expansion so he can claim we only have private power options to meet our future needs. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The NDP press release says the private power industry has donated nearly $1.3 million to the BC Liberal Party since 2001. CPC and CBT through corporate subsidiaries, own the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Dam and the Brilliant Expansion.

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The Age of Stupid comes to the Kootenays

by Dan Spring

Watching this year’s “most talked about” climate change documentary, The Age of Stupid, is like attending your own funeral where the minister explains all the contradictions and defects in your character that led to your untimely, horrible death. Like Scrooge in the famous story by Charles Dickens, viewers are implicitly expected to look deep into themselves and make changes, individually and collectively, before global warming becomes a run-away effect that destroys our Earth.

I saw the film, one night only, at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson on November 3. Excitement built as, due to capacity attendance, many were turned away at the door. A lively five-person panel discussion followed the showing.

The opening scene of the film takes viewers 13 billion years into the Earth’s past, then quickly fast forwards to 2055. In 2055, a monolithic structure holds pickled animals, “stacked two by two,” all of the earth’s greatest art treasures, and the collective science, literature and broadcasts of every culture on our planet. This well-wrought and convincing fictional setting becomes the frame from which the film explores the lives of real people and situations from our recent past.

The film achieves, beyond being expertly crafted in a technical sense, is a growing and inescapable sense, is a growing and inescapable feeling of the inherent contradictions of the human condition, and how each of us is responsible for steering the world closer to global environmental catastrophe. As this feeling grows stronger, one might be tempted to squirm in one’s seat, shed tears of grief, or fall silent in shock. Certainly, during the film, one might be tempted to defeat the problem presented by the excess gas deposits that are generally found alongside oil, enough to power an entire town.

The Age of Stupid may do much to explain how we attack that pervasive and ultimately lethal thinking.

Stimulating rhetorical questions are asked. Why do oil companies in third world countries just burn off the excess gas deposits that are generally found alongside oil, enough to power an entire town? Why were solar panels taken off the roof of the White House? How about us? Why do so many of us act as though global warming isn’t real, even those of us who believe it to be true? Following the film, the five-person panel raised more intriguing facts, thoughts, and questions. Seated on the panel were Anita Burke, who was once Shell Oil’s Sustainable Development Officer; Kim Charlesworth, Chairperson of Nelson’s Business and Consumerism; Tara Williams, a co-founder of the climate change initiative “Transition Nelson”; and Mark Nykanen, a novelist and four-time Emmy award-winning journalist.

As the five speakers took their seats, a growing sense of unease filtered through the theater and whispers of “What can we do?”. One audience member took the microphone to boldly assert that any attempt to affect climate change was doomed to fail, given current government inertia on the issue, and that “Mother Earth would be better off without us.”

The overall message of the panelists was that government initiatives will be too little, too late. The Kyoto and other processes “do not work fast enough and will not work fast enough to save us,” asserted Anita Burke, who helped clean up the Exxon Valdez spill. Meanwhile, explained Mel Reasoner, despite the fact that every scientific organization in the world currently acknowledges the impending climate change crisis, the media has treated the issue like it’s gone out of fashion.

Furthermore the panelists agreed that, as individuals, we are not powerful enough to effect needed changes. We need to work with others while overcoming the flaws of modern psychology – a study of narcissistic consumerism without thought of consequence.

“The narcissistic state,” said Mark Nykanen, “you don’t reflect. You live on impulse… We need to think about how we attack that pervasive and ultimately lethal thinking.”

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Thanks for Slocan’s Hallowe’en Hoot
Hallowe’en night was exciting and not just because of the people-stuff. ‘Uphill Slocan’ got a late afternoon power outage – a tree on the line. Slocan’s much loved hobo-dog Combsa nced my car a little ways down the backroad, full of spirit, just for the fun of it.

The moon came out just in time for the especially wonderful fireworks, and young and old got dressed up (or not) to gather by the blazing warm bonfires to the mellow ‘high’ of just being together in a large relaxed group.

Thank you Slocan WI for super good hot chocolate and hey, veggie dogs too. In the background, the mountains rise in and out of a beautiful mist and, like our lake, were as usual unapproachable, yet deeply soothing. Sire beats a backdrop of glaring city lights and noisy cars. Thank you host Slocan.

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Don’t cry over lost chord book
I can’t help Andy Rhodes with his lost collection of Renoir prints, nor his intended trip to Vancouver, but I think I can be of some assistance with his borrowed but never returned guitar chord book.

Simply, rejoice in its absence. My own experience with chord books, and indeed all known publications and other audio-visual attempts to help the poor music student, is that while they are useful at the beginning, as they offer some degrees of information, they all wind up being incomplete and frustrating. That’s the bad news. The good news is that there is a solution: head soon to a music or bookstore near you, hopefully to be published in the Kootenays, as the most significant principles of the questions and answers have been worked out here and the authors would like to remain within the ambience.

Some clues can be found on my blog, the Kootenay Ranger, but the most vital clues, being worth a fortune in publishing rights, remain in the vault until someone with a cheeky book wants up and smells the coffee.

Ken Lamb

Oppressed by watershed logging
Regarding Al Skakan’s letter of Nov. 4th, perhaps what the MoF could learn from these situations is that many people feel assaulted and oppressed by logging in their watersheds. However we don’t have the public coffers at our disposal for legal support. So the water users have to use these “cheap and easy” methods of protest. They may be cheap but they are not easy. It’s not easy to contact every government organization or representative you can think of, to write letters and emails, knowing that it’s probably futile and that the deck is stacked.

The MoF allows logging in domestic watersheds. Everyone knows this. But obviously when it’s your own personal watershed it becomes a new issue. In these rural situations, a water user can feel alone and under attack. We are very fortunate if our neighbours and community groups rally around us as when the logging is in our watershed. Even if it only serves to draw attention to the issue.

Sherry Devlin
Winlaw

Council & development in Kaslo Bay
In Kaslo we have seen both excellent and less than excellent development projects proposed and constructed recently. Some citizens are concerned that City Hall may not always keep us advised about proposals before them. In many communities, a lengthy process of public input precedes any major development approvals.

With developers requesting Kaslo Council support for proposed changes to their Kaslo Bay Plans, it might be a good time to bring public input into the mix and ensure that this council takes their mandate to the public seriously. Strata development on complex and potentially problematic sites (terrain stability, grade, remnants of long-time industrial use, visual values, density, aesthetics and parks and parkside location etc. are all of potential concern in this situation) require all the input and due diligence and complete attention to detail by all concerned.

Both the developer and council will probably welcome the opportunity to fully explain proposed changes to this project and to allay the murmurs often heard around town that the Jumbo Valley development may be proceeding without transparency and without adequate public involvement.

Ian Fraser
Kado

Jumbo grizzlies and other sacred reasons
In her welcoming address at the Bruce Cockburn Jumbo Wild Benefit Concert last year, Ktunaxa Nation (Kootenay) Chief, Sophie Pierre, emphasized that the Jumbo Valley area is a sacred place to them, as well as being scientifically substantiated as grizzly bear habitat. She also further emphasized that grizzly bears are sacred to the Ktunaxa: icons for a life way that lives within the hearts of her people. She closed by reiterating that the Ktunaxa continue to be opposed to the proposed Jumbo Resort development.

As you recall, more recently, on Aug. 7, 2009, the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) narrowly voted in favour of designating the contentious resort proposal a “resort municipality” upon approval of the Master Development Agreement (MDA). In response to the RDEK decision, the Ktunaxa Nation Chair, Kathryn Tenesee explained [valley Echo, Aug. 8, 2009 and valleyvoice, Oct. 23, 2009], “By law the province has to give full consideration to denying the MDA if they are unable to accommodate a grizzly bear habitat in the area.”

Making a decision on the governance structure at this point is premature given the consultation process between the Ktunaxa and the province is not yet complete.

The Ktunaxa Nation has opposed the resort based upon impacts to their interests including, but not limited to, impacts on grizzly bears and other wildlife species, water quality and flows, and hunting access. “The Central Purcells are a place that the Ktunaxa have lived since time immemorial. The Jumbo Valley is a place of spirituality for the Ktunaxa and a sacred place for the grizzly bears,” continued Tenesee.

“The Ktunaxa Nation has come forward with new information regarding additional reasons why the Jumbo Valley is sacred to them. This new information must now be considered in the ongoing discussions about the Economic and Community Development Compensation Package and Benefits Agreement working toward the MDA,” said Psyche Brown, Manager of Major Projects at the Resort Development Office, Oct. 26, 2009.

Rowna Elborne, Argentina

Save money and energy
Heating hot water can account for up to one third of our monthly utility bills. So what can we do to reduce our consumption and improve our carbon footprint? Consider replacing that wasteful 40 gallon tank with a 15 gallon tank. We did that 12 years ago and find that for a two-person household, the hot water provided is plentiful; and it takes a very short time for the water in such a small tank to re-heat. While you are thinking about this, make sure the thermostat on your existing tank is set no higher than 115 degrees F. They are set at the factory for 140 degrees F which is very wasteful, and also dangerous. Always wash clothes in cold water; there are plenty of cold-water detergents on the market. Energy-efficient dishwashers have a heating element which brings the water used for washing up to the required temperature. Consider installing a solar hot water heater; they require no maintenance, and to ensure that hot water is available whenever you need it, they include a gas or electric booster. For a list of solar hot water manufacturers in Canada contact Canadian Solar Industries, public relations, at 613-736-9077, www.cansia.ca

While you’re at it, spread your message to your friends, relatives and employers. We all have a role to play. Give the planet a Christmas present!

This is one way we can all help to fight back against these IPP water projects that are threatening our small creeks in BC, and also against the necessity for the Site C Dam which has again raised its ugly head and will destroy a lot of important agricultural land in the province. We should not forget that large water bodies raise the temperature of surrounding land; as a matter of fact, large dams in BC produce heating changes that may have much to do with the pine beetle infestation. These milder temperatures in the north have to a large extent, been caused by dams such as the WAC Bennett, and other dams on the Peace River.

Linda Harrington, Galena Bay

In defense of grizzly bear hunting
I would like to point out a few facts in defense of grizzly bear hunting that many people are unwilling to recognize.

It is the hunters themselves who are paying, and have always paid for the protection of ALL game animals through license fees, royalties, taxes, etc. Organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited, and hunters have protected thousands of acres and hundreds of wildlife populations, yes, including grizzly bears, for their dollars as well as their time. Because of them, there are more animals now than there have been in many years. Locally, there are fish and game clubs, conservation groups, or whatever they choose to call themselves, that quietly WORK for the benefit of all wildlife, with both time and dollars. They don’t just squall and bellow about the plight of the poor animals; they get out and DO something about it.

Those of us who are hunters pay a lot of money to support government programs in fees and taxes. We also make donations of time and dollars to protect wild land from being lost into housing developments. The people who are supposed to be making regulations are only human, just like you and I, and are not always going to get it right, but at least they are doing more than those loud ones to either shut up, or get their time and money where their mouth is.

Jim Jennings
Kaslo

Medical system works
In September 23, 2009 I moved to New Denver from Kaslo. The scenery here is stunning and the people friendly. I learned something else about this place in the wee hours of the morning on October 20. I learned that in this tiny village, in this so-called “middle of nowhere” paradise is an invaluable medical system that saved my life.

I am in awe and am unable to begin to express my gratitude to every single person who played a role in giving me another shot at life.

continued on page 5

The Valley Voice
November 8, 2009

Al Skakun’s comments about the SP CARE Society are very unprofessional. It is not only offensive but disrespectful to the dedicated and hard working servant stance to name calling, denigrating and using public citizens in order to belittle and “punish” them and their statements “inflammatory.”

His statement that SP CARE activities were “cheap and easy” was particularly disturbing. First, none of our volunteers get paid for the work we do. We have learned our jargon, read thousands of pages of documents, consulted experts, researched our rights, written our own documents, held meetings and workshops and met with all the different groups. Residents remain determined that removing forest coverage from watershed licensed for domestic/irrigation use is short-sighted to say the least, not in the public interest for many reasons.

As to Skakun’s condemnation emails to public officials at the Ministry of Forest and Environment, I can only say this had nothing to do with me. Those emails were sent to establish our concern and why we believe the Forest Practices Act is not being followed. We continue to support our common law riparian rights to quality and quantity of flow.

As to Skakun’s condemnation comments that the Ministry of Forest and Environment is not providing the fastball and the structures they put in place. Ministers have policy control over these regulations, not Skakun.

I am, in no particular cogestion at his condemnation of the filing of a citizen complaint with the Forest Practices Board. This is the one official public function that is offered to express unresolved concerns. It is in the public interest for individuals to establish our concerns in the government system. Among other concerns, the Mt. Sentinel complaint addresses the contamination of the community water supply, inadequate treatment facilities, the lack of public consultation and lack of availability of information to the public at large. To my knowledge, the BCTS documentation maps have yet to be posted on a BCTS public information site as requested in the complaint.

As to the rest of the letter, it is unclear whether the prescriptions were followed prior to the condemnation. According to his Friday, Oct. 16, email to Pam Malekow: “After review with a geotechnical engineer this morning, the construction contractor will be installing fabric and rock armouring over the exposed soils currently with rock to reduce further sedimentation as much as possible. This email was sent following the condemnation of the works, despite the fact fabric and armouring were called for in the prescription. Likewise unmentioned by Skakun are the continuing problems with the water line which promises to replace the old and test our water for impurities. I should add that it was the only one complaining, and that nothing happened to our water.”

I am particularly astounded at Al Skakun’s second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth complaints for how BCTS could do “enough right. And, yes, they put in all the water line will have to be fixed, our well is damaged and the results of the damage won’t be known till spring at least. Mike said that BCTS could not apologize enough for the damage “they” have caused.”

In regards to the drill, I spoke with the owner to find out if BCTS had followed through with the request to address the problem with the leaking water. He was very defensive and told me “there was no oil leaking from the machine.” He also told me that he has was the only one complaining, and that nothing happened to our water.”

Now I’m wondering how BCTS expects to profit from me experiencing this? The lumber market is bad, the area where they will be logging is logged 30 years ago. As for us, we do not know the long-term effects of the damage BCTS will be doing to our water. We will replace the well, and find our water the logging is all finished and everyone has forgotten about the damage, except us.

Pam Malekow
Mount Sentinel
The fourth annual Hot August Hooves Trophy Show, held August 20-22 in Trail, was voted ‘best show in 2009’ by the Horse Council of BC.

“We’re so excited about this accomplishment!” said Pam Malekow, president of the Horse Association of Central Kootenay and key show organizer.

This year’s show had the best turnout yet, with competitors from Penticton, Summerland, Rock Creek, Grand Forks, Christina Lake, Castlegar, Slocan Park, Crescent Valley, Fruitvale, Salmo, Rossland and Cranbrook.

There was dressage and jumping on Friday, English on Saturday and Western on Sunday.

“Our judges, Cindy and Tanya Ryan from the Horizon Equine Facility in Cranbrook, put us through our paces for the weekend!” said Malekow. “Tanya set up some challenging trail courses for the competitors to test their skills, and Cindy made everyone work for those gorgeous rosettes and prizes.”

Malekow thanks all volunteers and sponsors of the event. “Without them, the show would not go on,” she said.

The champion results for the weekend were as follows: Overall Champion of the Weekend: Jory Pollard riding Royal King Jackson; Reserve Overall Champion of the Weekend: Catie Hinchliffe riding Eartha; Western 19 & Over: Jackie Pollard riding Tivios Sweet Candace; Reserve Western 19 & Over: Merna Boltz riding Bambi Tivo; Western 18 & Under: Catie Hinchliffe riding Eartha; Reserve Western 18 & Under: Jesse Horkoff riding Star; Western Walk/Jog: Jory Pollard riding Royal King Jackson; Reserve Western Walk/Jog: Janine Issel riding Patience; Halter Champion: Jackie Smolinski with Valtallha Gold; Showmanship New ski shuttle service: Slocan Valley to Whitewater and return from Whitewater Mountain at 3:30 pm. Stops will be made at various points between Lemon Creek Rd. and Taghum and you can also flag down the van on the highway. Round-trip from the valley is $20 per person, $15 one way and there is a 10-time punch pass available for $180.

There will be bi-monthly shuttle days to Red Mountain as well as two Revelstoke trips throughout the season depending on popularity.

The champion results for the weekend were as follows: Overall Champion of the Weekend: Jory Pollard riding Royal King Jackson; Reserve Overall Champion of the Weekend: Catie Hinchliffe riding Eartha; Western 19 & Over: Jackie Pollard riding Tivios Sweet Candace; Reserve Western 19 & Over: Merna Boltz riding Bambi Tivo; Western 18 & Under: Catie Hinchliffe riding Eartha; Reserve Western 18 & Under: Jesse Horkoff riding Star; Western Walk/Jog: Jory Pollard riding Royal King Jackson; Reserve Western Walk/Jog: Janine Issel riding Patience; Halter Champion: Jackie Smolinski with Valtallha Gold; Showmanship

November 28, 2009

Notice of Planned Power Outage

Slocan Valley | Sunday, November 22, 2009

FortisBC crews will be upgrading electrical equipment in your area. This work will require a planned power outage. The power interruption may affect the electrical supply to your home or business in Slocan Valley and will take place Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon.

The outage will affect customers in the Slocan Valley north of 6340 Hwy 6 and north of 6376 Slocan River Road including the Village of Slocan, Avis Road, Perry’s Back Road, Appledale West Road and Youngs Road.

Please protect all sensitive electrical equipment and be aware that some building alarm systems may be activated by these power interruptions. We regret any inconvenience this may cause and will restore service as soon as possible.

For more information or tips on preparing for a planned power outage, please call 1-866-4FORTIS (1-866-436-7847) or visit www.fortisbc.com

FortisBC is a Canadian owned electric utility operating in the southern interior of British Columbia.

Energizing your community

www.fortisbc.com

Slocan Valley Rec hosts massage workshops

Musical massage helps musicians young and old gain musical muscle and better tone. Baby massage helps parents care for young children. Massage has a lot to offer all ages and everyone.

For more information or to register contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008. To find out more about Sutherland, visit www.christinesutherland.com.

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For more information or to register contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008. To find out more about Sutherland, visit www.christinesutherland.com.

‘Once Upon A Valley Romp’ set to open

For the past nine weeks, the kids have been immersed in all aspects of play production – from co-creating a storyline with a cast of crazy characters to set construction, from writing songs to awakening their acting talents. Now the only thing left to do is show off their efforts to the community! So come out in all your finery and enjoy a definitely un-hightened afternoon of fun. Refreshments will be available beginning at 2:30 pm at the Slocan Park Hall. For more information, call Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.
upgrades are well underway. The new

provide two additional people with

will include improvements to the
district. The hope

are underway and are providing

will make the arena functional again.

Both projects are scheduled for

successful in both instances. We

by Mayor John Everett

try to find out how the laws could

with our

Kaslo and District Community

KDCFS initiative to look at projects

important," he said.

Senior levels of government that

industries. "We have to convince

Mainland, and has been put into

Kaslo hosts community forum with panel of elected officials

November 18, 2009

Kaslo mayor’s message – grant comes through for curling rink/arena

Silverton mayor’s message – grant comes through for curling rink/arena

by Mayor John Everett

Silverton applied for two federal infrastructure grants this past summer.

All panelists agreed that public

proponent comes up with a

could well prove to be permanent.

energy. He said he was going to look into this

during his upcoming working holiday in New Zealand.

The environmental assessment

recreational facilities getting some

and three school districts in the

and a pot of money for health care

health care and education, and public involvement in Kaslo politics.

Some of the discussion topics

were public transportation, the KDCFS developing renewable energy, health care and education, and public involvement in Kaslo politics.

All panelists agreed that public transportation was a very important issue. Mayor Lay, Director Shadrack and Trustee Trenaman all spoke of a proposal to combine BC Transit and school bus services to create one regional public transportation service. This proposal, endorsed by the Region Districts of Central Kootenay, North Kootenay Lake and three school districts in the area (#8, #10 and #20), has been submitted to BC Transit. MLA Mungall promised to bring this idea to her rural caucus meeting the following week. She said she would try to find out how the laws could be changed so that a corporation could move forward with this idea.

Mungall also said she would

Silverton mayor’s message – grant comes through for curling rink/arena

by Mayor John Everett

Silverton applied for two federal infrastructure grants this past summer, and I am pleased to say we were successful in both instances. We received $99,000 for the campground washroom project and $28,333 towards the arena and surrounding recreational facilities (Kootenay Arenas).

The Arena Society is contributing $35,000 from its fundraising efforts towards the project to install a new roof, ice plant piping and concrete pad. This will make the arena functional again.

The Village also has partnered with the Southern Interior Trades Association (SICA) to provide training in the skills needed at both washrooms, which will allow us to maximize our funding.

Both projects are scheduled for completion March 31, 2010.

Kootenay Springs 50th

Kootenay Springs 50th

Kootenay Springs 50th

Kootenay Springs 50th

250-354-8557

344-8477

TOLL FREE 1-866-346-3315
Kaslø council, November 10: City Hall restoration and Kaslo Bay dominate discussion

By Jan McMurray

- The City Hall restoration project sparked some heated discussion around the council table. Mayor Leathwood said there were “serious problems with the committee” and it was time to meet with them.

- Councillor Cormie, who chairs the City Hall Conservation Committee, spoke to this exception, and said the project was going very well. She acknowledged that work had begun before a building permit had been applied for, and said this was an “administrative oversight,” pointing out that the committee was not charged with applying for building permits.

A letter from the Chief Building Official states that the Village needs a permit for the geothermal heating work currently underway, for the roof strengthening work that has already been completed, and for the next stage of the project, which is to restore the top floor of the building. Councillor Cormie told the council she had spoken with the building inspector that morning and understood that they needed an architect for the top floor project. She said the committee was recommending acceptance of the proposal from David Dobie in joint venture with Thomas Loh, who was already working on the project. This was one of four proposals received for the design of the top floor.

- However, the quote from Dobie and Loh was $15,000 and only $10,000 had been budgeted. Councillor Frary urged council to commit to finding the extra $5,000. “Considering the building has been neglected for so long, the members have said that we would entertain not coming up with $5,000 would be amazing.”

In the end, council agreed to hire Dobie and Loh, and to find the extra $5,000 during budget deliberations. Council members also indicated that they would attend the next City Hall Community Development Committee meeting.

- Columbia Basin Trust approved a $200,000 grant for the restoration of the top floor of City Hall. The funding is for a support program and the restoration of the woodwork and ceiling.

- Bernie Penner of Kaslo Bay Estate submitted the November 5 Development Services Committee meeting to present proposed changes to his original development plan. These include a relocated clubhouse with the addition of a swimming pool, a relocated south intersection, smaller and less expensive units, and an increase from 63 to 67 units in total. The committee recommended that council was to approve the revisions.

- Councillor Frary was against the approval, and made a presentation to council with a picture of what he had no concerns about the current building site, but is very concerned about the瑕疵 stability and other limiting Community Development Committee. He is proposing to build new units. He presented information from a report that is available at the Village office.

- Councilor Leathwood said she was sure that the approval Penner was asking for had to do with the current building site only. Councillor Frary said that he had a list of things he believed that indicated they would like to hire an amount to assess all trees on Village property – a quote has been received for this.

- Council received a letter from 10 residents of D Avenue, asking that a willow tree on the boulevard be removed. Council referred the letter to the Development Services Committee for an arborist review. Councillor Cormie asked when they were going to hire the arborist and said, “We have a policy saying we can’t cut anymore trees until we hire an arborist.”

- Councillor Rae Sawyer responded that there was $3,500 in the budget, which was $200 short to hire an arborist, and they hadn’t had time to review the figures.

- The issue of sewer system expansion was referred to the Development Services Committee.

- Council received notice that the grant application for the new fire hall building was approved.

- Rob Lang from the Kambell Memorial Centre committee attended as a delegation. The committee would like council to declare Kaslo a ‘municipal heritage site’ and is in the municipality’s heritage conservation area.

- Council agreed.

- Council received a letter from Alan Davidson of the Ministry of Environment, which is available at the Village, and a report on the sludge system. Council referred the letter to the Development Services Committee.

- The Village on the wildfire interface project, submitted a report that summarizes the achievements and lessons learned during the 2008 wildfire season. The staff’s work done in 2008 and 2009. The report concludes that elected officials should be involved in the early stages of the process, and that citizens should be involved in identifying values and resource features to be protected; identified values and resource features that are important to the community; and that the development and communication process (this is currently being developed by the focus group).

- Council approved a UCBC funding application for $380,000 for the wildfire interface project.

- Councillor Frary reported that Ramona Faust of Community Services had applied for two grants to hire a full-time coordinator for the affordable housing project.

- Councillors reported on their activities with the District planning process. Councillor Cormie said she would like council to declare Kaslo a ‘wood first community,’ as per the provincial government’s provincial lands policy.

- Mayor Lay reported that he and council had met with the RDCK on several occasions. They were interviewed by a reporter at the convention and ended up on the front page of a UCBC newsletter.

- Council asked staff to look into government funding for a new hall, and whether gas tax funding could be used to fund the initiative. Going paperless would involve purchasing five laptop computers. This was another request from each council member; they would remain the property of the Village) and a scanner (for documents that come in by fax).

Proven to be extremely successful,” says Cpl. Don Moskaluk. “Through the course of good solid road-side investigations and patrol work, our officers are lawfully searching vehicles where authority and grounds exist, with the seizure of contraband and resulting charges against those attempting to transport these illegal goods.”

Seizures included 16 kilograms of cocaine, $24,000 cash, eight kg of marijuana buds, $20,000 in stolen merchandise, a stolen 2010 Lincoln, and a 192-plant grow-op. These stops were on the Trans Canada, in the West Kootenays, and the Okanagan.

Katimavik crew coming to Kaslo

As they will be volunteering in Kaslo daily, it would be ideal to have accommodation centrally located.

During their stay in Kaslo, the volunteers will work 35 to 40 hours a week at various community events and activities to be held throughout the six months in and around the West Kootenays.

For more information on Katimavik, or if you know of a place to rent in Kaslo, please contact Tony Bober, Communications and Development Manager, at 1-877-570-0666 ext. 23 or tbober@katimavik-bcyk.org.

RCMP report on drug busts

By Katrine Campbell

The RCMP in the Southern Interior are coming down harder than ever on drug traffickers.

They recently arrested 12 people: one man from Kaslo charged with trafficking in marijuana, the rest from Trail, Castlegar and Grand Forks on charges of trafficking in cocaine. A warrant has been issued for another Kaslo man on marijuana charges.

Even Traffic Services (no pun intended) is getting in on the act. They recently sent out a press release on their “counter-intelligence efforts – looking beyond the ticket.”

A police operation, using police resources from throughout the province, resulted in the 12 arrests on October 29.

- Alexandre Jones (18) from Kaslo was charged with one count of trafficking in marijuana; a warrant is outstanding for John Freeman (30) from Kaslo. Both face fines charges of cocaine trafficking, as do two each from Grand Forks and Castlegar. All but one were released from custody by the Court, and must appear at a later date.

- The research of the communities within the West Kootenay/ Boundary has identified the issue of drug trafficking and organized crime as one of their primary challenges, “says Inspector Nick Romanchuk, in charge of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment.

“By proactively targeting this issue we believe that we are working towards meeting the expectations of our communities and moving forward in making those communities safer places for their citizens.”

“The formation of our regional policing concept has allowed us to more effectively make these advances and target higher level criminal activity.”

- During the same year, Southeast District Traffic Services was busy stopping drivers throughout the Interior and seizing condominium.

“Looking beyond the ticket is an enforcement philosophy … that has proven to be extremely successful,” says Cpl. Don Moskaluk. “Through the course of good solid road-side investigations and patrol work, our officers are lawfully searching vehicles where authority and grounds exist, with the seizure of contraband and resulting charges against those attempting to transport these illegal goods.”

Seizures included 16 kilograms of cocaine, $24,000 cash, eight kg of marijuana buds, $20,000 in stolen merchandise, a stolen 2010 Lincoln, and a 192-plant grow-op. These stops were on the Trans Canada, in the West Kootenays, and the Okanagan.

Katimavik crew coming to Kaslo

Kaslo will ring in the New Year with some new – and very helpful – additions to the community. On January 13, 11 young people from across Canada will begin their community-based plan in Kaslo.

All are volunteers with Katimavik, Canada’s National Youth volunteer-service program. The group, between the ages of 17 and 21, will stay in Kaslo for six months before exchanging communities with the crew in Victoriaville, Quebec.

Currently Katimavik is seeking accommodation, looking at housing options with three or more bedrooms and adequate kitchen and living space. As they will be volunteering in Kaslo daily, it would be ideal to have accommodation centrally located.

During their stay in Kaslo, the volunteers will work 35 to 40 hours a week at various community events and activities to be held throughout the six months in and around the West Kootenays.

For more information on Katimavik, or if you know of a place to rent in Kaslo, please contact Tony Bober, Communications and Development Manager, at 1-877-570-0666 ext. 23 or tbober@katimavik-bcyk.org.
New Denver council, November 10: HGG proposes sculpture on Village land

by Michael Dorsey

• For its tenth anniversary, if funds can be raised, the Hidden Garden Gallery will include in its plans purchase of a sculpture by Toru Fujibayashi, former resident of New Denver’s Japanese-Canadian internment camp and one of the last to leave the area. Gallery board member Martha Nichols wrote to council to ask permission to place the sculpture on Village land, saying “It would give a new viewpoint at the bottom of the main street as a possible location. Council will ask for a sketch of the proposed sculpture, and then asked that $40,000 be set aside to pay the cost of the sculpture on Village land.” The program was founded by Silverton’s School of Music. Since that time, VSSM has become recognized as a diverse and highly regarded summer experience for learning at home. “I think we’re all concerned and dedicated to the many ongoing concerns and advice related to children and families with very young children and student help in the summer – this year,” said Jim Wright, chair of the VSSSFAS board.

The meeting was facilitated by Rachelle Marsden, learning consultant with SelfDesign. SelfDesign is a “learner-directed, enthusiasm-based education movement,” including supporting learners, families and learning consultants, “according to the organization’s website. Two other VSSM meetings have been attended, along with two experienced home-based education families, several families with very young children and one couple preparing to become parents.

Most of the Mondy night meeting consisted of parents’ questions, comments and concerns related to home-based learning at home. “I think we’re all here because we are looking for ways that kids can learn from their own enthusiasm,” said Samuel Stevenson, who is planning to become a teacher so that he can work with homeschoolers. Stevenson said that families present chose to use a specific curriculum, such as the Waldorf-based Oak Meadows, while others utilize Homelinks or SelfDesign to help with organizing their kids’ education. Families that work with a Ministry of Education-approved program can access ministry funds. There were some connecting families there, however. Unschooling learners direct their own education entirely; for example, they are not expected or pressured to read until they express an interest in reading themselves.

There were also many families with infants and toddlers researching their options. “I’m starting to think about education questions now,” said one woman whose son is 13 months old. One couple was considering homeschooling their adolescent children, and having their house take supplemental courses at Winlaw Elementary, where they are currently enrolled.

“We’re here because we want to form a community where parents and kids can come for support and socializing,” Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained. “We’re here because we want to form a community where parents and kids can come for support and socializing,” Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained. “We’re here because we want to form a community where parents and kids can come for support and socializing,” Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained. “We’re here because we want to form a community where parents and kids can come for support and socializing,” Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained. “We’re here because we want to form a community where parents and kids can come for support and socializing,” Marsden explained, while field trips, Marsden explained.

Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society recognizes founder submitted by VSSSFAS board

Eleven years ago, our valley was introduced to the Valhalla Summer School of Music. Since that time, VSSM has become recognized as a highly regarded summer experience for music students from all walks of life. The program was founded by Silverton’s Heart Music Initiative and is supported by society’s president from its inception. Since that time, Heather’s contributions to the society have been immense. Initially a violinist, her music has expanded to viola, cello and viola, VSSM has expanded to include piano, chamber music, as well as a second VIP week encompassing intensive private study and chamber music experience.

Over the years, the other programs have been added to the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society (VSSSFAS) family. In 2005, a third music week called Suzuki Valhalla Institute (SVI) was added. The SVI’s managing director is Daphne Hughes. Later, a drama component called Valhalla School of Theatre Arts (VISTA) was added with Jim Dugan as managing director. The most recent addition to the VSSSFAS family is the week celebrating film and animation. The Valhalla Film School (VFS) and Valhalla Film Festival (VFF), held in conjunction with Lucerne School’s “Spring into Learning” week, were added in 2007 with Terry Taylor as managing director. Full of these programs contribute greatly to the artistic, educational, cultural, economic and social parts of our community.

Recently, our founder, Heather Hether, has announced her resignation as society president and managing director of the VSSM and VIP programs. Our community is deeply grateful for her contributions over the last 11 years. Heather’s vision, leadership and dedication were key to many years of success of the programs. The service by end of month. She is compiling data on water and garbage rates of other municipalities, and will bring this forward to budget discussions. She noted that her research so far shows New Denver’s rates to be very low. She will make many ideas on how to raise them, as the water reserve fund needs to be built up again.

• Councilorers Campbell and Marsden held the Accounts Payable for October. The RDCK’s portion is about $2 million. RDCK directors are discussing an idea to create a fund for economic development projects by pooling some of the tax dollars that are now going to subregional economic development commissions. The fund would be used for specific projects that would promote economic development, encourage public control of public assets, and hopefully provide a financial service to the RDCK.

Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society's annual general meeting in Winlaw last week to discuss homework and support at home. “I think we’re all concerned and dedicated to the many ongoing concerns and advice related to children and families with very young children and student help in the summer – this year. There was some discussion about socializing, parents and student help in the summer – this year. There was some discussion about socializing, parents and student help in the summer – this year. There was some discussion about socializing, parents and student help in the summer – this year. There was some discussion about socializing, parents and student help in the summer – this year. There was some discussion about socializing, parents and student help in the summer – this year.

Our community is deeply grateful for her contributions over the last 11 years. Heather’s vision, leadership and dedication were key to many years of success of the programs. The...
Christmas events abound in Nakusp – from Gala dinners to parades

Christmas is coming, the turkey’s getting fat! Head for Nakusp, because Nakusp is where it’s at!

Actually, there is Christmas stuff happening all over the valleys, but Nakusp does have a great line-up between now and the Big Day.

• The first event is the Legion Christmas Craft Fair, Saturday November 21 from 10 am to 3 pm in the Legion hall.
• Women only for Candlelight and Cake at 4th and Broadway, a celebration and sale hosted by four local businesses: seasonal treats, free draws, specials, live music and lots of socializing. It’s on November 25 from 6 to 9 pm.
• Then comes the biggie – the Parade and Light-Up, November 27. The parade lines up starting at 6:15 pm, with judging at 6:30. Then it moves out at 7, travelling through the downtown to let kids know there are only 28 more sleeps!

After the parade, Santa will appear at the tree light-up ceremony at the courthouse. Come on down for refreshments, carolling, a live Nativity scene and the awarding of prizes for the home and business decorating contest.

• The following day, visit the Creative Hands Craft Fair at the auditorium, from 10 am to 4 pm.
• Wednesday, December 2 is the 23rd annual Rotary Carol Sing, 7 pm at NSS.
• Moonlight Madness takes place December 4, all day, with some merchants open late. Watch for ads with more details.
• December 5: Take the kids to Home Hardware for Photos with Santa, from 10 am to noon, and 1 to 3 pm. (Your pooch or kitty wants in on the action? Call 265-3658 for an appointment.)
• Help Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services Fill the Bus for the Food Bank. It will be parked outside Overwaitea all day, bring your donations and load it up.
• Attend the Christmas Gala and Business Excellence Awards, 6 pm at the auditorium. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, event tickets are available at the Visitor Information Centre.
• The Children’s Christmas Party is December 9 from 10 am to noon at the Legion Hall. Hosted by ASLCS, this event is for kids up to six years old.
• Overwaitea offers a Christmas Kids Movie on December 12, times and title to be announced. Admission is free, but you’re asked for a food bank donation.
• The figure skating club holds its Christmas Ice Show December 14, time to be announced.
• Head for the Legion hall again December 17, for the Turkey Bingo. Doors open at 6 pm, early bird (?) at 6:30. Then again on the 19th, the meat draws will be Turkey Draws, at 4, 5 and 6 pm.

Christmas is coming, the turkey’s getting fat! Head for Nakusp, because Nakusp is where it’s at!

The Valley Voice November 18, 2009

COMMUNITY

Christmas events abound in Nakusp – from Gala dinners to parades

by Jan McMurray

Representatives from the Sinixt Nation and the Perry Ridge Water Users Association travelled to Victoria recently to promote the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal.

“We have proposed to the government protection of Perry Ridge under the Ecological Reserve Act,” says PRWUA president, Marilyn Burgoon. “We went to Victoria, where legislation in this province is passed, to further promote our proposal. It is through legislation under the Reserve Act that the irreplaceable values of Perry Ridge will be protected in law.”

Burgoon and Randy Kenny from the PRWUA, and Marilyn James and her granddaughter from the Sinixt Nation made up the delegation that went to Victoria. They went to the legislature to deliver packages containing a DVD copy of the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal slideshow, and a full-size poster of an aerial panoramic view of Perry Ridge. They were required to leave the packages at the security reception desk, so will be following up with the premier and various ministers to make sure they were received.

Also while in the provincial capital, the group did an evening presentation at a community hall in the downtown area. Although several politicians were invited, none attended, although some Ministry of Environment staff people came. “Even though the politicians didn’t show up, they knew we were in Victoria lobbying for Perry Ridge protection,” says Burgoon. “As a result of the trip, our network of supporters has grown substantially. We gave out many DVDs of the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal and lots of the postcards asking the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to create the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve.”

The evening presentation opened with a DVD presentation of the story, “Coyote and the creation of the Columbia River,” told by Marilyn James, appointed spokesperson for the Sinixt Nation. James then spoke about the destruction of the Columbia River when the dams were built in the 1960s, and the enormous losses of old village sites, pictographs, wildlife and fisheries. She explained that she supports the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal because the waters throughout the Sinixt Nation need to be protected and restored.

James also informed the Victoria audience about the new archaeological discoveries made by Dr. Nathan Goodall last summer along the Slocan River near Lemon Creek and at the base of Perry Ridge. The remains of a very large pithouse (23 metres across) were found, estimated to be 1,500 years older than any other pithouse this size in the Pacific Northwest.

Burgoon showed the slideshow on the Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal, featuring spectacular photography of the ridge, with its deeply incised creeks and forested slopes. “The audience was shocked and dismayed to hear the Perry Ridge is threatened by development,” reported Burgoon.

The evening closed with ‘A journey through the park of the Gods,’ a slideshow on Valhalla Park, produced by Lemon Creek resident Elizabeth Van Ah. “The photos in this presentation show how much rock and ice is in the park, and therefore how essential the mid- and low-elevation forests of Perry Ridge are for habitat,” said Burgoon.

These slideshows will be presented locally soon, says Burgoon, at an event that will include a silent auction fundraiser.

The Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve slideshow was made possible with funding from Mountain Equipment Co-op and the RDCK (Area H discretionary funds), and was dedicated to the memory of the late Colleen McCrory, as was ‘A journey through the park of the Gods.’

The panorama posters were produced with funds raised by West Kootenay area supporters.

What is a hospital auxiliary and what does it do?

Submitted

The Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary is an independent charitable society devoted to the care and comfort of residents and clients of the health centre. The auxiliary provides services ranging from birthday cakes and monthly afternoon teas for Pavilion residents, to assisting with clinics (immunization, mammography, etc.). The group funded and coordinated the restoration of the centre gym, starting with demolition of the former workshop, through to the set-up of the fitness centre. A major purchase this year was the i-stat clinical analyzer for the ER that, with a few drops of blood, delivers lab-accurate tests for blood gases, electrolytes, chemistry, coagulation, hematology, glucose, and cardiac markers.

Dedicated to the memory of the late Colleen McCrory, the auxiliary raised funds for equipment and materials by operating the annual Light Up the Hospital campaign, raffles and bake sales at the November flea market, sales of knitted garments from the display case in the health centre, and by administering donations from the community and from estates. A major purchase this year was the i-stat clinical analyzer for the ER that, with a few drops of blood, delivers lab-accurate tests for blood gases, electrolytes, chemistry, coagulation, hematology, glucose, and cardiac markers. Donations from our community provided $100,000, which brought the best of current technology to our local emergency room.

Light Up the Hospital 2009 funds will go towards the purchase of hypothermia equipment for the emergency department. ER patients are often chilled on arrival, either from exposure to the elements or from shock. Light Up funds will purchase a fluid warmer for intravenous solutions (e.g. saline) and an oxygen warmer, helping a patient to regain the comfort of normal body temperature following trauma.

Community

Perry Ridge Ecological Reserve proposal promoted in Victoria

Lady It’s Time to Party! (again)

3rd Annual Candlelight & Cake on 4th & Broadway

A Ladies Christmas Celebration & Sale on

Wednesday, November 25th 6-9 pm

hosted by:

- Prima Materia Reawakening Health Centre
- The Treasure Trove Evolution Boutique

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The Valley Voice  November 18, 2009

Silk Road Music performs
by Art Joyce

The great trade route between Europe and Asia, known as the Silk Road, was one of the greatest pipelines of human commerce and creativity in history. Like today’s internet, it allowed new technologies, cultural practices and art to cross-pollinate and flourish. Listening to the world-class, stimulating sounds of the Silk Road Music duo at Rosebery Manor the evening of November 12 was just such a musical journey through time, yet with a distinctly modern, original flavor.

Silk Road Music consists of Qiu Xia He (pronounced Chu Sha Her), an accomplished musician whose instrument, the Chinese pipa, had its origin about two thousand years ago. Related to the Western lute or the Arabian oud, its modern incarnation uses the Western chromatic scale. The Japanese biwa is said to have evolved from the pipa but uses a different scale. Qiu Xia He said she began playing the instrument at the age of five while living in her hometown of Xian, near where the ancient terracotta army was unearthed. Her musical partner André Thibault plays classical guitar and lute (or oud) and for this concert demonstrated an amazing ability to perform on a host of other exotic wind and percussion instruments.

Together their music is best described as ‘world fusion.’ For the concert their songs displayed a dazzling array of musical genres borrowed from cultures as diverse as the Chinese, Celtic, Spanish, French and more. Qiu Xia He’s ability to transpose a Scottish reel onto the pipa, for example, is astonishing for both its speed and clarity. Yet in the next song she can create a haunting, traditional lover’s lament from her home province in China. Thibault joked about his ability to keep up with her lightning fingers but acquitted himself nicely with equal skill on classical and flamenco guitar. His traditional Arabic bolero on the oud was a tour de force of emotional landscape, rising from the quiet eerie to a crescendo of thunderous passion, leaving the audience breathless.

The musicians responded well to the house setting, chatting amiably with the audience and providing a short course in musical history to accompany their songs. They were joined for several songs by local musician Paul Gibbons on bongos, dumbek drum and bansuri flute, adding yet another dimension to an already lush musical score. Rosebery Manor host Howard Bearham was invited to perform alto saxophone for the final number, a samba with Gibbons on bonobo drum, Thibault playing a single-stringed Brazilian instrument known as the berimbau, and Qiu Xia He playing maracas. Its rosy, primitive rhythms made it easy to imagine oneself on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, watching street musicians perform to Thibault’s energetic singing.

Silk Road Music has performed with the Victoria Symphony on CBC Radio and at various folk festivals, as well as doing school, house, club and bistro performances. They are currently touring the Kootenays, including Nelson and Kaslo’s Bluebell Bistro, and can be contacted at qxcloud@telus.net for a complete tour schedule. To sample their recordings go to www.silkroadmusic.ca.

Silk Road Music pipa player Qiu Xia. She performed with guitarist André Thibault at the Rosebery Manor November 12, showcasing a broad repertoire of songs drawn from Celtic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Arabic, Brazilian and other world music influences.

Slocan Valley alternate education program to open December 1

by Jan McMurray

An alternate education program will soon be offered out of the former Selkirk College site in Crescent Valley.

School District #8 has recently hired Janis Chernenkoff, teacher, and Karre-Ann Stuart, child and youthcare worker, to run the program. They hope to open on December 1.

“The program offers an alternative to students who haven’t had success in mainstream education,” explained Stuart. “It is self-paced, not teacher-driven, so it’s not for everyone.”

The program focuses on graduation and is mainly for grades 10, 11 and 12 students, but will accept grades 8 and 9 students, depending on the circumstances.

Stuart says there is a waiting list of 20 students who would like to attend the program. Only 15 will be accepted, based on an interview process with parent and child.

There will be some online courses and some paper-based courses. There will also be some electives, such as foods and art, that will be taken as a group.

Outdoor education, community work and work experience will also all be part of the program.

“I’m hoping that we’ll have an open house once we get the space ready so that the community can learn what the program is about. Then parents will know if they’d like to go through the interview process with their child,” said Stuart.

Alternate education programs have run at both Mount Sentinel and WE Graham in the past. Stuart, who worked at the Mt. Sentinel program, says it is best to run alternate education programs outside of school facilities. “There are different expectations from students at an alternate education program than from students at school. Alt ed students will have different schedules, but at school, students are expected to be there from a certain time to a certain time,” she explained.

“Our main focus is academic, but we will also provide extra support around social/emotional needs that our students may have.”

Future events the student council plans are a Sandon sledding day, a winter museum of snow sculptures, crazy hair day, a visit from Santa Claus, and many more.

We invite the community to come to our great events and join in on all the fun!

• The student council members are: president Matthew Eales; vice presidents Tisha Becker and Brandon Gustafson; treasurer Yuki Miwa; secretary Kyla Smutny. Grade reps: 8-9: Mercedes Casley; 6-7: Abbey McMullan and Ethan Grieserson; 3-4-5: Yoan Shandro-Gosselin and Tatyanha Fontaine.

Community
stirring ‘world fusion’ at Rosebery Manor

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Valley residents are lucky—normally to see music of this class it’s necessary to travel to the concert halls of Vancouver, Toronto or New York, or to folk festivals. Bearham said he has no formal plans for a concert series at the Manor but is open to hosting more touring musicians.

Harvest Happening at JV Humphries School

submitted by Mathew Eales

October 22 turned out to be an amazing evening at JV Humphries School in Kaslo. The whole staff turned out to welcome the community into this beautiful school. The classrooms were open, with many displays of student artwork in the halls and around the rooms. At the entrance large welcome signs were posted in all seven of the languages spoken by JVH students.

The highlight of the evening was the performance by the drama department of ‘The 15 Minute Hamlet’ and two eclectic musical groups from the music department.

Lucerne School has student council

submitted by Matthew Eales

This year Lucerne School is proud to have its very own student council.

All students from grades 3 to 12 were eligible to run. Each candidate presented a speech in front of the whole school, and each student voted for the candidates they thought would be the best representatives for the student body. It was a true election—a coalition was even formed.

The purpose of the student council is to allow the students’ voices to be heard with their opinions on future events, changes and, most importantly, what they want at Lucerne School. These activities will benefit and include everyone, working towards the council’s goal of community unity.

The first event the student council will host is an open house in the school library on December 2. Joining us from Jennie’s Book Garden in Winlaw will be Jennie Ash, selling a wonderful selection of books from her store. There will also be a poll to choose a name for the dragon that lives in the library. The dragon’s master, Steve Hammond, could not provide enough habitat so the dragon now resides here.

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ADVERTISEMENT!
by Art Joyce

• Council considered three possible locations for the new fire hall/services building and decided on the area immediately to the left of the campground entrance, on 8th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets.

The other two possible sites were the treed area between the soccer field and Nakusp Lake and the area immediately to the right of the campground entrance on the corner of 8th Avenue and 4th Street. Although the area beside the campground had already been chosen for the building, opposition to this site from Rotary Villa residents and seniors’ centre users prompted council to look at other options.

In making the decision, council had input from the CAO, fire department, Search and Rescue, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. There was urgency in making the decision, as Western Diversification had threatened to pull the funding for the project from the lot by November 12. The project is to be completed by March 2011.

The site chosen for council for the emergency services building is the location of a proposed Native Interpretive Centre by the Nakusp Museum Society. In an interview after the meeting, Hamling said that the society would look at the area on the corner of 8th and 4th, and then have some discussion with council.

Coun. Hughes said that the next step for the emergency services building is a charrette process to choose a design. Five architectural firms have recently been contacted by the council.

“We will more than likely have received the Request for Proposals. There is a charette process to choose a site. The mayor asked Hughes to pick a couple of items Nakusp can work on and report back to council.”

Foothills Brass at the Bonnington submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the Foothills Brass in ALL of the 2010 concert series. The Foothills Brass will perform on Saturday, November 21 at the Bonnington Arts Centre, starting at 8 pm.

This quintet of versatile and exceptional musicians come from all corners of North America. Founded in 1981 in Calgary, the group is dedicated to exceptional artistic activities, and innovative leadership in the artistic community.

The quintet consists of founder Chris Morrison, trumpet; Jay Michalak, trumpet; Joanna Schultz, French horn; Mike Tutton, trombone; and Michalak, trumpet; Joanna Schultz, in the artistic community.

The quintet is to perform four concerts in the BC Lung Association for newer, clean-burning ones. The Foothills Brass is sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust in Castlegar. Affordable housing consultant Tim Wakefield explained that current economic conditions have created a ‘market housing failure,’ meaning that a significant proportion of the (most-likely) population can no longer afford to buy into the housing market. The Foothills Valley has an added complication: 57% of vacant acreage is owned by non-residents; in the West Kootenay as a whole that figure is 25%. Wakefield has said families aren’t affordable anymore and thus not considered as the way of the future.

Page asked about a housing proposal for Nakusp but Wake said it’s too time consuming, and advocated for just getting on with an affordable housing development.

Regional Innovation Chair George Penfold said the biggest need in the region now is rental housing.

Working groups at the session identified housing expertise as a major need for local governments. Page was told that Ucluelet, roughly the same size town as Nakusp, has two town planners while Nakusp has none.

• Councillor Hughes reported on his attendance with Mayor Hamling at the CBT-sponsored climate change workshop, saying the discussion focused on local adaptation. The Columbia Basin will experience weather and precipitation extremes, with more rainfall and less snow. Adequate drainage in communities could become an infrastructure issue, but the workshop was vague on exactly how local municipalities could prepare. Hughes said he’d liked to have seen more emphasis on changing consumer habits and on weather changes. Hamling said sometimes small successes such as anti-idling bylaws are the best beginning. The mayor asked Hughes to pick a couple of items Foothills Brass could work on and report back to council.

• The RDCK asked the Village if it would like to participate in the Woodstove Exchange program, designed to encourage people to exchange their older woodstoves for newer, clean-burning ones. The RDCK has received $27,000 from the BC Lung Association for dispersal as $250 rebates. Of the 100 rebates available, 60 had been designated for other areas of the district – there are only 40 rebates of each of the old stoves. Councillor Mueller proposed budgeting $1,400 for 10 units, and to find the funding if more interest is shown. Council agreed.

In an effort to have paperless meetings, council will try using their own laptops to see if the idea works for them. An estimate from the Village’s computer technician, Ken Palmer, came to a minimum of $4,600 to purchase laptop computers for each council member plus a wireless access point. Council felt the quote was high, and decided to try using their own laptops first. Councillor Lafeur said in any case agendas have to be printed for the media and public.

• Bylaw 623, the smoking and idle control bylaw, was brought up again for discussion. CAO Lafeur said the Ministry of Health has asked that the Village would be responsible for enforcement. Council received a letter from Nakusp Music Fest expressing concerns about prohibiting smoking during the festival. Councillor Leitch felt the bylaw was too comprehensive and that the Village lacks the resources to enforce it. He recommended limiting signage and ticketing to beach areas, parks and youth activities. CAO Lafeur was directed to prepare a version of the bylaw with exception clauses.

• Councillor Leitch reported on the Nakusp Community Forest. About $250,000 has been acquired so far from timber sales but Leitch said $1 million in reserves needs to be saved before money can be given back to the community.
Province joins battle against invasive zebra and quagga mussels

Submitted

Invasive mussels have been a problem on the coast and in the Great Lakes for many years. Now it’s our turn. BC is joining the state governments of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in an agreement to protect the Columbia River basin from the spread of destructive zebra and quagga mussels, Environment Minister Barry Penner has announced.

The Columbia Basin Rapid Response Plan will co-ordinate a rapid, effective and efficient response between state, provincial and federal agencies in order to identify, contain and when feasible, eradicate foreign mussel populations, if they are introduced in the waters of the Columbia River basin. Prevention is the first priority and this includes preventing contaminated watercraft from entering uncontaminated waterbodies.

Zebra and quagga mussels are freshwater molluscs native to Eastern Europe that were introduced to the Great Lakes in the 1980s. Over the past 20 years, the mussels have spread to Canada, the eastern United States and most recently, the western US. They spread rapidly due to their strong reproductive capacity and their ability to attach themselves to boats navigating or being transported from infested waters by trailer. They are not currently present in BC waters, but they have been found on intercepted trailered boats on route to the province.

The spread of these mussels into BC waters would have a severe environmental impact. Both species can completely replace native mussels and cause a collapse of the natural food chain, threatening local fish species, particularly salmon and trout. Industrial, agricultural and recreational uses of infested areas would be affected.

The mussels also pose significant economic risks in the damage they can do to hydropower systems, as colonies can attach themselves to submerged components including fish passage facilities and raw water distribution systems for turbine, cooling and drains. A recent survey estimates an impact of $268 million to power plant and drinking water facilities in the eastern US from 1989 to 2004. There is an important role for the public in the battle against invasive mussels. Anglers and recreational boaters transporting their boats by trailer here from other provinces and states should ensure they thoroughly cleaned their boats and equipment to remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals. Further information on how to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels can be found at www.protectoryourwaters.net.

The Columbia River basin covers more than 675,390 square kilometres spread over southeastern British Columbia, most of Washington state, Idaho and Oregon, and parts of Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

The Rapid Response Plan was prepared in 2008 with funding support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Bonneville Power Administration. The Columbia Basin Team was established in 2003 as part of the 100th Meridian Initiative to address the special needs of the Columbia River Basin. The team includes representatives from a number of federal, state, tribal, academic, and non-governmental organizations.

More information on the team and the response plan is available at http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp.

CBT kicks off Water Smart Initiative

Submitted

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is inviting municipalities, regional districts and First Nation communities to participate in the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative, which is working to reduce water consumption by 20 percent Basin-wide by 2015.

“CBT is beginning a project which will help municipalities, RDs and First Nations conserve water in the Columbia Basin,” said Kindy Gosal, CBT director for Water and Environment. “Water Smart will allow Basin communities to benefit from shared resources, expertise and learning to achieve their community specific water conservation targets.”

The Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative will work with Urban Systems Ltd (USL), which will act as the project co-ordinator and deliver the program.

Application packages have been sent to all municipalities, regional districts and First Nations communities in the Columbia Basin region.

All community-specific targets will contribute to the overall Basin-wide goal of a 20 percent reduction. It is an ambitious goal, but one that CBT sees as important. CBT will work with Urban Systems Ltd (USL), which will act as the project co-ordinator and deliver the program.

Services Offered

• Bathing, dressing, hygiene
• Grocery Shopping
• Light housekeeping, Laundry, Transportation
• Assistance with pets
• 24 Hour Care
• Respite

Home Care service starts up in Nakusp and area

by Jan McMurray

Cordially Yours Home Care has recently expanded to Nakusp. The business started out in Kamloops in May this year, and now offers its services in Barriere, Logan Lake, Merritt, and the Nakusp area.

“We are committed to being a leader and advocate for the delivery of quality home care,” said Linda Case, company founder. “Our motto is: Home care services delivered with a professional and caring touch.”

“Cordially Yours is a really good fit for this area. We have a list of services we offer, but we are open to particular requests. Maybe you have fruit in your yard and you’d like some help making jam, or you need a ride to a function or to do your Christmas shopping – we have a lot of flexibility,” said Moroz.

Cordially Yours is insured and bonded, and all caregivers are certified, have Level 1 First Aid, a clear criminal record check, and have been trained. Casey says she is hiring now, and is accepting resumes from qualified caregivers.

For more information, call Joelyne at 250-265-4563, Linda at 250-579-9221, or visit www.cordiallyyours.com. Please note that the Nakusp phone number has changed since it was first advertised. The correct number is 250-265-4563.

Home care support services, provided by certified caregivers, to its clients and their families. “We are here to serve seniors, people with disabilities, people recovering from surgery, new mothers who may need some help or pampering – anyone who could use our services,” she said.

The company offers bathing, dressing and hygienics; meal preparation and grocery shopping; light house and duty housekeeping and laundry; yard care and snow removal; transportation to and from appointments; companionship; assistance with pets; palliative care; respite care; relaxation massage. Staff is trained to care for those with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s or any other disability.

The Nakusp and area Cordially Yours representative is Joelyne Moroz. She is thrilled to have found this company, which allows her to bring these services to the area. After having been ill herself, she knows first hand the difficulty people can have finding the services they need, or fitting the criteria for government programs.

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push comes to shove, there is this economic recession. Some may have
especially when your retirement means putting yourself in jeopardy.
Like many parents, you might have that sweet, innocent look of a four-
thousand recipes for beef? Easy! Go to www.beefinfo.org. I think it's part of
that astronomical information I have a
many occasions when lending money can be a high-
proposition. Adult children who never have money and never are free outside of pocket can be like a fiscally
hole. You may want to help out of guilt because you think you failed to
them properly, but perhaps they need an education to teach them that
crucial discipline. Neglecting your own long-term needs to fund your kids is also a
no-no. Whatever you do, don’t jeopardize your retirement. That means adopting a hands-off approach
to your retirement and savings account. You want your retirement money to be seen as a last resort—it’s there for a purpose.
If you consider lending money to your adult child, keep it business-
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Kootenay Dance Start

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**EVENTS**

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**EQUIPMENT RENTAL**

**TRADEBOARDS**

**MEAT CUTTING**

**COBBLE HOUSE**

**FOR SALE**

**CRYSTAL FOUNTAIN**

**KOOTENAY DANCE CENTER CHRISTMAS DANCE - Saturday, December 12, 7:30 to 9 pm at the beautiful Silverton Hall, Silverton. Swing, Latin, Swing music, mixers, mixers, & door prizes. Visit www.dancingbeet.ca or call 250-265-358-2200 for information.**

**BUtterfly Garden**

**TURNER BINGO**

**SLOCAN CITY CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY CRAFT FAIR. Sunday, November 22, 10 am to 3 pm in the Legion Hall, VENDORS BOOK NOW. Phone Carol at 250-355-2672 or email charyae@telus.net for application. Everyone welcome!**


**RENT ONE BEDROOM DETACHED SUITE in Silverton available immediately. $550. TRACE DR3624 used 8 years, looks good. For additional info and to book an appointment for a private showing: 250-265-2299, 226-7967.**


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**KASLO CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP Celebration. Saturday, December 5. Enjoy a day full of activities for all ages. Sants arrives at 6 pm.**

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GRUMMOND-like silver aluminum canoe 17.5 foot Grummond-like silver aluminum canoe from Hills Beach. If spotted, please call Donna Shaw (250) 358-7797.

MISSING CANOE • 17.5 foot Grummond-like silver aluminum canoe from Hills Beach. If spotted, please call Donna Shaw (250) 358-7797.


THE VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER is developing its Sustainable Community Plan. Please contact the Village office with your ideas. 250-356-2166 or newdenver@telus.net.

AGM – G O A T M O U N T A I N S T O U N C H on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at Lucerne Library, 3-30 pm. Information contact 358-7733.

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November 18, 2009 The Valley Voice 17
Province creates new rules for off-road vehicles

Rules for off-road vehicle registration and licensing, helmet use, youth safety and environmental measures will be implemented over the next two years under a new off-road vehicle (ORV) management framework, says the province.

The regulations, will require one-time registration with a licence plate for their machines, and must wear helmets and use lights at night. Age-appropriate safety measures and adult supervision will be required for young riders.

All ORVs will require registration and licensing at time of sale and re-sale. New standards for mufflers will minimize the noise impact on wildlife and spark arresters will reduce the risk of forest fires. Additional measures to connect communities and trail networks will mean licensed ORV riders will be able to cross public roads more conveniently with an annual vehicle licence and basic insurance.

One part of the initiative is to allow police to track stolen ORVs, the government says, and to enable conservation officers, park rangers and law enforcement agencies to identify those who are damaging sensitive habitat or harassing wildlife.

The public can call toll-free 1-877-952-7277 to report licence plate numbers of irresponsible operators.

No agreement on provincial 2010 budget

by Katrine Campbell

The bi-partisan provincial finance committee has issued its report on the 2010 budget consultations, with the four NDP members dissenting.

The report contains 49 recommendations culled from more than 3,400 public submissions to the committee. Twelve of these are on health care, ranging from increasing the use of nurse practitioners and multi-disciplinary teams, to providing additional support for palliative care.

Other areas the public felt were important include education, arts and sports, and early intervention services for special needs children. The recommendations include measures to bolster agriculture, mining and forestry sectors, and suggestions for government action on the property transfer tax, property tax assessments and deficit control.

However, the four NDP MLAs on the committee (including Nelson-Creston’s Michelle Mungall) decided they could not vote for the report because it contained recommendations they fundamentally disagreed with, according to deputy chair Doug Donaldson.

The major problem was the Harmonized Sales Tax, or HST. The NDP call it “a $1.9 billion tax burden on British Columbians” and are demanding its abolition.

Eight of the 49 recommendations relate to fine-tuning the HST but the New Democrats say the only recommendation they would support is one to “reduce the burden on low income seniors, small businesses and the arts.”

They also voted against four resolutions they say “could weaken environmental regulations, further devastate rural health care, give a tax break to the wealthy and reinforce the BC Liberal deficit lie.”

Committees of the province’s report are available online at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations.

Fundraising for CT scanner ramps up

submitted

The Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation is one-third of its way towards its goal of raising $1.5 million for a state-of-the-art CT scanner.

The foundation has been building partnerships throughout the region to ensure success for its ambitious campaign. Nine RDCK directors have committed discretionary funds totaling $72,000 so far. Nelson and area doctors have committed to raising $100,000, and have come through with $38,000 to date. The Nelson and Area Health Task Force is encouraging the 2,700 people by Katrine Campbell

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COMMUNITY

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Winlaw Hall does Hallowe’en party
submitted
Winlaw community hall hosted a family-fright night on a particularly dark and spooky Hallowe’en evening, complete with a heart-stopping haunted house, 45 minutes of fabulous fireworks, a raging bonfire and complementary hotdogs, coffee and hot chocolate.

People’s Choice at Passmore Art Show
submitted
A community art show held at Passmore Lodge September 22 to October 31 attracted 16 artists from the southern Slocan Valley working in a variety of media. The show’s opening was part of an open house celebrating 10 years since the lodge opened its doors to residents.

The Matinee plays the Langham
submitted
Vancouver-based The Matinee has emerged as one of the West Coast’s finest song-writing teams. Blending a passion for fine ale and finely crafted tunes, Matt Rose and Matt Layzell have combined to offer a unique spin on the roots-rock sound that is quickly attracting both national and international audiences.

Conservatives choose Hill
submitted
Rossland businessman Stephen Hill will represent the Conservative Party in the BC Southern Interior in the next federal election.

Province cuts First Responder training budget
submitted
The Province has cut funding for First Responder training programs effective March 31, 2010, and the Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC is “disappointed.”

Employment Opportunity
submitted
The Fauquier & District Golf Club is concerned about the succession of their aging Greens Keeper. This is a critical position for us and we are looking for a person who is interested in making a long-term commitment to our Club. This position is entitled ‘Winter tires: now they’re upgrade their knowledge in this field. We expect the successful candidate to take on the Greens Keeper duties over time and apprenticing under our Greens Keeper position. We are looking for a person who is interested in

CLARIFICATION
Doc Spanner’s column last issue, entitled ‘Winter tires: now they’re mandatory,’ indicated that all-season tires that do not qualify as winter tires under BC’s new law. However, all-season tires with ‘M’ (mud) and ‘S’ (snow) and with tread depths of more than 3.5 mm are acceptable under the new law.

Next Valley Voice
Deadline: November 27, 2009

National Restorative Justice Week
November 15 – 21
for more information: Carol 358-2125

National Restorative Justice Week
November 15 – 21

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FAUQUIER & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB
The Fauquier & District Golf Club is concerned about the succession of their Greens Keeper position. We are looking for a person who is interested in taking on the Greens Keeper duties over time and apprenticing under our aging Greens Keeper. This is a critical position for us and we are looking for a person who is interested in making a long-term commitment to our Club. This person must be interested in Turf Management and willing to take courses to upgrade their knowledge in this field. We expect the successful candidate to be physically fit, well organized, a self-starter with a mechanical aptitude, capable of carrying out the regularly scheduled maintenance on our turf cutting equipment. Duties also include: working on our irrigation system, plus operating cutting and other turf management equipment. This position does include some weekend work. Our season is generally between March and October. Starting wage will depend on the candidate’s qualifications but is expected to be between $15.00 to $18.00 per hour. The successful candidate can expect wage increases which reflect their increasing Greens Keeper duties and training over time.

Please send resumé and covering letter to the: Fauquier and District Golf Club PO Box 63, Fauquier, BC V0G 1K0

Closing date for this competition is November 30, 2009.
FLIKS presents *The Horse Boy* at the Bonnington, Nov. 30 and Vallican Whole, Dec. 4

submitted

If you attend one FLIKS film this season, *The Horse Boy* at the Capitol on November 18, at the Bonnington in Nakusp on November 30, and at the Vallican Whole on December 4 would be the one.

How far would you travel to heal your child? An intensely personal yet epic spiritual journey, *The Horse Boy* follows one Texas couple and their autistic son as they trek on horseback through Outer Mongolia in a desperate attempt to treat his condition with shamanic healing. When two-year-old Rowan was diagnosed with autism, Rupert Isaacson, a writer and former horse trainer, and his wife Kristin Neff, a psychology professor, sought the best possible medical care for their son – but traditional therapies had little effect. Then they discovered that Rowan has a profound affinity for animals, particularly horses, and the family set off on a quest for a possible cure...

*The Horse Boy* is part travel adventure, part insight into shamanic tradition and part intimate look at the autistic mind. In telling one family’s extraordinary story, the film gives voice to the thousands who display amazing courage and creativity every day in the battle against this mysterious and heartbreaking epidemic. This ravishing documentary odyssey gives insight into how, in life’s darkest moments, one can find the gateway to joy and wonder.

Autistic Rupert Isaacson makes a connection with a Mongolian shaman, as the two are shown in this image taken in *The Horse Boy*. For more info, go to www. FLIKS.ca or email info@FLIKS.ca.

Music Fest: they’re lining up acts for 2010

submitted

No sooner has one festival wrapped up than the organizers are at work on the next. The Nakusp Music Fest has already lined up some great acts for the 2010 event.

Already confirmed are Eric Burdon and the Animals; Corb Lund and The Hurtin’ Albertans; 54-40; Delhi 2 Dublin; Powder Blues; The Street Dogs; ALFA.; The Headstones; and the Rory Feek Band.

If you don’t feel like driving, no worries. The Silverton Community Club has arranged a shuttle bus service from Nakusp and from the Silverton Community Club to attend in 2010 and wanted even bigger acts are coming? announced – does this mean

Music Fest: they’re lining up acts for 2010

submitted

Dustin Bentall Outfit; The Headpins; Rude City Riot; Leeroy Stagger and the Wildflowers; and The Mason Rack Band.

The Saturday and Sunday headliners are yet to be announced – does this mean even bigger acts are coming? Check the website – www. nakuspmusicfest.ca for more details.

Christmas by the Lake: back and better than ever

submitted

You are invited to a magical event, Silvertown’s Christmas by the Lake, with all the enchantment of a traditional European Christmas. This third annual event takes place Friday, December 4 from 4 pm to 8 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. The festivities will be officially opened by the New Denver Royalty, accompanied by the ceremonial lighting of the tree.

This year, Christmas by the Lake will offer more attractions than ever before. As in previous years, the Christmas Village will offer more attractions than ever before. As in previous years, the Christmas Village will offer more attractions than ever before.

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And if you’re planning to attend in 2010 and wanted to camp – RV camping in the skateboad park and overflow has already been fully booked. However, tenting sites are still available there and at Nakusp Elementary, and RVers can camp at Nakusp Secondary as well as at other local campsites. Call 250-265-2141 or 1-877-265-5565 for more information.

Inside the gallery more than 20 vendors will be selling hand-crafted gifts and artifacts, while the Gallery Society’s art show will adorn the walls.