Nakusp council makes historic decision to sell hot springs

by Art Joyce

Nakusp council has decided to sell the hot springs.

This decision was brought forward from in camera following council’s regular meeting December 8, where council had a lengthy discussion with Bob Toews, a proponent of a Village-owned not-for-profit social enterprise for the hot springs. The hot springs will be listed with the realty firm Colliers International for one year. No price has been set yet. According to Village Administrator Bob Lafleur, the last appraisal is about two years old so a new one will be done to help determine current market value. The proposal advertised by Igor Lands in the December 2 issue of the Valley Voice is excluded from the realtor’s contract and will be considered separately.

“I just know that we’ve been struggling with this for a long time,” said Mayor Hamling. “We really don’t see the hot springs reaching their potential under ownership of the Village. It’s been a year since the referendum and I think council couldn’t go on any longer without making a decision.” A referendum was held last November at the time of the civic election. Whether to sell the hot springs to a private owner or retain the business under Village ownership. An extensive powerpoint presentation on the history of the hot springs and its finances was presented publicly to a turnout of about 100 people. Referendum polls returned 341 votes in favour of selling and 266 against. At council’s meeting last week Mayor Hamling raised this point, asking councillors if they were prepared to abide by the referendum result or pursue the social enterprise option instead.

“Because it was a new council, I didn’t want to bring it up right away after the election. I asked council to decide one way or the other and they decided to go ahead with the sale,” said the mayor.

Bob Toews and wife Corinne Tessier made a presentation to council at a previous council meeting outlining the social enterprise model they are proposing. Both have extensive experience managing not-for-profit organizations. Toews has worked 17 years for Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS), which is run as a social enterprise. The hot-for-profit group based in Calgary was started in 1985 as a non-profit volunteer-run enterprise that now raises money through a $14 million lottery and $1.2 calendar sales for three emergency helicopter bases in Alberta. Tessier is executive director of the Alberta Women’s Enterprise Program, providing start-up funds for women’s small business, mentorship programs, and business planning. She also works for the Immigrant Access Fund, helping immigrants acquire occupational certification. Toews and Tessier agreed with council that they want to build consensus for a social enterprise model while the public mood is for selling isn’t the best idea.

“When we proposed this solution last summer there was a sense of crisis over the hot springs maybe having to close,” said Toews. “If it turns out it isn’t possible to sell the hot springs at a reasonable price then we’re still prepared to help establish it as a social enterprise.”

Like council, Toews wants to see the best possible deal for the Village. With the hot springs already in debt, and only part of the major infrastructure upgrades completed, developers may not be eager to jump in. Toews is concerned that a private enterprise could still fail, leaving the Village without its hot springs. Most hot springs earn far more from women’s small business, mentorship programs, and business planning. She also works for the Immigrant Access Fund, helping immigrants acquire occupational certification. Toews and Tessier agreed with council that they want to build consensus for a social enterprise model while the public mood is for selling isn’t the best idea.

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“And I don’t think we’re in a good position to extract the maximum value from a sale of the hot springs for similar reasons. We’re sympathetic to the Village; they’re in a tough bind with this. We just want to offer them another alternative.”

Mayor Hamling said if a good sale offer doesn’t come through in a year, council will reconsider the social enterprise model. A committee has been formed to set the Village’s asking price based on a current appraisal and to assess purchase offers. Any offer seriously considered by council will be taken to a public meeting before the sale. The mayor pointed out that the Village retains the right to development permits for the hot springs area because it’s a satellite community of the Village. And locals need not worry that a privately owned hot springs will be off limits to the public. When the provincial government sold the hot springs property to the Village, a covenant was included that requires the hot springs remain open to the public. A private company could create a private pool but must also have springs available for public use.

“It’s not been an easy decision for council because we know there’s a lot of emotion attached to the hot springs,” said the mayor. “We’re not just going to go with any offer, it has to be of benefit to the community, one that can best keep the atmosphere and vision of the community.”

The hot springs did not rely on local taxation until 2005, when major repairs became necessary. No reserve fund had ever been set up for the hot springs facility. The Village borrowed money from its own reserve funds to finance the hot springs repairs and upgrades. The total owing to reserves is now approximately $1,000,000 — hence the 2008 referendum asking citizens if they were in favour of selling the facility. Results were 341 in favour of selling and 266 against.

(Most of these facts sourced from the Village of Nakusp powerpoint presentation for the referendum)
Winlaw regional library service pilot project celebrates a successful finish

by Kate Guthrie

Earlier this month, residents, librarians, community workers, School District 8 Superintendent Pat Dooley and Area H Director Walter Popoff celebrated the end of the successful Winlaw Community Connections Pilot Program. The program brought Nelson Municipal Library (NML) service to the small town. Celebrants also contributed informally to a larger discussion about creating permanent library access in Areas E, F and H.

Every Thursday night for 11 weeks beginning last March, Winlaw School library clerk Sharon Block opened the school library and Nelson librarian Margaret Tessman brought a rotated selection of 250 books from the Nelson Municipal Library (NML). Valley residents could also access the entire Nelson Library collection online or by phone and have book orders delivered each week.

“The project caught the imagination of people,” said June Stockdale, chief librarian at NML. “The community responded beautifully.”

Each week, an average of 16 people used the service and checked out between 30 and 40 books. Over the course of the program, 28 new library cards were issued, “which is a lot for a small community,” Stockdale said.

“The program has become a model for how successful outreach library service could be,” said Christine Nichols, Slocan Valley Community Literacy Program Coordinator with Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL).

The pilot program was supported by a ‘Community Connections’ grant through the Ministry of Education, as well as the RDCK, School District 8, CBAL and the Nelson Library through the City of Nelson. Former school trustee Penay Tees was involved in the grant process.

“I’ve read more than I ever have before,” said Tees, who is also a Winlaw resident. “We need a number of satellite services like this in order to make the library as accessible as possible.”

Stockdale said that of the 1.4% of the population in the province who have no library service, almost half of those live in areas E, F and H. For example, one senior at the pilot project celebration said that the service is vital for her because she can no longer drive to Nelson.

The RDCK directors for Areas E, F and H are funding a Regional Library Service feasibility study in order to ascertain public interest and develop a concept model for more permanent library satellite.

“Rather than going straight to a referendum on the matter, we decided to spend a few dollars to conduct a feasibility study and go from there,” said Popoff. He said a similar referendum was run in the 80s, and it did not pass. “But the demographics have changed a lot since then – seniors have moved into town and young people have moved out here.”

He added, “As a director, I’m the vehicle to use to get a service. It’s not what I think or what I want that matters. If the vote comes back against it, that’s got my full support and we’ll go full steam ahead.” Popoff said that he had received supportive emails from people in Winlaw, Crescent Valley and throughout the area.

A Regional Library Service coordinator has been hired to contact community members; she is due to present a report to the RDCK in two to three months.

“Would strive to keep costs as low as possible,” Stockdale said. The Winlaw program was so successful in part because it employed only one librarian and an under-utilized space, she added. Examples of such spaces include empty school libraries and reading centres.

The program could be funded by taxation. Currently, library patrons who live outside of Nelson pay annually for library cards. According to Stockdale, circulation of materials has increased 18% this year (and increased 16% the year previous) and the number of people entering the NML facility has increased 26%. One NML bulletin states, “The current level of service is not sustainable...the Library serves a larger number of people than those who provide meaningful financial support for its operations.”

Well publicized community meetings concerning regional service are planned for the near future. “Depending on the nature of the ideas that come forward,” the NML update says, “the Library Board of Directors may make some changes to how the Library operates and/or the Library services could be.” said Christine Nichols, Slocan Valley Community Literacy Program Coordinator with Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL).

Regional District directors may hold a referendum if changes to taxation are to be considered.

One woman, a mother of two, told Popoff and Stockdale that “after food and shelter, I consider library service to be a basic human right. I don’t have much money, but I would absolutely support a tax to fund library service out here.”

In the meantime, the Nelson Library is responding to increased traffic through their facility with an expansion project. NML is currently fundraising to enable the addition of a stairwell in the building, which would allow the collection to spread into the under-utilized basement.

“We’ve already done a lot to improve the library,” Stockdale said, “which is part of why usage has increased so much in the last two years.

A substantial grant from the Columbia Basin Trust enabled NML to improve its collection with new books and different formats, including books in MP3 format and a larger music collection. The library was reorganized to allow more natural light to enter and wheelchair access was improved, Stockdale said.

Libraries across Canada are seeing a 15-20% increase in usage, said Stockdale. “Part of it is the recession, of course. In times like this, people turn to their library for a place to be in community, to sit and read with others and to access information and resources.”

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

A celebration of the successful Winlaw regional library service pilot project, where Nelson Municipal Library service was brought to Winlaw School once a week, was held December 3.
Kootenay Savings gives generously to local community foundations

by Jan McMurray

Local community foundations were presented with their share of the $1 million giveaway from Kootenay Savings Community Foundation on December 3.

Brent Tremblay, Kootenay Savings CEO and Forrest Drinnan, Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Chair came to the KSCU branches in Nakusp and Kaslo to make the presentations. The Nakusp & Area Community Foundation (NACF) received $67,500, and the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake (CFNKLS) in Kaslo received $75,700. Amounts were determined based on KSCU membership.

“David Jackson of NACF agreed. “It’s really exciting – it means we can increase the amount we give out annually by probably about $2,000.”

“New Denver and South Slocan have also been allotted some of the million dollars – New Denver’s share is $39,600 and South Slocan’s is $87,500.”

Deb Melnyk, communications manager at KSCF, explained that these funds will be administered by the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation until New Denver and South Slocan set up local community foundations, and the funds can be transferred.

A portion of the funds (five percent) each community receives is available for granting in 2010, while the other 95 percent is to be invested as endowment funds. Melnyk explained that Kootenay Savings was looking to form a committee in New Denver and in South Slocan to handle the five percent that would be granted in 2010. “We are looking for staff and community input to help us on those funds until a local community foundation is established,” she said.

“We would like to put a committee or panel of four to five people together that will do the granting of funds. Our thoughts for this panel are: a Kootenay Savings employee from the branch in that community; a Kootenay Savings member from the branch in that community; a prominent community member who is in tune with the community’s needs; the Kootenay Savings director which represents that community’s area.”

Melnyk said the idea to fund local community foundations goes back a few years and began with a conversation that Rick Hewat from the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake had with KSCU CEO Brent Tremblay.

David Jackson from NACF reported that this $67,500 gift from the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation (KSCF) brings Nakusp’s community endowment fund up to almost a quarter of a million dollars. He said the KSCF asked that about $3,000 of the donation be given out in grants in 2010, while the remainder be invested as endowment funds.

“We’ll have between $10,000 and $11,000 to give out in grants in 2010,” said Jackson.

For more information about NACF, visit www.nakuspfoundation.com or contact Jackson at 250-265-4818.

The gift to CFNKLS brings Kaslo and area’s endowment funds to $407,000. In 2010, CFNKLS anticipates granting about $15,000 to community groups in the Kaslo area. Of the $75,700 gift from KSCF, $2,785 will be granted in 2010, and $71,915 will be invested as endowment funds. CFNKLS gives out grants in May. For more information, visit www.ospreycommunityfoundation.ca/cfnkl.php or contact David Stewart at sjdks@direct.ca or Rick Hewat at 250-353-7311 or r Hewat@netidea.com.

Community foundations are organizations that build endowment funds, and use the investment income to give out as grants to local community groups.

The Kootenay Savings Community Foundation was created in 2000 to provide assistance with the funding of educational, health, social, cultural, environmental or economic non-profit projects of benefit to the communities served by Kootenay Savings Credit Union.
Re: Cell phones

Three hips and a ray. The silent majority finally got their way.

Ken Gordon Jr.
New Denver

Yes to cell phones

I am one of those people that own a cell phone. There are 125 cell phone clients that live in New Denver. Yes, there was a vote where ‘no’ had 117 votes and ‘yes’ had 110 votes.

Dorothy Siding and Silverton were not allowed to vote. Why? Are we not considered residents of this community? Maybe the result would have been different? If people are concerned then I believe they should not buy a cell phone or use one.

For the people that want cell phones and support cell phone use, I am putting咱们 ‘People for Cell Phone Use in New Denver, BC’ on Facebook.com and join (yes2cellphones@yahoo.ca). Thank you to Industry Canada, Telus and Freez, I am with you! Check out my group, phones and support cell phone use, I am one of those people that own

and in spite of the economic times, parents, community, teachers and administrators are working together to pursue educational best practice for children.

Barbara Lindsay
Slocan Valley trustee, SD#8

Open letter to Frank Marino, Health Services Administrator, Trail/ Castlegar, Interior Health

Thanks for your (undated) response to my comments about reductions in nursing staff.

If only there were more indications that the health authorities in general, and BHI in particular, were actually objecting to the starvation diet the BC government has on them – then I would be more sympathetic to your staffing problems. When I read that you are struggling to find ‘efficiencies’ by reducing staff, that signals to me that you don’t have enough funding to operate properly. What do you say to the BC Government officials who cut your funding? Do you complain (and demonstrate) that the Olympics and subsidies to oil and gas producers are making more money than paying the staff to do the job they were hired for? Can one have any hope that some of the remaining administrators are working diligently to increase – or at least maintain – funding levels from the BC Government?

Bill Wells
Kaslo

Offended by American deserters

As we enter the holiday season and begin to celebrate based on our various cultures and beliefs, it is a great time to thank the soldiers that have protected us from those that would see our beliefs replaced by theirs.

In Canada, this should also trigger feelings of shame. At the same time as we have young men and women coming home under the flag or with horrible wounds, both physical and psychological, we have a stream of deserters pouring across the border seeking refuge. These deserters joined the army of their own volition, took all the benefits it entailed, then when their country called on them, they fled. When they get here, instead of being shamed, they’re welcomed open with arms by various groups, including those that did the same thing during Vietnam.

Both then and now, they claim an objection to the war as their reason for fleeing. They usually leave out the part where they could remain in the US while objecting, albeit facing penalties. Instead, they feel they shouldn’t have to make a sacrifice to protect their beliefs, so off to Canada they go, forcing someone else to serve in their place. It’s also disgusting to hear them cry of persecution, when the people who think there’s something wrong call them traitor and malig

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

Who’s serving the public here?

I am writing in response to a letter written by Al Skakun (BCT’s) in the November 4 issue concerning damages to the landscapers in Mount Sentinel.

Trying to reduce the clearcutting in my watershed, I have learned how difficult protection it is. Even basic information is not given unless asked for. This is why the residents of Slocan Park had no idea four cubblocks adjacent to and above their properties had been sold until a member of the community with a background in logging brought it to our attention.

These sales involve road building and timber removal in our domestic watersheds. This is why the Slocan Park Community Action for Responsible Ecology Society (SP CARES) is so important to the community. The SP CARE Society collects information, asks the right questions, and supports members of our community.

Meanwhile, BCT’s follows their revised and reduced standards. Did you know your watershed had more protection 20 years ago than they do now? Did you know that small consumptive use streams in your backyard have no protection at all?

Keep in mind the smaller the stream, the bigger the problem.

It may only take three months to clear out the trees, but it takes a lifetime to grow them back. The road they are building on Mount Sentinel is a permanent road – this is a long time to wait for clean drinking water! It takes a whole forest to keep our water clean enough to drink. The trees help with timing of flow, the pH levels, and the list goes on.

I know most of us don’t have an education in forestry or road building and this is why we need to act sooner as a community to help protect irresponsible, money driven abuse in our domestic watersheds. The damaging of domestic water on Mount Sentinel is not one person’s concern – it is all of ours.

BCT’s is part of the Ministry of Forests and Range, with deep pockets and a mandate from the government. We need to support one another and help change government policy. This is our community, not theirs.

Carol Hep
Slocan Valley

Clarification on SD#8 cost-cutting and Slocan Valley

The title of an article in the December 2 issue – ‘SD#8 cost-cutting has little effect on the Slocan Valley’ – is misleading for what is happening on the education front in the Slocan Valley and in the province at large. To date there have been custodial cuts and a search for savings, in all the districts.

Principals use their discretion re: the use of the schools. Activities continue to take place to date in schools. If there is no custo to add, there is no cost to the user. Slocan Valley Recreation Commission has no signed agreement with the district to date.

Acting on the recommendations made by the transportation consultant will involve change.

Student learning continues to be the number one focus in the district.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

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

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(40621191)
Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and cell phone service

The Slocan District Chamber’s mission statement is to promote the commercial, agricultural, recreational and civic welfare of the people of the district. In support of these goals, we participate in community planning and economic development, e.g. a project being led by Healthy Housing, along with several other related studies.

An initial step in such planning is identifying the positive aspects of our community—things that make us want to live here, that will attract like-minded people, and that we do not want to jeopardize through development.

In business planning, a first step is to identify advantages over competitors.

An example is our location in beautiful mountain villages and rural areas. The quality of life in the alpine valleys that has remained mostly untouched.

This gives us a competitive advantage over other areas where progress has arrived at a cost of increased noisy, busy traffic on congested lakes, and the noise of urban life. Here we still enjoy unmotorized trails, canoes and kayaks, the sounds of nature where mass tourism has not penetrated. If you’ve hiked a trail around Cammone and Banff, you’ll know why hiking in a valley is so different—besides the attractive to visitors as well as residents.

Another business step is advertising competitive advantages. News reports on the cell phone issue has given us an opportunity to communicate to those who are interested in the issues and to discuss the work we are doing.

People from the valley, other valleys, and Nelson are interested in what is happening in our valley. Many people would benefit from cell phone service to get connected to the world.

Should our valley-wide advantages include clean, quiet tourism (and our quality of life through our valley’s valley) be a reason for cell phone service in limited areas?

The cell service proposed for our area depends on line of sight signals. If you can see the cell tower within a limited distance, your phone will see a signal. But if you are around a corner or over a hill from the tower, there will be no signal.

Golf course: hill; signal: Roseberry hill; good signal. Silverton hill: signal; Enterprise Creek draw: good luck. Ironically, the best cell service was on the west side of Slocan Lake, in Valhalla Park—where there is limited demand at this time?

Here’s the trade-off: a powerful competitive advantage for developing tourism and the valley lifestyle is the valley’s product, versus very limited phone coverage due to our scenic topography from a poorly located cell tower.

Where’s the value?

Bill Roberts, on behalf of Slocan District Chamber of Commerce

In favour of cell phones

I have wondered lately why all these citizens are fighting the progression of modern times. I also doubt if they read the most recent studies on the issue. I believe some of these town criers were also the people who told horror stories about microwaves and were the same sort of individual who would sit thinking by a television set.

Scape tactics only work for followers and in actuality there are not that of these in this community. A good number of us have sat back and allowed you to speak for the community when in fact I think you are the minority and I want to stand up and be counted. A lot of us didn’t vote because we thought it was none of our business and not our personal business voting for or against our citizens’ wants. Many high school students are undecided about the matter, and we feel that they are that way because they were not to be more educated. However, they do know that they have to be fair for either side. We took a vote in a class for whether we thought it was fair they way we were doing it democratically. Seventy-eight percent of our class voted so we don’t think it’s democratically correct. If we do get an antenna, the people should vote by it a win.

People who want cell phones say to us it is our personal choice. We disagree. It is not a personal choice to be exposed to the radiation from a cell phone a metre away. It’s not a personal choice to be exposed to the radiation from the tower. It’s not a personal choice to listen to somebody’s conversation you don’t want to hear, especially if you are trying to talk to that person yourself. This group of youth is ready to do what they can to stop this and to keep their community to what is right.

In favour of cell service

I would like to say that I am FOR New Denver getting cell phone service. I recently went and purchased a new cell phone, and I am ready and waiting for Telus to finish their work.

For all those opposed to it, please keep in mind a few very important facts. The Valhalla Wilderness Society’s website states: “Whether you are on an MSN or a Website. Not all the things you read on the web are the truth. Anybody, anywhere can make a website and have it say whatever they want, whether it be the truth or not. How many of you have seen the web ad stating that you can popcorn with a cell phone? This is fiction. Check it for yourself on www.truthornonsense.com. My point is that not all the things you read on the web is true. (How many people involved with the WVS have cell phones? Remember, I have seen some of you with a cell phone in areas there is service.)

My question for the Chamber of Commerce: how many of your members are actually using a cell phone? This is one main focus on your site – saying your members want to keep New Denver cell phone free. I know that there are many members of that community that disagree with you. How many more members would you have if you didn’t have that slogan? Cell phones for businesses are a good thing. I do agree though that cell phones for the environment in this example… Which legalizing marijuana, by the way, allows a person themselves. And if they do have other opinions than you, please stop harassing them or cornering them in local stores.

And how will we decide? Or will we get to decide? I appreciate that our community is made up of many people of different minds and points of view.

I believe that our community should decide if we want this cell tower or not. It should be neither Industry Canada nor Telus that imposes this. This is one main focus on your site – saying your members want to keep New Denver cell phone free. I know that there are many members of that community that disagree with you. How many more members would you have if you didn’t have that slogan? Cell phones for businesses are a good thing. I do agree though that cell phones for the environment in this example… Which legalizing marijuana, by the way, allows people to actually use their taxation dollars. In the end, we are all to their own taste. Do we want control of our own actions or not? Do we want to be able to make our own choices or be forced to do things?

Nadine Raymonds
New Denver

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The Valley Voice  December 2, 2009

Slocan council, December 9: Council to meet with SV Community Complex reps

by Katrine Campbell

• Richard Smedbol and Gary Burns appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society. Since its inception the society had planned to build a complex which included an arena and a pool, but have scaled back to just the pool. Burns and Smedbol asked to work with the Village in planning and building that facility. Council agreed to set up a meeting for councilors, staff, and SVCCS representatives.

• Patricia Dehnel and Fiiye White gave a presentation on the Age-Friendly Village of Silverton. The presentation included an arena and a pool, but have appeared as a delegation on behalf of Katrine Campbell

• Margaret Markovic reported on the Age-Friendly Village of Silverton.

The Village of Silverton

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2010:

TIME: 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19
TUESDAY, JULY 20
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17
TUESDAY, MARCH 16
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
TUESDAY, APRIL 20
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Planet Garden Maintenance

Best of the Holiday Season!

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JANET 250-358-2618

Season’s Greetings from the Council & Staff of the Village of Slocan

Holiday Hours:

Thursday, December 24th closed from 12 noon
Closed Monday, December 28th

Open December 29th & 30th

Thursday, January 1st closed from 12 noon
Closed Monday, January 4th

Have a Merry Christmas!

Holiday Greetings from the Mayor & Council of the Village of Silverton

Holiday Schedule

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
FRIDAY, JANUARY 01, 2010
MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2010

CLOSED
CLOSED
CLOSED
CLOSED
CLOSED
OPEN: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
OPEN: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
OPEN: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Thank you for your support and patronage.

The Village of Silverton

The Valley Voice  December 2, 2009

Soundserious plays Velvet Underground on New Year’s Eve submitted

Are you looking for a safe and healthy alternative to the usual round of drunken New Year’s Eve parties and rowdy bars? Then come on down to the Velvet Underground (on Baker Street in Nelson) and boogie till dawn to the fab vib of Soundserious.

This New Year’s Eve event unfolds amid the eccentric atmosphere of the Velvet Underground, a live performance kiva in the heart of Nelson on busy Baker Street. David and Simon Walford, hosts extreme, are offering a non-alcoholic evening full of fabulous food and great, great music.

David, a professional chef, will keep the platters of mid-eastern delicacies flowing throughout the evening while Simon works the juice bar serving drinks with exotic names such as Autumn Explosion, Summer Breeze and house fave, Ginger Zinger. The house coffee, Nomad’s Espresso, is a fair trade blend brewed exclusively for the Walford family and served in only three establishments around the world.

Those of you familiar with the techno music fest, Stambhala, will recognize the bartender duo. Marilyn and Tree have been holding solid the percussive pulse to the opening ceremony in the Labyrinth for two years running and are booked again for 2010. Alto, tribal, rock, percussion, all of these describe the full, rich landscape of their genre. Offering original music and heavy dan dan beats from Senegal, this sexy duo will light up your heart. Stacy Stief, the techno wizard behind the Labyrinth’s exotic setting, has signed on for the evening. With state of the art visuals and incredible sound production, are prepared to dance the night away.

Various local businesses ranging from Babe’s Auto, Madeleine Rutsify’s Potential Explosion, a healing session with Simple Changes to Kaslo’s Barren Fly and Tackle have donated the many door prizes. Advance tickets available at the Velvet Underground are only $25, $30 at the door and $50 per couple.
Slocan Valley Recreation reaching new heights

submitted
In the coming season, Slocan Valley Recreation will take people in all kinds of new directions, from floating suspended in silk, to building a snow cave, to having a valley-grown Olympics hockey game – there’s little of everything coming up for everyone.

You may have seen this stunning aerial circus discipline – dancing on two long pieces of fabric suspended in the air – in Cinque Du Soleil. Now, at Aerial Silk Acrobatics, children and adults are invited to join Preyja and Safire Skye and learn some of the moves used in this stunning aerial circus discipline.

At the end of January, ‘Go For the Gold’, Hockey Day in Winlaw’ takes place at the big rink behind Sleep is for Sissies. It’s a home-grown ‘Olympic’ place at the big rink behind Sleep is for Sissies.

The club has hosted special guests and activities of interest and future activities.

The Kootenay-Slocan Lions Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:30 pm at the Passmore and Winlaw. Slocan Valley Recreation provides the snowshoes! Plus, there’s a Healthy Walking Clinic in January.

Kootenay-Slocan Lions Club fall report

submitted
This fall has been busy for the Kootenay-Slocan Lions Club. Activities took off when the club hosted its bi-annual community pig roast in September. Tickets were at a premium, with more than 150 lucky gourmets present.

More information, call Don Munro (226-7855) or Norm Essery (226-7745).

On November 16 six members of Valley Recreation will take people out on snowshoe hikes to some great locations to discover what thrives in our winter world.

In conjunction with the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, there will be two rail trail ski days in January.

The Nakusp Hospice Memorial Tree 2009 is up at Hub International/Barton Insurance on Broadway in Nakusp from 9-1 Mon.-Fri. and 9-1 on Sat until Dec. 31. This is a wonderful way to honour loved ones at Christmas.

Come in and inscribe your loved one’s name on a Christmas ball for our tree.

It can also be found on-line at http://rdck.bc.ca/community/recreation/slocan_valley/vs_lg_html or phone the Rec’ Office at 250-226-0008.

John Shantz
359-7815; 1-877-376-6539
slocan_valley/sv_lg.html or phone the Rec’ Office at 250-226-0008.
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Village of Kaslo Christmas Schedule 2009
Regular Council Meeting
Dec 8 Canceled and rescheduled to Dec 15
Dec 22 Canceled
Village Office closed between Dec 25 and Jan 4
Public Works ph 353-7568 as usual
Building Inspections canceled between: Dec 25 - Jan 4
RDCK Transfer Station
Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1
Commercial garbage collection
Friday Dec 25 canceled
Garbage bag tags may be purchased at Barren Fly every day except Dec 25 to 28 and Jan 1, 2 & 3

Barren Fly Closes early Dec 24 & 31st - 5 pm

Happy Holidays from the Mayor, Council and Staff

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort
We’d like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and remind you that we are open every day.

Hot Springs Hours
10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. daily
(last entry at 9 p.m.)

Amazing Dinner Specials throughout Christmas week!

“Welcome 2010”
New Year’s Eve Gala
December 31, 2009
Reserve early. One or two night packages...for the ‘over 19 crowd’

Join us on New Year’s Day
for a Fabulous Buffet Brunch
from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(reservations recommended)
1-800-668-1171

Kaslo & District
Fletcher Creek puts forward proposal for water upgrade
by Jan McMurray

The community of Fletcher Creek just south of Kaslo is working on getting their Boil Water Advisory lifted.

The improvement district has sent in a proposal to the IHA for Point of Entry/Point of Use treatment systems for each home. These systems would filter and disinfect the water flowing into each household with cartridge filtration and ultraviolet disinfection.

Bob Froese, member of the Fletcher Creek Water Improvement District and retired engineer with 35 years experience in the water/wastewater treatment industry, explained that the IHA has a mandate to eliminate all Boil Water Advisories. This means that many small water systems have to upgrade their systems to meet provincial standards.

He gave the example of another small water system on Boil Water Advisory for many years – South Slocan. “South Slocan was told to build a water treatment plant at a significant cost, and we’re not in a position to do that,” he said. “We don’t have the infrastructure to put in a central plant because we don’t have a central reservoir. The most logical method is Point of Entry – this will provide potable water according to their [IHA] definition, and at a reasonable cost.”

The cost of purchasing the POE/POU systems and installing them at each home is approximately $100,000. The RDCK board approved a $30,000 grant from Area D’s Community Works fund (gas tax fund) at its November 26 meeting for the project. Froese said the community’s water rates will have to go up significantly to cover the costs associated with the project.

The gravity-fed surface system has about 60 connections and has been on Boil Water Advisory for several years. Area D Director Andy Shadrack says he expects to hear back from the IHA on the Fletcher Creek proposal by December 31.

Graham Anderson wins scholarship

“I never really believed in online competitions until Kaslo won the TSN broadcast in August. I think I sort of rode that wave with the people in Kaslo as well – they are great supporters,” said Anderson. The president of the college, Dean Duperron, phoned Anderson to inform him of his success and to congratulate him. “It was quite a surprise to get a phone call from him,” said Anderson.

Indeed it must have been, seeing as how Anderson was in Colombia at the time. His wife is from Tumaco, Colombia, and the couple spends time in both Canada and Colombia.

Anderson plans to study business administration, and put it to practice in Colombia. He would like to get involved in economic development in Tumaco.

Asked why he thought he was a good choice for the scholarship, Anderson replied, “I think I’ll use the scholarship for what it was intended – to better my community and help people around me. For that reason, I think they made a good choice.”

Class Act Canada applicants submitted a video about what they would do with the scholarship. The videos were posted online, where people could vote.

“I would really like to say thank you to everyone who supported me – my wife and both our families, my friends from around the world, and everyone on the various social networking sites who got the word out, plus everyone in Kaslo and here in the Kootenays who spread the word to their friends and family and voted every day,” said Anderson.

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

Pat, Nicola and Dorothy wish you and your family the best of the holiday season!

North Kootenay Veterinary Services

Kaslo’s Graham Anderson just won a $100,000 scholarship from Sprott-Shaw Community College.
Nakusp council, December 8: Council decides to sell hot springs after debating social enterprise model

by Art Joyce

• Following an in camera meeting at council’s regular meeting December 8, Bob Toews appeared as a late delegation to discuss further the social enterprise model he and his wife, Corinne Tessier, are proposing for the hot springs. Council had concerns about what would happen if it chose this option and discovered after a year or two that the business was still losing money. In the end, council decided to follow the results of last year’s referendum and list the hot springs with a realtor. (See front page story.)

• CAO Lafleur asked council for clarification on how to select candidates from the 10 proposals received for the hot springs marketing contract. Council voted to adopt Councillor Mueller’s suggestion to form a committee of two councillors and one staff member to meet with the CAO to review proposals and shortlist. Councillors Hughes and Leitch volunteered to sit on the committee.

• Council chamber renovations were discussed. Mayor Hamling said money that was not used from this year’s budget is available. Councillor Mueller suggested the option of removing the back wall on the east side, keeping the two offices. CAO Bob Lafleur said staff will do as much of the work as possible. Council voted in favour of Mueller’s option.

• Councillor Hughes asked if council needs to go through a bid process for the Village’s trade display unit. CAO Lafleur said policy allows council to accept one bid at the budgeted amount of $1,500. There is an option to open to a second bidder if the bidder can provide the unit council has already decided upon. Council voted to refer the matter to budget discussions.

• Councillor Leitch reported that nothing is planned for the community forest. The board is trying to decide whether it’s worth keeping people working in the current timber market situation. “We need to find a marketable stand of timber, which is old growth cedar, and pulp.” The Nakusp and Area Development Board has chosen Ame

Champagne of Green Words and Nikita Boummand of Nakavick Design to produce the Nakavick Visitor’s Guide, Stephen Marks of On The Marks to produce the image bank, and Marilyn Rivers of Kootenay IT to produce the website.

• Mayor Hamling said the fire department has been requested to take the new fire truck to Burton for its Christmas parade. The fire chief will ensure Nakusp is covered in Burton.

Burton Internet Society expands service to Arrow Park

The Burton Internet Society has expanded its high speed wireless internet service to Arrow Park and West Arrow Park. Over 70 people are now receiving service from the system.

The society received a $17,450 grant from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) in early 2008. In 2008, Nakusp and area donations amounted to $1,711 from community donations with these funds. Upgrades were made to the solar site on Mt. Naumulton south of Burton, and an access site was set up at Burton Community Hall.

In 2009, with some MRIF funds left over, the society partnered with a group in Arrow Park, which received a $13,350 grant from the Columbia Basin Trust to help expand the service. A site was prepared at the Colman property in Arrow Park and radios were installed. The Burton Internet Society erected a tower on the Green/Dewar property in West Arrow Park. A relay was installed at the solar site, connected to the tower in West Arrow Park, and then redirected to the Arrow Park site. In the Air Network program, computer classes are offered by the Burton Hall tower or the solar site. With help from the Alliance for Literacy Program, computer classes are offered by Liz Gillis at the site.

Bylaw 614-6, an amendment to zoning bylaw 614 for steel containers, has had a public hearing set for January 26. Presented for the first three readings were Bylaw 479-15, sewer variances, and Bylaw 613-6, a variance to the property on Broadway St.

...
New Denver council, December 8: Age-Friendly report presented
by Michael Dorsey

• Brenda Dahlie presented the results of the Age-Friendly Assessment study. She thanked the council for funding the study, which included two public meetings and a survey. Of 300 surveys, she received 34 responses (11%). According to residents, the top five age-friendly assets are: a friendly, helpful and inclusive community; walkable (level), compact, easy to get around; medical services with hospital, doctors and health centre; centralized business core; and good volunteer opportunity and recognition. The top five needs were identified as:

• improving transportation to medical services and other communities (including hospital, dentistry, wheelchair accessible, home care, including Meals on Wheels; assisted living housing; and sidewalk and road maintenance concerning snow, ice and vegetation; (identified priority is a need for a clear sidewalk across the bridge in winter). The need for downtown public bathrooms was also raised. Dahlie recommended that council commit to reviewing the OCP in regards to aging trends and requirements; review the possibility of requiring universal design principles for all new housing; support the creation of a Seniors Advisory Committee to identify seniors’ issues and advocate for them; support the idea of mutual focus on the report by the Healthy Housing Society, Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and the consultants developing the Sustainability Plan; review sidewalk and road maintenance priorities in light of seniors and disabled persons’ needs; and consider establishing a community foundation, which could help to fund public washrooms, widened sidewalks and other amenities for an aging population.

Council referred Dahlie’s report to the budget table and the OCP. Councillor Greensword will look into Meals on Wheels, and Dahlie will research programs to provide this service.

During discussion of universal design (age-in-place, no-step entrances, wider hallways and reachable utilities), secondary suites were mentioned. Mayor Wright noted that the Village has allowed secondary suites for 15 years. Dahlie’s request that the OCP include design guidelines was noted. She said the provincial government has similar guidelines in place this month.

• An offer from Lorna Visser to meet to discuss a community foundation was accepted. Visser is the principal of Carmanah Strategies, which offers consulting services to charitable organizations. She also led the successful Valhalla Mile fundraising campaign.

• The bylaws setting the new water and garbage rates were adopted. Water rates are now $250 per year per residence; garbage rates are $130 per year for 32Cs.

• Council gave three readings to the Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 644, 2009.

• Councillor Greensword reported that the water tank installation is complete and will require two weeks to reach the full level. She will meet with Maintenance Supervisor Mike Simpson to discuss snow removal sites for this winter.

• Mayor Wright, in his capacity as RDCK board chair, noted that the RDCK board inaugural meeting December 10 would include the annual election of a chair.

The Valley Voice is pleased to report that Wright was re-elected to this position for the sixth year in a row, with Area B Director John Kettle re-elected as vice-chair for the second year. Wright has been Mayor of New Denver since 1989, and a Regional Director since 1991.

• Discussion on the public art sculpture as proposed by the Hidden Garden Gallery Society was referred to the next meeting. Administrator Carol Gorden will work with Martha Nichol from HGG on details. Internationally renowned sculptor Tora Fujibayashi would be commissioned to do the sculpture. Fujibayashi grew up in the Nakusp area.

• Council referred Sandy Lamer’s request to hold a memorial for Barry on July 11 at Centennial Park to the July 11 meeting. Mayor Wright noted that a General Affairs budget meeting would then be held. Council also referred a recommendation for a gazebo usage and rental policy to the January 11 meeting.

• Council received a request for support from the Japanese Traditional Folk Song group. The group will be invited to perform in New Denver (so long as they will be eligible for funding), and will be advised that the Koyowaki Society would be interested in their performance.

• Council resolved to adopt and record the Tangible Capital Assets Inventory and Report, completed by consultant Marty McClean. The report will help the Village comply with new financial reporting requirements.

• Council approved Recreation Committee #6 appointments for Councillors Murphy and Campbell (alternate).

• Kootenay Savings Credit Union was approved as the Village financial institution for 2010, and Berg, Naqvi, Information and Management Auditors.

• Council received correspondence from Dave Good and Alison Gale supporting cell service; from Chris Sobczak of Kootenay Business Magazine regarding showcasing New Denver’s municipal hall project; and from Minister of Health Kevin Falcon regarding the RCMP’s involvement for restructuring plans for Slocan Community Health Centre. Mayor Wright and Council commented on Falcon’s letter as being a fine example of form letter writing, with little relevant data and much party rhetoric. Councillor Greensword noted the letter did not address rural health districts.

• Council received a letter from Mayor of Burnaby Derrick Corrigan, asking that all UBCM members actively petition the provincial government and MLAs to ensure local governments are represented on the RCMP PRIME (Police Records Information and Management Environment) board of directors, and that municipalities have a voice in the determination of costs related to RCMP operations, maintenance and future upgrades. Concerns have arisen because the ‘no cost to municipalities’ position has changed to a cost of $1,000 per RCMP member, and a board has been created with no local government representation. Council moved and voted to support the request, and will write another letter to Solicitor General Kanu Heed.
Slocan sets its sights on a new community swimming pool

by Katrine Campbell

Although they’ve been working for years to raise money to build an arena and a swimming pool, members of the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society have decided to scale back and concentrate on just the pool.

Part of the reason is demographics: almost 55 per cent of the village is aged 45 or over, and the numbers are similar in New Denver, Silverton and Area H. “The 15 to 24 age group that are in demand are looking for volunteers to help keep road crossings open. This means being willing to partner with us. “We’re hardworking volunteers but we’re lousy grant getters, so we want to partner with someone who’s good at that.”

A sketch of the proposed pool shows that it is modelled on a Sinixt pit house, with a round, 60-foot diameter building and a 48-foot pool. The pool could be built on the society’s land, or it could be at the Wellness Centre, on the east side where the playground used to be. As there is no public swimming pool in the Slocan Valley, the society believes the pool would draw swimmers and aquatics from the region, not just Slocan. The SVCCS AGM is on January 5 at the WE Graham school library.

Rail trail grooming day coming up

submitted

Want to join the folks from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society and keep the rail trail groomed and track-set this winter? Interested in going for long drives in a straight line at any time of the day or night? On Sunday, December 20 there’ll be a grooming training day taking place at the Winlaw Station to show you how it’s done.

At this training day, all aspects of what’s required will be discussed. If time allows there will be some field training as well. Snowmobile experience is an asset.

This year the society has added a second well. Snowmobile experience is an asset. What’s required will be discussed. If time permits we'll show you how it’s done.

The 15 to 24 age group that are interested in grooming take place as well as safer trail at a crossing point. Keeping these open makes it possible for skiers when entering or exiting the trail at a crossing point.

If you want to help, call Brian at 359-7740, Rory at 355-2397 or Craig at 226-7312 or 226-0008.

Wishing you a magical Christmas…

Paul Peterson, Director "Arrow Lakes" Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Season’s Greetings, and best of the New Year to all!

Ann’s Natural Foods

And remember… Please party safely and responsibly over the holidays.

805 KILODRE, NEW DENVER 358-2552

Merry Christmas!

We will be CLOSED Dec. 23-26 and re-opening Dec. 27. See you in 2010!

Happy Holidays

from Doug, Shary, Grace & Daniel

Closed on Dec. 25
Open on Boxing Day Dec. 26 9 am -12 pm
Closed on New Years Day

Glacier View

New Denver • 358-2445

Wishing you and your family a warm and festive holiday season!

Anderson Insurance

Holiday Hours:
Christmas Eve – closed at 2 pm
CLOSED December 25-28
New Year's Eve – closed at 1 pm
New Year's Day – closed
Regular hours resume January 4
Nobody was counting, so no one knows for sure how many people showed up to Silverton’s third annual Christmas by the Lake, but co-organizer Armand Lange guesses about 1,400.

“We had no chance to count them, but guessing by the sold-out brats, the sold-out soup, the sold-out glühwein – a very rough estimate would be 1,400,” he said.

Many were from outside the area, Lange added; several accommodators reported bookings from Revelstoke, Rossland and Salmo from people who came specifically to attend Christmas by the Lake.

Outside, nine vendors braved the elements, while 21 more were inside the Silverton Gallery building. Everything from soup to soap was available, including Quebec maple syrup snow taffy.

For the first time, the host Silverton Community Club arranged for bus service from Nelson and Nakusp, but the number of passengers was “very disappointing,” Lange said. He thinks the good weather and clear roads may have induced more people to drive.

In addition to the shopping, food and fires, there was entertainment: storyteller Hank Hastings, choirs Voices of the Lake, the Nelson German Singing Group, and the Bosun Singers; bands the Invoices, Summit Strings, Leah and Michael and friends, the Slocan Community Band, Jill and Eric Faulks, and Cellista des Lacs.

Penelope Stuart waxes eloquent on the event:

“The atmosphere was one of seasonal cheer as the tolling of the old school bell heralded the beginning of the third Christmas by the Lake December 4 – 6. The fun and fanfare of this European-styled event began as the Christmas village and trees were illuminated, the fires began to crackle and the sculptor commenced carving. To add to the ambiance, snow fell that morning, helping to create an impression of old world character and charm within the Christmas Village. The wooden huts, each beautifully decorated in festive splendour, offered visitors tasty food and drink from both sides of the Atlantic.

“Children met with glee the popular ice slide and the wonderfully crafted wizard’s face, carved from a tree-trunk by Luc Vreys. Visitors were captivated by the beautifully sculpted ice figures fashioned by champion sculptors, Peter Vogelaar and David Ducharme. The blacksmiths, Jamie Barber and Chuck Burkholder, were also back this year, as was glass blower Christie McPhee while inside the Silverton Gallery Andrea Dupuis demonstrated candle making.

“There was much excitement for the children when Santa came to the Christmas Village along with the Gingerbread man, sharing his cookies. Even the Grinch could not keep away. Many of the children joined in the Christmas card and ornament workshop while their parents enjoyed the craft fair. The gallery also hosted Myles Berney’s show Streak and a number of paintings by the late Lorna Obermayr.”

The event was sponsored by the RDCK, Recreation Commission #6, BC Arts and Heritage and Columbia Basin Trust, with in-kind donations from Soup du Jar and Silverton Building Supplies.
ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

“I encourage every Canadian to get the H1N1 flu vaccine.”

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

- Getting vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and others against the H1N1 flu virus.
- Canada has enough vaccine for everyone.

For information on flu clinics throughout your province go to www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1 or call 8-1-1.

For more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine visit www.fightflu.ca

or call 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY 1-800-926-9105

[Image of a man with a mustache]
Deb Hicks and Valdis Vilks to carry Olympic Flame in Cross-canada Torch Relay

by Katrine Campbell

Two people from New Denver/Silverton will carry the Olympic torch in the cross-Canada relay next month. Deb Hicks, who lives between the two villages, and Valdis Vilks from New Denver will take part in the relay January 24. Hicks is scheduled to run in Genelle, Vilks in Trail.

Each will run 300 metres, carrying the 1.6-kg torch, which is made of stainless steel, aluminum and sheet moulding compound. The flame, which will burn 12 to 15 minutes, is fed by a blend of propane, isobutane and hydrocarbons.

Vilks entered the contest sponsored by Coca-Cola and his single entry won him the spot – much to the surprise of his wife Anita Dumins, who entered more than 100 times. He deserves it, though, she says, as he had a quintuple bypass in March.

Hicks, on the other hand, had to write an essay for the Royal Bank of Canada-sponsored contest. Her topic was the six Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, re-wear and rejoice. She wrote about composting, following the 100-mile diet, and passing down unwanted items to other people.

Torch relay runners are given a uniform consisting of a jacket, pullover pants, toque and mittens, all in white (except for the red mitts) with colour accents on the left arm and reflective elements for low-light condition.

January 24 is a Sunday, so anyone wanting to see the relay can head south and cheer on Vilks and Hicks.

Burton Seniors invite all to their events

submitted

The Burton Seniors annual Christmas dinner was held Thursday evening, December 11. A wonderful turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings, cooked by Ann Volanski, served 64 members. The meal was delicious and was followed by desserts made by some members.

Short entertainment followed the dinner, with singing and skits and jokes. Pictures were taken by Gale Detta before the meal.

Everyone enjoyed the evening, visiting with neighbours and friends.

We have a very active group with about 80 members. Our new officers are Ray Blanchette, president; Ann Matchett, vice-president; Harry May, secretary; Linda Harrop, treasurer; and directors Carol Blanchett, Gwen Collins, Dora Brown, Eileen Townsend, Shirley Neuls and Herb Dumont. Brenda May is our membership co-ordinator. Our new officers will begin in January.

We are playing crib again this year and will have a fundraiser later on in the winter. Potlucks are held the fourth Thursday evening of each month at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome, member or not. We love community get togethers. Come and join us.
by Katrine Campbell

It’s not possible to eat seafood on the 100-mile diet, but the Fisherman’s Market in Nelson will help you come as close as possible.

Adam Pearl and Geoff Austin work four months of the year as fishermen on the coast; the rest of the time, they run the Fisherman’s Market, offering top-quality fish and other seafood to residents of the Kootenays.

Now, they’re expanding the business to offer home delivery at wholesale prices to residents of the loop between Nelson, Kaslo, New Denver and the Slocan Valley.

“The minimum order is $100,” says Pearl, but to get the service going “we can go lower if need be.”

The bulk packs are individually made up for each customer, with their choice of seafood and portion sizes – single, couples, or families. Each portion is vacuum-packed to maintain freshness.

Pearl estimates that a bulk pack worth $100 would cost 15 to 20 percent less than buying the same food in smaller portions; a $200 pack would be 25 to 35 percent cheaper.

“We’re going to be charging a $5 delivery fee but to get this up and running, we’ll be doing it for free,” he adds.

Customers are invited to contact the market, and will be sent an order form. Then, they call in their order, and the staff will give them an account number and search out the best wholesale price they can find.

“We go back to the customer with the amount,” says Pearl, “and they can say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ – they’re not obliged to buy it.”

The Fisherman’s Market has been in business for seven years. “We started our quest to sell fish in the Kootenays in New Denver for a few months, then settled in Nelson. We’re commercial fishermen; with our expertise, we want to fill everybody’s seafood needs in the Kootenays.

“That’s our goal. We see no reason people wouldn’t want to buy all their seafood from us, based on price, quality and service.

“We’re going to do our damnedest to see they do that.”

Pearl notes that the Fisherman’s Market never brings in farmed salmon, and knows exactly where the fish comes from and how it was caught. Although there are other vendors covering the area, he says he will beat their quality and “I’ll be here to back it up.

“I’ve got a store and I’ve got inventory. People can call me and I will resolve any problems right away.”

Geoff Austin and Adam Pearl of Fisherman’s Market in Nelson are now delivering fresh seafood to the Slocan Valley and Kaslo areas.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and Missions

Christmas Services:
Slocan - 5:00 pm, Christmas Eve
New Denver - 7:30 pm, Christmas Eve
Nakusp - 10:00 pm, Christmas Eve
Fauquier - 10:00 am, Christmas morning

Wishing you a joyous holiday season, and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.
Lucerne volleyball teams have great season

Submitted by coaches Scott Rookes and Susan Yurychuk

The Lucerne senior girls volleyball team had a very successful year this season, winning the majority of their matches in the regular season, and going to the finals in the West Kootenay zone playoffs for single A schools. They lost in the finals to Mt. Sentinel, the #1 team in the province, but had fun anyways. They worked very hard this year, training many mornings and evenings to get to a whole new level of play.

The Lucerne senior boys volleyball team also had a good year, winning most tournaments throughout the regular season, and playing in the zone finals in Sparwood. They were the only representatives from the West Kootenays, facing off against Sparwood and Elkford in the finals.

The junior girls team played 27 games in four tournaments this season. The eight players included four from grade 6, one from grade 8, two from grade 9 and one from grade 12.

“What a great bunch of athletes,” commented their coach, Susan Yurychuk. “They were a privilege to coach – they showed commitment and heart. Keep your eye on us over the next few years.”
Opposition from Argenta

Will Argenta and Johnson’s Landing residents pay into the Kaslo and District Public Library service? We will have to wait until January to find out.

The bylaw to include the two communities in the library service was expected to have been adopted at the December 10 RDCK board meeting, but it wasn’t. There was enough opposition from Johnson’s Landing residents to prompt Area D Director Andy Shadrack to defer the issue to the January board meeting. Shadrack had set up a meeting in Johnson’s Landing for January 4 so that he can hear the residents’ concerns before the bylaw comes up again around the board table on January 28.

The ‘alternative approval process’ (AAP) was used to seek consent of the residents to expand the library’s service area. The AAP is a cheaper alternative to a referendum. The local government places an advertisement in a local paper that explains the proposal – as well as the opportunity for constituents to register their opposition to the proposal by submitting an ‘elector response form.’ If 10% of the electors submit the form registering their opposition, the proposal cannot go through.

In this case, voters in Argenta and Johnson’s Landing, plus the communities that already pay into the library service (Kaslo and the portion of Area D from Coffee Creek north to Schroeder Point) were given the opportunity to register their dissent to the expansion of the library service. It was determined that the number of electors in the subject area was 1514, so 151 elector response forms would be necessary to kill the expansion proposal.

The RDCK received 23 electoral response forms. Five of them were rejected because they were signed by people who are not on the voters’ list. So, with only 18 forms received (or even with all 23 for that matter), the RDCK board could have voted to adopt the bylaw. However, most of the forms were submitted by Johnson’s Landing residents, so Shadrack decided he would like to meet with them before he proceeds any further with the bylaw that would expand the service.

Gerry Rogers, the Johnson’s Landing resident who made sure others in the community knew about the proposal and the opportunity to oppose it, explained the community’s concerns in a telephone interview. He said people feel the AAP should have included Argenta and Johnson’s Landing residents only. He points out that people already paying into the service would have no reason to oppose the expansion proposal. In fact, the expansion would be advantageous for them, as illustrated in a statement in the advertisement: “It is intended that inclusion of these areas [Argenta and Johnson’s Landing] will generate additional funds for use by the Kaslo & District Public Library in providing library services to the greater service area.”

When the greater community is included, the number of people it takes to shoot down the proposal is 151 – more than the population of Johnson’s Landing. “We were confronted with a situation where it was impossible to win,” said Rogers.

The other concern, he said, has to do with the Argenta Library, which is not currently part of the provincial library system. The Argenta Library operates on a grant from the RDCK and private donations, and is run by volunteers. An email from Shadrack to a Johnson’s Landing resident states, “Karlo & District Public Library has agreed to find ways over time of trying to incorporate Argenta Library and its holdings.” Rogers pointed out that this could have further tax implications for residents. However, the Argenta Library is not mentioned in the advertisement explaining the expansion proposal. “How can we make an informed decision when the Argenta Library issue is unclear?” asked Rogers. “It would be nice to know the merits of joining the library.”

Rogers says he thinks people in Argenta are in favour of joining the Kaslo Library service area because they would like to see their library become part of the provincial system. He wonders if they realize that the current expansion proposal does not deal with this.

Gary Schell, volunteer at the Argenta Library, confirmed that the possibility of becoming a branch of the Kaslo Library is in the conceptual stage at this time. The residential tax rate for the Kaslo & District Public Library service in 2010 is proposed at 10 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value. With the expanded area, this would raise $43,640 for the library, with the current area, $39,970 would be raised.
• Elections were held for chair and vice chair of the board for 2010. Director Gary Wright (New Denver) was re-elected chair by acclamation. Director John Kettle (Area B – rural Creston) was re-elected vice chair in a vote between he and Director John Dooley (Nelson).
• The board will ask BC Transit to extend the current contracts for the five transit services in the area for one year, until March 31, 2011, in order for the transit review currently being conducted to be finalized. Transit service is available in Nelson and area, Nakusp, Nelson/Slocan Valley, Kaslo and Kootenay Lake West, and Creston.
• A joint funding application for $5 million was approved for a Kootenay Wildlife Protection Program, including the RDCK, and the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay.
• The board is moving forward with creating a pooled fund for economic development projects within the regional district. Staff will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for the fund, to be signed by interested directors.
• The board endorsed a set of guidelines for the disbursement of discretionary grants. Some of these guidelines were as follows. Discretionary grants will not be provided to individuals or ‘for profit’ entities. They will not be used to offset taxation or to duplicate services that are the responsibility of another level of government. Applicants are asked to contact their Area director before completing the application. Recipients of grants over $2,500 must complete a financial report at the end of the project. Grants over $5,000 are subject to a 20% holdback.
• Two changes were made to the reporting requirements for organizations receiving CBT Community Initiatives funding, which is administered by the RDCK. First, the deadline for receipt of the reports was changed from December 31 in the year funds are granted to June 30 of the following year. Second, the reports are not eligible for further CBT grants until the final report has been received and the project completed. Recipients of grants over $100,000 for the development of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. This funding will come from the pooled Community Works Fund (gas tax funding).
• Staff will submit an Agricultural Planning Grant application to look at planning for agricultural land in the district.
• Two recommendations made in a July 20 report by the Select Committee on Services, which was chaired by Nakusp Mayor Karen Handling, were endorsed by the board. Before creating a new service or expanding an existing one, a detailed business plan will now have to be submitted. Also, district staff will meet regularly with staff at municipal offices throughout the RDCK to develop ways to share services, such as building inspection, planning, information systems and bylaw enforcement.
• The board chair, General Affairs Commissioner, Program and Policy Manager and General Manager of Corporate Administration were asked to draft Terms of Reference for conducting an efficiency review of the operations of the RDCK.
• Staff was asked to prepare an amendment to the zoning bylaw to permit accessory buildings to be larger than the current maximum size. The amendment to the zoning bylaw to permit accessory buildings to be larger than the current maximum size.
• Adoption of Bylaw 2078, which allows the RDCK to change a surface mineral lease on a 14.4 ha property in Area D to fee simple title. The board will advise ILMB that it is opposed to the transfer, as it believes the residents of the property should be given the first opportunity for such a transfer. The board will also advise ILMB that it has reservations about the precedence of such transfers and the implications on development activities in the RDCK.
• The Area H board approved $10,000 for the Village of Slocan for a study on the development of a community hydro project on Spring Creek. The $10,000 comes out of the RDCK renewable energy fund.
• A moratorium was in effect while it was investigating a regional park for the community. Because a costly survey of the townsite would have been necessary, the board decided not to proceed with the regional park concept for Slocan.
• The Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission submitted a proposed budget of $4,500 to be considered for the 2010 biennium. Improvements were made: Michael Koolen (Slocan); Jeff Boustead, Michael Doeroy (Area H).
• The Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Commission submitted a proposed 2010 budget of $7,000.
• Recreation Commission No. 6 grants were approved for Community Gardens Group ($1,000), Hidden Garden Society ($630); New Denver Mountain Bike Club ($2,400); New Denver Reading Centre ($1,000); Silverton Dart League ($753); Slocan Lake Arena Society ($300); North Valley Mountain Film Festival ($700); Valhalla Community Choir ($1,000); Silverton Community Club ($1,900).
• A feasibility study was done, as follows: Kevin Murphy (alternate Kateine Campbell) representing New Denver; Leah Main (alternate Carol Bell) representing Winlaw; Madeleine Remmer, Stacey Kabaftik, Joe Chemoff.
• The agreement between New Denver and the RDCK for fire protection services to a portion of Area H will be extended from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014.
• Slocan and Valley South Regional Parks and Recreation Commission appointments were made: Madeleine Remmer, Stacey Kabaftik, Joe Chemoff.
• Appointments were made to the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission: Bill Roberts (New Denver); Pat Ashton (Slocan); Ryan Butler (Silverton); Walter Swetlishoff, Dusin Demontigny, John Ludwar, Tim Sandor (Area H).
• Appointments to the Winlaw Regional Nature Park Commission were made: Tom Bradley, Lois Lawrence and Joanne Chatten. Area K.
• Recreation Commission No. 4 grants were approved for the Nakusp Ski Club ($1,200); Music in the Park ($1,500); Summit Lake Racers ($3,000); Nakusp Ambassadors Committee ($250).
• The Area K OCP was adopted. An agreement between the Village of Nakusp and the RDCK will be signed for fire protection services within a portion of Area K.

Seasons Greetings from Gail Bauman and Andy Shadrack to those in our extended community who celebrate Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, the birth of Jesus Christ, Eid ul-Adha, Martyrdom of Younger Sahibzadas and wishing you all the best of outcomes in 2010.
MAX mine plans to double production

submitted

Despite the economic crash and the cutback in many resource-based industries, Roca Mines Inc. has just announced that it intends to add to the mine life and long-term value of the MAX Molybdenum Mine “through graduated expansion of the operation and systematic exploration to test newly developed drill targets.”

The mine’s fiscal report, released December 8, showed that for the year ending August 31, there was revenue of $26 million on the sale of 2.36 million lbs. of molybdenum. The operating cash flow was $8.7 million, or 10¢ a share.

Kasco’s Kelley Humphries receives Award

submitted

Kelley Humphries of Kaslo is at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick this year. She was awarded one of the university’s most prestigious entrance scholarships, a Bell Achievement Award. The scholarship is valued at $36,000 over four years and was awarded to Humphries because of her strong academic ability, leadership potential, good citizenship, and commitment to volunteer work, extracurricular activities, and work experience. “I was very excited to find out I was chosen for a Bell Achievement Award,” says Humphries, who is exploring a range of disciplines at Mount Allison.

In high school, Humphries enjoyed both sports and the arts, participating in basketball, volleyball, and soccer, as well as all of the drama productions from grades 8-12. She also volunteered her time with a community children’s theatre program, the Social Justice Program, and at the local library. At Mount Allison, she’s involved in Leadership Mount Allison, the Sackville Coalition for Social Justice, and is the eco-rep for Edwards House. She also keeps busy volunteering with UNICEF, Eco-Action, and the Salvation Army.

Kelley is the daughter of Tom and Georgie Humphries of Kaslo.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We will be closed from Dec. 24 – Jan. 5
Open in the New Year… Wednesday, Jan. 6

Hours: Tues. – Fri. 9 – 5
Sat. 9 – 4:30

The Valley Voice

December 2, 2009
Lucerne School students win Legion Remembrance Day poster contest

Sixteen students at New Denver’s Lucerne School participated in the Royal Canadian Legion’s annual Remembrance Day poster competition. Students could enter a piece of artwork in colour or black and white which depicted what Remembrance Day means to them. The entries were submitted to the Legion’s Branch 275 Slocan Valley, and, as Lucerne was the only school to enter the competition from the whole valley, there were lots of winners!

On December 2, the Legion’s John Gates presented certificates to all 16 participants and the winners received prize cheques. Four posters have been passed on to Zone in Trail for the next stage of the judging for this national contest. Congratulations to first place winners Matthew Driedger (primary); Quade Nicholson-Chodat (junior); Ethan Grierson (intermediate); Ryan Pownall (senior).

Second place winners were Jude Nicholson-Chodat and Arturs Vilks; third place winners were Kell Victorin and Victors Vilks. The school will receive a Poppy Appreciation Certificate for encouraging students to enter the contest.

CORRECTION

In an article entitled ‘WiFi service in New Denver area raises health concerns’ in our July 29 issue, we incorrectly described the Columbia Wireless system as “WiFi.” “WiFi” refers to the technology used in wireless routers, which are used in homes and businesses to enable a wireless internet connection. Neither Columbia Wireless nor Red Mountain Internet Society use wireless routers to send signals to their clients. These local wireless internet service providers use point-to-point systems, which emit much lower electromagnetic and radio frequency radiation than do wireless routers.

We apologize for any misconceptions about these local systems our article may have caused.

Experts advise that subscribers to these point-to-point systems use a wired connection from the antenna or receiver dish to the computer as the optimum means of protecting health.
Building a house with local, natural materials
by Jan McMurray
The 100-Mile concept – to source goods from not further away than 100 miles – is really catching on. It started with the 100-Mile diet, and has taken off to include the 100-Mile closet and 100-Mile housing.

On a portion of the historic Harris Ranch property in between New Denver and Silverton, there is an example of a house that pretty much meets the 100-Mile criteria.

“Ninety percent of the basic materials for the house are local,” said Cole Harris, who owns the house and property.

The basic materials are wood, waste wood, clay, sand and straw.

When Harris realized that there were local people who could build a house with these natural and local materials, he decided to hire them to help him build a guest house.

“It’s truly an unusual combination of skills these local people have, and I thought I should pounce on the opportunity,” said Harris. “I’m so glad I did – building this house has been an enormous amount of fun.”

The house is wood-frame construction with clay walls, finished with plaster on both the interior and the exterior.

The wood comes from trees from the Harris property, milled on site with a local portable mill, and from Springer Creek Forest Products in Slocan.

The walls are made of a mixture of clay and waste wood. The finishing plaster is made of a mixture of clay, sand, and straw. The clay and waste wood are from Nakusp, the sand is from New Denver, and the straw was purchased at Evergreen Natural Foods in Crescent Valley.

The building team included Norbert Duerichen from New Denver, who has experience building with clay, and Cindy Walker from Red Mountain Road, who is “probably the most skilled old-style plasterer in BC,” according to Harris. Walker trained Ana Bokstrom, who currently lives in the house, to help her with the plastering.

Not only are the clay walls environmentally friendly, but they also provide excellent insulation. “The clay walls absorb the heat and hold it for a long time,” says Bokstrom.

She explained that there was no vapour barrier in the house. “The clay walls allow the house to breathe. They allow air and moisture to pass through, but not water.”

The house is off the grid – it is heated with a wood cookstove, and is equipped with a solar system to run lights and small electrical appliances. The system was installed by Oso Renewable Energy, based in Hills.

The building inspector has approved the house. “It doesn’t conform to the letter of the building code, but it conforms to the intent,” said Harris. “Engineers had to sign off on it.”

Duerichen and Bokstrom are now creating a workbook to help others build with clay.
JOB POSTING: ACCOUNTING CLERK

The Village of Nakusp has an opening, starting in January 2010 for an Accounting Clerk. The primary function of this position is to assist the Treasurer with accounting and reporting functions and associated procedures.

DESCRIPTION – Reporting to the Treasurer, the successful applicant will be expected to assist in annual budget preparation, year end audit facilitation and preparation, and the implementation of new and sophisticated VADIM accounting software programs to simplify accounting and reporting requirements. Bank reconciliation, property tax and utility processing, sales and accounting reports for different departments, and some reception duties. A detailed resume can be obtained from the Village Office.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE –

• High School Matriculation Diploma supplemented with UT’s in an accounting or business discipline
• Minimum 2nd year CA or CGA status or (or equivalent)
• Minimum one year experience in a Municipal Finance or Municipal accounting and budgeting department
• Knowledge of the Community Charter and Local Government Act as it relates to the accounting and budgeting practices, and not just an industrial logging operation

RATE OF PAY – As this is a new CUPE position, the proposed pay rate of pay is $22.47/hr. as of December, 2009

Applications will be received by Bob Laffeur, CAO until December 31, 2009 at 4:30 PM.

We thank all who apply however - Only those chosen for interviews will be notified.

Remember to complete the Age-Friendly Survey

Thanks to everyone who filled out the Nakusp Age-Friendly survey. Please complete the survey if you have not already done so. People of any age are invited to fill one out, and we particularly hope those age 55 and over will participate.

The survey was inserted in the Arrow Lakes News on Dec 2nd. You can also access it online through the Village of Nakusp website http://www.nakusp.com or you can pick one up at the following locations:

• Village of Nakusp Office
• Arrow & Skeena Lake Community Services
• Nakusp Public Library
• Kootenay Savings Credit Union
• Chamber of Commerce – Visitor Centre
• Nakusp Post Office
• Royal Canadian Legion Hall
• Selkirk College

Please mail, fax, or drop off your completed survey at the Village Office by Friday, December 18, 2009.

A public information meeting will be held in March 2010 to present the ‘Age-Friendly Assessment Report’ and the ‘Age-Friendly Guidelines for Nakusp’. If you have any questions, please contact Corrine Tessier, consultant for the Nakusp Age-Friendly project at 250-265-9951 or cetssier@affirmingworkplace.ca

Village of Nakusp

Public Consultation: Open Houses and Field Trips

Being a community forest, and not just an industrial logging operation, the KDCFS puts extra importance on public consultation. In the week of September 14th to 19th there were open houses and field trips to planned logging areas at South Fork and at Bjerkness Creek. On November 26th there was an open house from 2 to 8 pm. Ideas our managers have for logging in 2010 were mapped out and open for discussion. At 5 pm there was a presentation about Wildfire Interface proposals for land in the KDCFS tenure area. At 7 pm there was a presentation about the Long Range Planning Project.

If you want to know more about our plans, feel free to contact us. Contact info is given below.

Prospects are finally improving!

“In the last update, it was stated: ‘The timber market is currently very over-supplied. So far we haven’t logged a single tree in 2009.’ At that point it was looking like we might go the entire year without any logging income. I’m glad to say that things are starting to turn around. We’ve recently signed contracts for the logging and sale of approximately $800,000 worth of timber.

2010 Development Work

Our goal has been to get two years ahead in laid-out timber. We plan to add another 22,000 m3 to our Standing Timber Inventory (STI) in 2010. This will give us about 57,000 m3 of STI – just over two years’ worth of our current Annual Allowable Cut of 25,000 m3. That amount of STI is an asset (and investment) worth over $300,000. We should be well placed with product when the market improves.

KDCFS Information

While you’re surfing the net, spend a few minutes checking out the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society website. We’re always uploading the latest meeting minutes, financial reports, and planning maps. Just go to www.kaslocommunityforest.org

For menu items.

Of course, you can still contact us by phone (250 353-9677) or mail us at P.O. Box 1360, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

Our office is located in the Kemball Memorial Building on the 2nd floor. Office hours are Wednesdays, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm (call to confirm).
Create your own charitable foundation

December is traditionally known as a month of giving. Many people give to their local charities and friends, but it is also a time we may focus on giving to our favourite charities. Certainly charities such as the food bank, Special Olympics, and your church become very visible at this time of year. There are many ways to give to charities, ranging in complexity from simply giving cash to creating a bequest via your will and estate plan. But have you ever thought about setting up your own foundation?

A foundation is an entity that is created for the purpose of long term giving. A lump sum of your money is moved into the foundation with instructions on how it is to be managed, which charities are to receive the income, how much income should they receive and for how long. Traditionally the costs and complexities of setting up a personal foundation meant that only large organizations and the very wealthy could participate. However, there are now very simple and very low cost ways to set up your own private foundation. There are three reasons you would want to set up a private foundation as opposed to just giving money directly to your favourite charity. The first reason is that by setting up a foundation you are setting up a lasting legacy. You deposit a lump sum into your foundation account and your charity receives an income stream for your lifetime which can continue even after your passing.

The second reason is due to the flexibility and choice. The lump sum that you contribute to your foundation is then invested, allowing that lump sum to compound and grow. The investment choices are yours to make and can be changed at any time. You choose who receives the income from the foundation with the flexibility of being able to change this at any time. This is very different from simply giving a large lump sum directly to a charity since you lose control of what it is used for and how it is invested. Often people are afraid to donate a sizeable amount of their wealth to a charity for fear that the charity may change mandates to their dislike and they would not be able to get their money back. Setting up a personal foundation account alleviates these concerns since you never lose control of your initial deposit.

The third reason that this strategy works better than others is that you can receive all the tax credits now. If you choose to give to your charity each year for life you would receive a tax credit only on the annual contribution. When setting up a personal foundation you receive a tax credit on the lump sum deposited, not the income stream that the charity receives going forward. This also works well for donations you want to make after your death but for which you could benefit from the tax credits now. In both these situations you may find that you are in a high tax bracket now but will not be in the future. The tax credits could be used to offset your income in these years when you need it most.

A personal foundation also maintains all the other benefits of planned giving strategies. Perhaps you have investments with a looming capital gain. These investments can be rolled over to this personal foundation account without having to deal with the tax consequences. Once invested the money is safe from creditors and any possible contesting of your will. The foundation can be created in any name allowing full confidentiality if you wish. You can have multiple donors to one foundation and therefore it can be created with contributions from a group of people. You can name successor donors allowing your children to take over the foundation, to continue your legacy after your passing.

One important feature of this type of personal foundation which differs from traditional charitable trusts is that there are no set up costs. Usually the traditional trusts will involve expensive legal and accounting fees. These new plans make it affordable for anyone to set up.

The Valley Voice
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROMOTE THE SLOCAN VALLEY - If you enjoyed Christmas by the Lake go to www.slocanvalley.com and sign their guestbook. And I need your best event photos for our Photo Gallery and the 2010 December Calendar so you are planning chamber@slocanlake.com.

AUTOMOTIVE

ST. HOOLDS DISTRICT - Initiate the following school bus for sale by sealed bid: 3139 - A 1995 Bluebird All-American forward engine with a standard 5 speed split and an ISC 260 Cummins engine. 26 bench seats. There is a reserve of $2500.00. There is no guarantee forfeited or offered with this bus. Mail or drop your sealed bid at the board office 96 AV Ave Nakusp BC by 1 pm Dec 18, 2009. Mail may be viewed by customers before sale date at 250 -265-3549 by 7 pm to 8 pm. 

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS? Community Futures offers business counselling and start-up information. Appointments available in Nakusp and New Denver: Contact Farhana Dumont at 265-6743, ext. 205 or email nakusp.futures@cfbc.ca

CARDS OF THANKS

THANK YOU. On behalf of Denis and myself, we want to extend our gratitude to all the staff, teachers – that have been so helpful in the school – principals, students and band myself I would like to thank the school Nakusp and New Denver. Contact Farhana offers business counselling and start-up information about if you want to start your own business? WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

THE LUCERNE GRADS would love to thank everyone for their generous donations to the band book. Dec 6 is the last day. We are, in particular, grateful to the school. Businesses, friends and families involved would love to win the offers of the baskets to enjoy!

THANK YOU to the many volunteers, and the sponsors of Nakusp’s Christmas Parade & Light-Up: Columbia Basin Trust, Box Lake Lumber, Selkirk Inn, Kuskanax Lodge, True North Forestry, Home Hardware, Western Pay and Marine Ltd., Spiritwood Cards, Baubles & Tunes and Tsimshian Signs & Designs.

MASSAGE SCHOOL STARTS in JANUARY. Prepare for a well-pawed-lows

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: Early Childhood Educator. Work in serene New Denver with competitive wage rates. If you are passionate about working with children in a home and outdoor environment, please send resume and cover letter to SLLS@boutique.com or SLLS, Box 466, New Denver, BC.

NEW NEIGHBOURS!

Slocan Legion Hall, Dance Music by DJ “PLAYMOR TUNES”. Tickets: $10 each at Mountain Village Stacion & Slocan Village Market or phone 250-358-7272. Midnight Buffet. EVERYONE WELCOME (no minors allowed).

ANNOUNCING A SOLO EXHIBITION! A solo exhibition by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be held in Silverton December 21. A perfect evening for the family. Starts at 5 pm outside Hand and Soul for the lighting of the tree. At Lantern Walk we light the way for Silverton the enjoy Hot, Hot Chocolate, blessings and singing of Christmas carols. Feel free to bring cookies. Everyone welcome.

SLOCAN VALLEY COMMUNITY SOCIETY AGM will be held at WE Graham, 747 pm on January 5, 2010.

FOR RENT


ONE BEDROOM DETAILED suite in Nakusp, easy reach of New Denver! Nakusp. Unfurnished, deck, car parking, peaceful surroundings, view. Available New Year 2010. Non-smokers. $500/month. References & Bond required. Any in writing: Tim Sander; Box 126, New Denver, VOC 1S0 or timsanders@telus.net


RITE OF PASSAGE

NEW YEAR’S EVE DANCE at Silverton Memorial Hall with the Razzberry Rockets! Door Prices. $20 adults, $10 students. $20 at Mountainview Farms and Silverton Building Supplies. 

RIVER CITY COLLECTORS SOCIETY are pleased to host our second Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21 from 6:30 pm to 11 pm at the river picnic area. Light Up At 5 pm with free hot chocolate and fire pines to keep you warm. There is very limited parking or please walk or be dropped off. We urge you to bring your own lantern or one of ours and join us for a lantern procession from the main trail end at the railroad bridge to the bridge starting at 3:30 pm.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF READINGS & CAROLS - St. Matthews Church, 3370 South Slocan Village Road. Thursday, December 24, 7-4, pm. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments afterwards. Donations of food and money gratefully accepted for St. Saviour’s Food Cupboard.

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE. Local Works Fine Film and Discussion Night - Monday, June 5, 2011 at 6:00 pm on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: WESTERN CUPBOARD. Dance Music by DJ “PLAYMOR TUNES”. Tickets: $10 each at Mountain Village Station & Slocan Village Market or phone 250-358-7272. Midnight Buffet. EVERYONE WELCOME (no minors allowed).

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

COLES RENTALS

RAFT RENTALS

FLAT TRAMPERS, JUMPING JACKS, REBAR BENDER, JACKHAMMERS, HAMMER DRILLS, CONCRETE MIXERS, CONCRETE SAW, TIRE CUTTERS, BLOCKCUTTERS, SCAFFOLDING, FLOOR SANDERS, AIR/HYD. LV ROTORY LAYER TRANSFER, GENERATORS, WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED TANKS, WATER ROOFING, SECURITY, HEATING, PROPERTY PIN, LOCATOR, CHIPIPER/SHEEDER, GAS POST HOLE DIGGER, WOODPLITTER

PHONE 358-2632 - 1-888-358-2632

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Sappho’s Bakery

Box, 309 Kildare St. New Denver

Open Sat for David, Bob, June, Mona

250-358-2797

Manna Organic Microbakery

Artisan loaves and sweets created with organic flour. Homebaked and delivered Wednesday’s At Home in Silverton, Silverton, New Denver.

250-358-2797

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Phone: 226-7803

2826 Hwy 6 - Slocan Park
December 2, 2009

ANNE JENKS (HUCLACK) was born September 27, 1921 in Eston, Saskatchewan to William and Mary Huclack. She passed away peacefully in her sleep the morning of December 6, 2009. Annie was married to her husband Wallace Jenks in September 1949, her parents William and Mary Huclack, brothers Mike, Floyd and sister Betty, and her son-in-law Ernie Heichert.

Annie is survived by her loving family, daughter, Jane McCallin of Kelowna, BC; Louise Ross of Castlegar, BC; Debra Lys (Dan) Chichorne of Calgary, Alberta, and son Gerry (Debra Ann) Jenks of Houston, TX; grandchildren, great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. She leaves behind her great grandchildren; her granddaughter, her daughter, her grandson-in-law and so much loved and respected man. He was an active dairy farmer, his joy for 53 years. Also: his sister, Heide Zerrath and all of their invaluable help.

It was Annie’s wish to be cremated and her ashes be scattered in the waters of the Kootenay. Annie is also survived by many friends and neighbours; his daughter, Anne Zerrath (Zerrath), who has taken over the farm; and the family would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Merritt and Irv for a new adventure. No service by request.

LIFE IS ABOUT FEEDING THE SOUL.
—Debra Lyn Jenks

ROGER ZERRATH - It is with great sadness that we inform the greater community of the passing of Roger Zerrath, dairy farmer, of Edgewood, BC, Born 18 September, 1926 to Hans and Eva (nee Klupp) Zerrath, in Jaeger-Tactau, East Prusia; died 3 December, 2009 in Vernon Jubilee Hospital, due to multiple complications following appendicitis, at the age of 82.

Roger was a much loved and respected man. He was an active dairy farmer, his joy for 53 years. Also: his sister, Heide Zerrath and all of their invaluable help. It was Annie’s wish to be cremated and her ashes be scattered in the waters of the Kootenay.

Annie was predeceased by her husband Wallace Jenks in September 1949, her parents William and Mary Huclack, brothers Mike, Floyd and sister Betty, and her son-in-law Ernie Heichert.

It was Annie’s wish to be cremated and her ashes be scattered in the waters of the Kootenay. Annie is also survived by many friends and neighbours; his daughter, Anne Zerrath (Zerrath), who has taken over the farm; and the family would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Merritt and Irv for a new adventure. No service by request.

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Ingredients: Canadian human grade free range meats, natural, holistic.


SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

WINTER LEISURE GUIDE - Is now out and available at all Slocan Valley stores and the mo office.

WINTER LEISURE GUIDE - View it online at: http://slocan.bc.ca/community/recreation/slocan_valley/vg.html

THANKS FOR HELPING - To all the volunteers who come out and make rec’ possible. Bum it on a swan as a coach, helping with an event and on the rec’ commission. We couldn’t do it with out you.

UPCOMING WINTER PROGRAMS:


BELLYFIT - With Heather Holderman begins Jan. 9 at the Art Farm.

WALKING SNOWSHOEING PROGRAM – Tuesdays & Saturdays beginning Jan. 5. We provide the snowshoes!

SPIN ME A YARN – At The Threads Guild beginning Jan. 16. With Stormy & Sarah Stoorow.


Kootenay Restorative Justice working toward restoring balance and healthy communication in our community of the passing of Roger Zerrath, dairy farmer, of Edgewood, BC, Born 18 September, 1926 to Hans and Eva (nee Klupp) Zerrath, in Jaeger-Tactau, East Prusia; died 3 December, 2009 in Vernon Jubilee Hospital, due to multiple complications following appendicitis, at the age of 82.

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RDCK seeks alternatives to Marblehead Transfer Station site

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK is looking for input from Area D residents in the North Kootenay Lake area on a new location for the transfer station. At a public meeting on November 26, Community Services at the RDCK explained the challenges with the current site at Marblehead. Load restrictions on the road during some periods of the year result in the contractor having to haul half-loads of waste from the transfer site. Another drawback to the site is that it is in a sparsely populated area, north of where most people live. Residents travel in the opposite direction from where the RDCK ultimately hauls the waste.

The RDCK is currently developing a Resource Recovery Plan, expected to be complete by mid-2010. As part of the plan, Wolf says they are reviewing how they are going to transport waste in the future. One of the options under consideration requires a larger space than the Marblehead site. “However, that is subject to the Resource Recovery Plan – that will determine how we haul out there and what’s required on site for the final build-out,” said Wolf.

A site in Cooper Creek was discussed at the meeting, but residents felt it was too close to the community hall and were concerned about the potential for attracting bears, especially if there were a community composting facility as well. “Do we deal with composting? That will very much have an impact on where and how large a site we choose,” said Wolf.

Residents are asked to contact Wolf (uwolf@rdck.bc.ca) with their suggestions of a site for the transfer station. The re-location of the station is not an urgent matter, Wolf said, and no decision will be made until the Resource Recovery Plan is further along.
School District No. 10 news
by Jan McMurray

- The ministry has given the district permission to use the $242,421 from the sale of Glenbank School, in a fund called ‘restricted capital,’ for the needed boiler and roof replacement projects. These projects were going to be funded by the Annual Facilities Grant, but the Province cut this funding. After this budget cut was announced in late August, many boards of education, including SD10’s, decided to write to the ministry to ask permission to access the restricted capital. Restricted capital was supposed to be used only for acquiring new property.

- Full-day kindergarten, on a play-based model, will be phased in over two years at all schools in the province, starting September 2010. SD10 has applied for a full-day kindergarten class for 17 students at Nakusp Elementary starting next September. The ministry is looking at how a multi-grade play-based kindergarten class can operate, which will be relevant for Lucerne, Burton and Edgewood Elementary Schools. These three schools are expected to have full-day kindergarten in September 2011.

- School Districts 8 and 20, and the RDCK and the RDKB have stated in a Letter of Understanding an interest in exploring alternate transportation services with BC Transit. SD10 is interested in joining this initiative, and has left a message with the RDCK’s Chief Administrative Officer to let him know.

- Student enrollment data was submitted to the ministry in October. The head count for the entire school district is 581, with the FTE (full-time equivalent) count of 571.9375. These numbers are higher than what was estimated. The estimated head count was 564 and the estimated FTE count was 546.5 – the actual FTE count reflects an increase of over 20 FTE.

- Head count by schools is as follows: Lucerne – 97; Nakusp secondary – 216; Nakusp Elementary – 222; Burton Elementary – 12; Edgewood Elementary – 34.

- At the peak of flu season, there were 19% of students away at one school in the district.

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ON DISPLAY IN OUR SHOWROOM NOW!

The Laybouroux family overwhelms Santa and Mrs. Claus at Kasilo’s Light Up celebration on December 5.

About 70 people from the New Denver area joined with thousands internationally for a climate change vigil organized by online advocacy group Avaaz. People joined together to demand a “fair, ambitious and binding” climate change treaty at the Copenhagen talks currently underway.

Lenora Moorhouse was recognized for 23 years of organizing the Rotary Carol Sing at this year’s festive event, December 2.

THE VALLEY VOICE wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season!

The office will be closed December 21-January 3
This is our last issue of 2009
Our first issue in 2010 comes out January 13 – deadline January 8