Cell phone service approved for New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Cell phone service is coming to New Denver, likely in the spring, says Telus.

Both the Village of New Denver and Telus were notified on November 18 of Industry Canada’s decision to approve the installation of Telus cell service equipment on the CBC tower near the marina.

“The decision wasn’t a surprise,” said Shawn Hall of Telus. “We had done everything we were supposed to do and more. Now we’re looking forward to bringing the service to New Denver.”

Hall says that the service probably won’t be available until spring, as the construction season is almost over this year, and the work has to be fit into Telus’ busy construction schedule. Some equipment has already been installed on the CBC tower in New Denver, but an equipment hut still has to be built on the site.

When asked if Telus would notify the Village office when they were ready to complete the remaining work, Hall replied, “We will certainly keep the lines of communication open, but this gives us clear permission to go ahead and begin construction.”

Some local people who are opposed to the service formed a group early on, and have recently named themselves the New Denver Citizens for Safe Technology. Spokesperson Julia Greenlaw said, “Those of us who voted against the installation of equipment for wireless telecommunication services. When asked if Telus would apply for a zoning amendment, even though the company is probably exempt from this requirement because it started work on the installation before the Village brought in the new policy, Hall answered that the company would obtain all the authorizations that were necessary, but “enough delays, enough politics around this – it’s a service people want and we’re going to be bringing it in.”

Greenlaw says there are well over 1,000 studies showing serious health effects associated with cell phones and the transmission equipment installed on towers. “Telus and the government are ignoring these studies,” she said. “Brain tumours are now the number one cause of cancer deaths in children, according to the Brain Tumour Society. Cell phones are the suspected cause.”

Greenlaw said many people in favour of the service argue that cell phones are an important tool in case of an emergency. “The perceived need for mobile communication in this small area for safety is ironic, as it appears that cell phones and transmitters are doing a lot more long-term damage than they are short-term good in a few emergency cases.”

A local teenager once told Greenlaw that if you need to get ahold of one of your friends in this small town, you just have to shout. “Most people in the New Denver area just don’t want cell phones, but they know that once the transmitter goes in, there’s no going back,” said Greenlaw.

Since Telus began installing the cell phone equipment in New Denver, the Village has amended its OCP to require an amendment to the zoning bylaw for any installation of equipment for wireless telecommunications services. When asked if Telus would apply for a zoning amendment, even though the company is probably exempt from this requirement because it started work on the installation before the Village brought in the new policy, Hall answered that the company would obtain all the authorizations that were necessary, but “enough delays, enough politics around this – it’s a service people want and we’re going to be bringing it in.”

Hall says that the service should cover New Denver, most of Silverton, most of Rosebery and a good section of the land across the lake. Asked about plans to provide service to other neighbouring communities, Hall said Telus was well aware of the interest in the service in our region. “We are conducting ongoing studies to see where it might make sense for us to meet that demand. It is not inexpensive to bring a tower into a community, so we want to see some economic return. When there is an opportunity to put an antenna on an existing tower, it is far more cost effective and reduces esthetic impacts, so our preference is to go on another site, so we’re always looking for that.”

Hall says the cell service should be available in New Denver, most of Silverton, and Telus were notified on November 18 of Industry Canada’s decision to approve the installation of cell phone equipment in New Denver when Telus and the Village reached an impasse in early 2008. Telus began the installation process in January 2007. Citizens learned of Telus’ intentions in May 2007, and lobbied council to try and stop the installation based on their concerns around the health and social impacts of the technology, and lack of local control over the decision to get the service or not. A poll of New Denver residents conducted by the Village on February 7 and 8, 2008 showed 117 against the service and 110 in favour of the service. Based on the poll results, the Village asked Industry Canada to intervene.

More options for Nakusp hot springs

by Katrine Campbell

The future of the Nakusp Hot Springs is still up in the air, but a private developer and a community-minded couple have both expressed an interest in shaping that future.

On page 19 of this issue of the Valley Voice, Igor Landa of Fernie appeals to the residents of Nakusp to back his offer to purchase the springs. However, Nakusp CAO Bob Lafleur was surprised to hear about Landa’s proposal, as he has not yet contacted the Village. If he does, Lafleur says, “we will send a response saying the hot spring facility is not for sale. If it was, we would list it with a realtor.”

“It’s not for sale at the moment.”

In an interview, Landa shed some light on how his consortium would make money where the current operation is in the red. His plan would include installing more efficient equipment to cut power costs, and replacing Village employees with family members and “a few local workers” to cut labour costs.

As reported in our last issue, Bob Toews and Corinne Tessier proposed to council that a dedicated non-profit organization be formed to manage and run the hot springs. The couple – Toews with a master’s degree in planning, Tessier with a master’s in business – have offered to set up the organization and sit on the board, but only if more “passionate, dedicated” people with business experience come forward to join them. The group would look into the hot springs’ financial situation to see what could be improved and encourage amenity development in the area to offer visitors more to do, among other things.

“The whole point of the proposal was to shift responsibility [from the Village] to an organization completely dedicated to the profitability and success of the hot springs and nothing else,” says Tessier. She points to the Music Fest and Community Forest as models. “We will only do it if there is strong community interest, and only if it makes sense for the Village to do it,” says Tessier.
Winners announced in Columbia Basin Trust’s photo contest

George Hopkins from Revelstoke was selected as the winner of CBT’s Show Us Your Basin photo contest. He submitted an image of a westbound steam train crossing a bridge over the Columbia River leaving Revelstoke.

The runner-up photo was submitted by Rob Wyatt from Montrose, with his image of a pair of painted turtles taken at Champion Lake, near Trail. Both Hopkins and Wyatt received Basin bags filled with products and services from around the Basin.

Rounding out the top five were Sanne van der Ros from Golden, Douglas Noblet from Nelson and Gail Spitzer from Johnson’s Landing. Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO said he was very impressed with the photos and extended his congratulations to the winners and to all the residents who shared their images and thoughts about the Basin.

“CBT received many wonderful images and thoughtful descriptions during this contest, which now serve as a reminder to anyone visiting the ‘Your Basin’ page on our website, what a special place we are able to call home,” said Muth. “It is great to hear people talking about the images and to see how many of us share similar sentiments about this region.”

Hundreds of images were submitted to CBT with many residents including Muth, CBT President and CEO saying Muth. “It is great to hear people talking about the images and to see how many of us share similar sentiments about this region.”

KSCU gives $1 million to Kootenay communities

Kootenay Savings Credit Union’s Community Foundation has just given $1 million to five community foundations in this region.

KSCU says that, in keeping with its commitment to improving the lives of those working and living in the Kootenays, it is establishing open, donor advised funds with the foundations, including North Kootenay Lake and Nakusp and area. And, it is setting aside funds for communities – including New Denver and South Slocan – which do not have their own community foundations.

“The creation of these funds will allow us to leave permanent and lasting legacies in our communities,” says KSCU board member Keith Smyth.

The funds are intended to provide assistance to educational, health, social, cultural, environmental or economic non-profit projects of benefit to the communities. All the funds will be held in perpetuity, ensuring they will make a difference in the communities, now and forever.

Since the inception of the Kootenay Basin Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake. Back row: Forrest Drinnan, Kootenay Savings; Brent Hamling from the Nakusp & Area Community Foundation; Carolyn Schramm and Rick Hewat from the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake. Back row: Forrest Drinnan, Kootenay Savings; Brent Hamling, Kootenay Savings; MEDA Terry Dacor, Kimberley District Community Foundation.

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

Grow op busted in Nakusp – police suspect link to organized crime

A grow operation on Donnellys Road in Nakusp was busted on November 29. Nakusp RCMP seized 445 marijuana plants, approximately 10 pounds of dried marijuana bud and an insecure shotgun. The estimated value of the marijuana seized is $75,000.

A 32-year-old male from Nakusp was arrested inside the home. RCMP will be requesting charges against the male for production of marijuana; possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking; careless use of a firearm; and unauthorized possession of a RDC.

RCMP will build a low-impact micro-hydro energy generation facility on Springer Creek. Council decided on this project to reduce the Village’s financial dependence on Springer Creek Forest Products’ mill and allow the community to become economically sustainable.

Councillor Hillary Elliott says the Village has been promised $10,000 from the Regional District’s renewable energy funding. According to Mayor Madeleine Perriere’s request to the Kootenay Savings Credit Union’s Community Foundation has just given $1 million to five community foundations in this region.

The runner-up photo was submitted by Rob Wyatt from Montrose, with his image of a pair of painted turtles taken at Champion Lake, near Trail. Both Hopkins and Wyatt received Basin bags filled with products and services from around the Basin. Residents as the winner of CBT’s Show Us Your Basin photo contest. He submitted an image of a westbound steam train crossing a bridge over the Columbia River leaving Revelstoke.

The runner-up photo was submitted by Rob Wyatt from Montrose, with his image of a pair of painted turtles taken at Champion Lake, near Trail. Both Hopkins and Wyatt received Basin bags filled with products and services from around the Basin. Residents as the winner of CBT’s Show Us Your Basin photo contest. He submitted an image of a westbound steam train crossing a bridge over the Columbia River leaving Revelstoke.
by Kate Guthrie

The West Kootenay Early Years office has launched a new baby manual, 24-HR Cribside Assistance, to educate and empower fathers in the region. “People across Canada have realized the need for more resources targeted at dads,” said Val Mayes, Early Years Coordinator. The 24-page booklet is funded by Understanding the Early Years, a research initiative of Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

Designed to resemble a car manual, the guide reminds that “it has been shown that parents raising babies have very involved fathers.” Topics include “Do-It-Yourself Service,” about burping and calming a cranky baby, “Under the Hood,” which diapaper specifics and more on “Troubleshooting” to address crying babies and moms, rashes, breastfeeding difficulties and more.

The booklet “is especially good in the first couple months at home,” says Mayes. “It helps dads figure out how they can be most supportive.” She said that at the booklet’s debut at the Family Place recently, says they wished that they’d had the manual early on, while moms thought the design of the book was clever and fun.

“Your help is vital,” the manual reads. It encourages fathers to cook, clean, answer the phone and do laundry so that mom can rest and breastfeed. “Giving daddies a tool box of household and child care tasks is a powerful strategy for successful breastfeeding,” it states in bold. According to La Leche League, 98.1 percent of mothers breastfeed for the first couple months at home, but only 26.8 percent of mothers do so when their partners are indifferent about it.

The research and funding to support the book comes from Understanding the Early Years (UE). The purpose of UE, Mayes said, is “to gather good research throughout Canada on community resources and services to help families assess the well-being of young children.” UE achieves this by mapping climate change, health and social well-being, food and agriculture, water use, transportation, and natural area.

An survey with questions specifically about these seven themes is available online (www.rdck.bc.ca – then go to ‘Public Information’ and then ‘Sustainability’). People are encouraged to print them out, fill them out, and return them to the RDCK office by January 4. Surveys will also be posted on bulletin boards in RDCK schools.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.

IH awards contract on KLH redevelopment

submitted

The RDCK is asking the public for more input on how the Central Kootenays can advance towards a more sustainable future. The SustainAbility Central Kootenay Plan is required from all local governments in order for them to continue receiving gas tax funding. The RDCK has decided to call its plan ‘SustainAbility Central Kootenay.’

“The project is intended to be sustainable,” said New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal & Towing 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 Slocan Lake, BC.
Long-standing Kaslo tradition

So the Village of Kaslo has put in a building permit for the restoration of the city hall as reported in the November 18 edition of the Valley Voice. I’m sure there was no building permit when it was originally built 100 years ago and there was no building permit taken out by the village for the Interpretive Centre in front of the S.S. Moyie. Additionally the building permit taken out for the Youth Centre on the waterfront was based on a bogus septic permit taken out by the village. It appears the village is improving but it seems like the City Hall is just carrying on a long-standing tradition.

Patrick Macke
Kaslo

Framed

In response to the unlawful coverage in the Valley Voice of the Slocan Park CARE Society, I feel that an understanding of the principles of Basic Framing will help protect the community at large from further unwarranted and unintentional negative projections.

If we consider both the front page article and then Al Skakun’s letter from the editor, it is evident that BCTS/Skakun know how to manipulate these principles to their advantage and to the detriment of CARE, a volunteer group of concerned citizens working in our best interest.

As an opener, it appears to readers who aren’t familiar with the damage to Malekow’s water supply from BCTS road building, that BCTS is the helpful savior and CARE is the villain in resolving the problems.

The truth is that BCTS intrusion into domestic water catchments is the CAUSE of the problem, and CARE principles of protection are the SOLUTION. Not benevolent seeming government men and high tech road building, but the release of money as compensation. The water is still polluted.

That’s Basic Framing everybody, and we’ve been framed.

Pete Swetland
Slocan Park

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.

Veterans’ pensions clawed back

A fact not well known by the general public is that every veteran earns $5 (i.e. when he or she begins drawing CPP benefits), their military pension is clawed back a commensurate amount so that the net increase is virtually zero. Bear in mind that this person paid fully into both pension plans throughout their career. On Nov. 16, the Conservatives and Liberals combined to defeat a Conservative bill that would have ended this obvious inequity. Their rationale was that it would be too expensive. We can afford billions to bail out the auto industry but we can’t afford a relative palliation to ensure a decent standard of living for the men and women who devoted the best years of their lives to the service of our country. Many veterans groups have begun to encourage their members to not vote for either the Conservatives or the Liberals and they would like to encourage the public along the same lines. The feeling is that a political price must be paid for their failure to address what is so obviously an insult to a group of people who deserve much more.

John Banta
Fauquier

Why kill grizzlies?

I would like to respond to Jim Jennings letter in the November 18 paper, “In defense of grizzly bear hunting.”

Just because hunters pay for the privilege of hunting doesn’t mean they deserve to hunt grizzly bears.

No one should be hunting grizzly bears anymore! Why SHOULD they be hunted? To eat? No one eats grizzly bears!

They are hunted for TROPHIES. A mounted grizzly head or a bearskin rug is what they are after, so they can brag to all their friends about how powerful they are to have killed a grizzly. It’s the same old story - humans “proving” their superiority over big animals by shooting them dead. Our hunting should not be considered more important than the animals themselves. And, there are NOT more grizzlies now than there have been in many years! What a bald-faced lie.

There are still the most dangerous predator on the planet – how else could someone still “defend the grizzly bear hunt?” They are disappearing because of us. In McEwan’s last comment he says “it’s easy to sit on your dam and make a lot of noise when that’s all you have to do – those load operators should shut up or put their money and time where their mouths are.” How exactly should people who oppose the grizzly bear hunt put their money? And, do you believe that people are complaining because “they all have to do” that the most vociferous ones “should shut up?”

Why do you want to kill grizzly bears, Jim?

Dawn Gray Krestova

Futility of prohibition

Re: RCMP seizes thousands of marijuana plants from outdoor grow ops, October 21, 2009

There is still the greatest farce still in BC’s interior old growth rain forest.

RCMP harvest won’t stop next year’s crop.

What difference will it make?

The recent outdoor marijuana eradication efforts by the RCMP are glaring examples of the futility of prohibition.

Mayor Dieter Bogs is wrong if he really thinks “the money is kept out of the drug dealers’ pockets.” Law enforcement efforts are not stopping the “outdoor grow ops,” nor will they ever do so. It is all just an expensive show at taxpayer expense to give the public the illusion that something is being accomplished.

Why aren’t journalists asking important questions, like:

1) Is there any evidence that these eradication efforts actually reduce the availability of marijuana on the street?

2) What percentage of the outdoor crops are the RCMP able to destroy?

3) How much do these annual eradication efforts cost (in diverted police resources, overtime pay, helicopter use and fuel)?

4) Taxpayers have a right to know the answers to these questions.

This futile and expensive ritual will continue, year after year, until finally we come to our senses and end cannabis prohibition.

Every major study on the cannabis issue has come to the same key conclusion as the 2002 Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs.

“The continued prohibition of cannabis jeopardizes the health and well-being of Canadians much more than does the substance itself.” (Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy, 2002 www.SenateReport.ca)

Every day that we delay the end of this corrupting, harmful policy, the deeper the tentacles of organized crime infiltrate into our communities!

Ending cannabis prohibition is definitely in our best interests.

Herd Coach

Tommy Tree
Hugger Acquitted

Remembrance Day 2008, at the North Star Cenotaph in Flatrock Lake (Kootenay), I felt a responsibility to protect ecological sanity and bring attention to an unnecessary four kilometres of roadtripping on the Argenta Face.

Assault allegation and false witness by crown woodland licensee 401 and his employee resulted in my arrest and incarceration by agents of the state.

Oct. 15, 2009, I defended myself against the unhelpful BC’s interior logging road alone and defending your self is not for the faint of heart. However, the stakes are high. Logging the last of BC’s intact interior old growth cedar/hemlock rainforest is a crime against humanity.

BC’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report, released this summer, confirms that converting old growth into industrial managed forests releases vast amounts of living carbon into the atmosphere. In 2007 according to the report 727,600 metric tons of sequestered carbon was released by old growth destruction, releasing more carbon in BC than any other human activity.

And yet the province of BC continues to permit road building, that BCTS is the helpful savior and the woodland licensee I thought was a same compromise for harvesting timber on the Argenta Face went on a steep road, to compromise a year of conflict with concerned water users and wilderness advocates.

Their response: zero. The Force Minister’s quasi public process is a comic tragedy that fully understands most citizens and environmental organizations will tolerate middle class tyranny and environmental degradation.

I can’t and will hopefully find the courage and money to go and peacefully assemble to bring attention to current old growth cedar/hemlock destruction in Tea and Denise creek in the North Purcell Mountain range.

Our MLA, MP and regional pulsades have not stepped up to the plate to protect the carbon stored in BC’s interior old growth rain forest. They know, but appear fearful of speaking publicly about protecting this vital link for ecological sanity.

Tom Prior
New Denver

The Valley Voice

Box 70, New Denver, BC  V0G 1S0

Phone: 356-7218 Fax: 356-7793 E-Mail:valleyvoice@netidea.com Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

Publisher - DAN NICHOLSON • Editor - JAN MCMURRAY • Food Editor - ANDREW ROHDE

Arts & Culture Editor - ART JOYCE • Contributing Writer - KATRINE CAMPBELL

Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lakes valleys from South Slocan/Plumgaron junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Circulation is 7,200 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00, E-Mail Subscription $21.00 (Prices include GST)

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40021919
Thank you Mayor Lay!!

Richard Dennis and I have lived in Kaslo and area for over 20 years. During that time, there have been five different mayors on the Village of Kaslo council. Each of those mayors has had their own style and approach as our representative.

Although we may have agreed or disagreed with the individual mayor’s approaches, we also understand that they are just one voice, and cannot necessarily sway the vote of their councilors. Often we have been disappointed that previous mayors were not represented at community functions, such as high school graduations, village celebrations or the May Day parade.

We are noticing a refreshing difference with Mayor Lay. We keep running into him or seeing him at major council events and functions. That our other mayors just didn’t seem to bother with. When we do see him, there is another difference...he actually stops and takes the time to chat with not only us, but other participants at these events. How refreshing!!

When I do have a question, if Mayor Lay doesn’t have the answer, we have been very surprised that he does a follow-up and either calls back to us or has something stopped by our home with an answer.

This is the first mayor that has even done so, and we are very impressed by his warm and responsive style.

Last Thursday evening I attended a community forum at our JV Humphries school, which had representatives from various levels of government, the school board and our school principal. I was very proud of the way that our mayor represented Kaslo. It was clear and informative answers during the open question period.

I believe that we, the citizens of Kaslo are very fortunate to have such an intelligent and caring Mayor.

Bonnie Schwark  

Kaslo

BC Hunters  

Take Note

Resident BC hunters in BC may lose their right to hunt freely for food. That’s what an ad placed by the BC Wildlife Federation in a local Kootenay publication implies. The ad says:

* Hunting guides and outfitters want an end to open hunting for residents.
* They would like to see all resident hunting restricted to limited entry.
* They have a strong lobby in Victoria to achieve their ends.

Their organization, the Guides and Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC), believes that management of big game should be focused on growing trophy-class animals.

My way of thinking, restricting open resident hunting for food in favour of a small group (guides and outfitters) that want to give away our wildlife resource to foreigners looking for trophies is ludicrous. First of all, I believe that most British Columbians are against trophy hunting. Secondly, over the century, few hunters in the province depend on wild meat to feed their families. Thirdly, during times of economic downturn, we have no jobs and no money, access to food via hunting is crucial. Those of who hunt here in the Kootenays, have noticed many more hunters in the woods this year than in the past. The obvious reason is that budgets don’t stretch to buying meat, so people are eating for it.

Anyone who hunts in BC knows the odds of winning the limited entry hunting lottery. I have talked to local farmers who have tried year after year without success to win an authorization to hunt elk that are devastating their crops. Is this what we face throughout the province if the guide and outfitter鳟鱼 the hunters? How many of us who now hunt will actually have the opportunity to do so under the GOABC’s scheme.

As a resident hunter of BC that depends on hunting to feed my household, I am begging the BC Government not to listen to the lobby of the guides and outfitters. I have this to say to the people of the province who need this resource, whose health and livelihood depend on access to wild meat as their major source of protein. In the big picture, I believe that allowing people to hunt freely and stay off “Welfare” is much more cost-effective than gaining a few dollars from the province to feed our foreigners. Besides, trophy hunting is guaranteed to stir up a huge hornet’s nest.

Shirley Passmore

Kaslo

Bring back our hospitals

I wanted to respond to Helen Faupel’s letter (VV Nov. 18/09) regarding the care he received when he suffered his recent heart attack.

This is truly an amazing story. My kudos to the many healthcare professionals, highways crews, pilots, ferry workers and others who were involved in saving Mr. Faupel’s life. You are truly a great bunch, and I sincerely hope Mr. Faupel is recovering comfortably. He is truly one of the lucky few.

That said, I wonder how much it cost the taxpayers to save one person’s life, and how many more people might have been helped, with the same funds, if the provincial government not cut millions from provincial health care and hospital budgets, in order to pour billions into the province’s roads system.

I also wonder to how many people’s lives have been lost, or whose injuries and trauma were exaggerated by having to travel hundreds of kilometers, by land, water and air, to receive treatment that used to be available locally.

It seems to me folly irresponsible for a supposedly fiscally responsible government to set up an infrastructure under the consumer power, of thousands on one patient is preferable to spending tens of thousands of dollars to help the many.

For decades for so many years while our government has raised at the opposition for being spend, spend, spend, while they themselves continue to bring in new revenue streams by allowing people in accidents such as the one Mr. Faupel so eloquently describes. It makes no sense.

Our government seems totally bereft of any sort of common sense when it comes to efficient management of both our resources and our infrastructure. Yet voters continue to vote them in because they are such good money managers! Perhaps it is not only our government that suffers from a deficit of common sense?

Mr. Faupel’s letter makes a strong argument for the need for full funding of regional health care services. Asking the simple question: “How many people could have been helped locally for the same amount spent on transporting this one person?” should make it clear that it is time for the government to reconsider its approach to health services in this province.

Our hospitals in Nelson, Trail and the surrounding communities should be fully restored. Any other decision is completely irresponsible, and should see a major change in the next provincial election.

Thank you Mr. Faupel for helping make this abundantly clear, and I hope your recovery continues to go well.

Williert  

Response to Al Skakan

The Slocan Park Care Society was approached by a resident of Pass Creek early in October out of desperation. It was asked to come along because I have some experience with projects of this nature. The reason for the desperation was that a contractor working on the project, had made BCTS more accountable. On the BCTS website it states that they are transparent to the public and are mandated to constantly improve. You would think that they would work with societies and groups such as these to fulfill that mandate. Yet we have seen through our experiences in the Slocan, Perry, Rids and now Sentinel Mountain, that the public are only considered “unqualified, ill-informed and self-serving.”

Perry Kabel

Slocan Park

Cell phones turn us into lab rats

Nowadays we take it for granted that a heavy smoker stands a substantially greater risk of dying from lung cancer than a non-smoker. Or that second-hand smoke is also a cancer hazard. Yet we are nothing more than lab rats in a heavy smoker stands a substantially greater risk of dying from lung cancer than a non-smoker. Or that second-hand smoke is also a cancer hazard. Yet we are nothing more than lab rats in

The Brain Tumour Society (US) reports that, “brain tumours are the leading cause of solid tumour cancer death in children under the age of 20,” now surpassing leukemia. According to the August 14, 2009 New York Times, “about half of American children under age 12 have cell phones. Is this an experiment we will be performing in our child?”

The BioInitiative Report summarizes nearly 2,000 scientific papers that demonstrate damage to health and intelligence in children from cell phones and wireless radiating, including studies that show clusters of cancers near cell phone antennae, especially within a 400 meter radius of cell towers.

In New Denver live within range of the CBC tower Telus intends to use. Saying we don’t have to use a cell phone isn’t an option anymore. The health risks of a transmitter is installed, we get exposed to radiation too.

The Precautionary Principle, an internationally recognized principle has been the basis of one of the criteria adopted by the European Union for assessing potential environmental pollutants or toxins, puts the burden of proof on the proponents, not the consumers. Those who are required to prove that cell phones are safe beyond a reasonable doubt, not the citizens of New Denver. Court cases on health and cell phones have been won based on the Precautionary Principle.

In Maine, Quebec, France the court ruled that the principle was grounds enough to require the telecommunication companies to create an Orange France to remove a cell tower.

As long as even a handful of the thousands of studies showing higher incidences of brain tumours and other cancers exist, that is grounds enough to refuse this product in our community. If we are required to take Telus’ product whatever we want it or not, we then no longer live in a free country, we live in a corporate concentration camp and we are nothing more than lab rats in the biggest biological experiment yet.

Democracy becomes a joke that is able to will and governance can be swept aside by business interests.

It took 50 years of credible science and lawsuits before we had a public policy regarding tobacco. How many of you are willing to count before we demand better public exposure standards for cell phones?

Julie Greenlaw

New Denver Citizens for Safe Technology
Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. As to organized crime interests from and leaving the area was an attractant money gained from the sale of the plants considered commercial. He said the "on top," and explained that any grow plants in the West Kootenay region. Effective in interdicting over 11,000 eradication project (E-placate) was provincially funded marijuana for after-hours youth recreation.

Bowden also reported the provincially funded marijuana eradication project (E-placate) was effective in interdicting over 11,000 plants in the West Kootenay region. Bowden encouraged residents to "stay on top," and explained that any grow operation of over 100 plants could be considered commercial. He said the money gained from the sale of the plants and leaving the area was an attractant to organized crime interests from Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver. As well, the cash sales of related equipment leads to further crime, and possible blackmail situations. The grow ops themselves are highly destructive to the environment, as fertilizers, plastics, piping, gas for generators, etc. are abandoned or trashed.

Councillor Murphy asked Bowden to define "organized crime." The answer, three or more persons active in common criminal activities.

He said he was pleased to continue "to take the wind out of the sails" of organized crime, and Mayor Wright suggested the best way to do this was to legalize marijuana, and noted the disorganized crime is "low, because you've taken our staff for organized crime."

The corporal will soon be transferred to Vernon. His wife, Constable Tania Finn, currently in Nakusp, will be transferred to Enderby. Council thanked Bowden for his exemplary service.

Bowden's letter to Council spoke of how meaningful to his career and life how meaningful to his career and life working as a corporal in the RCMP.

Greensword met with BHA's Diane Gagnon. Wright said BHA supports the social housing project in New Denver. Greensword followed up with reports on BHA related subjects. Among those: up to 40% of the staff are approaching retirement, the new Administrator and staff are favouring higher levels of training for emergency responders, who will be able to fill in at the hospital. Greensword then introduced a resolution, proposed by Council, stating: "That the Minister of Health Services be requested to work with BHA, BC Ambulance and the BC Nurses Union to develop a new model of high-activity ambulance support and transportation for rural areas in our region."

Greensword also reported steady progress on the water reservoir construction, noting that tilling rings are being prepared, and construction should occur in about three weeks.

Mayor Wright reported on the RDCK West Waste Resource Recovery Committee meeting. The committee is doing a draft budget, and the prediction is that taxation will increase from 13¢/$100 to 17 or 18¢ – roughly $15 increase in a household due to the increased cost of recycling, which has risen by $20,000 in the last two years, primarily to recycle more plastics. As well, West Waste will spend over $200,000 this year hosting the Okanagan landfill. The recycling campaigns are up for renewal, noted Wright, and he suggested the community try to address plastics recycling locally, including possible participation with the Economic Development Commission in projects involving new uses for plastics.

Three bylaws were given three readings. Blylaw 640, 2009 Capital Works Machinery and Equipment Expenditure, appropriate will be considered in the Capital Works for the Village Office renovations; Bylaw 642, 2009, revises Village water rates; and Bylaw 643, 2009, revises garbage rates. Water rates will increase to $250/year per residence. Overall increases were noted, including Outside the Village on Village System Residential Rates of $350/year. Garbage rates also increase to $310/year (residential), with 52 tags issued, annual billing, and $3.50 each for additional tags.

New Denver: Building for the Future

It's been quite a year in New Denver. 2009 saw us invest almost a million dollars into capital works. That's the biggest building and equipment program in our 117-year history. We did it with our municipal savings and a lot of help from the federal and provincial governments, the Columbia Basin Trust, our volunteers and non-profit societies, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Thanks to a great staff and skilled local craftsmen, the projects were planned and delivered with so little public fuss that not everybody knows what we've done. That's why we've used some funding from the RDCK to complete extensive renovations to Knox Hall and the library.

We were successful in having the Nikkei Centre declared a National Historic Site. We are well into our Village Hall expansion project. It includes geothermal heating, ecological landscaping and a solar power component.

We did all this using local labour and local goods whenever possible.

We did all this without borrowing a penny.

"We" means you – the people and council of New Denver.

Thank you for all your good work.

Have a warm Christmas season and a fine New Year!

Mayor Wright, Gary Wright

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

Work on the Slocan Lake Arena, also known as the Silverton Curling Rink, is underway. Completion date is set for March 31st, 2010. Although we’ve secured grant approval for a large portion of the funding needed, we’ve got a ways to go. We continue to fundraise through BINGO and raffles. Donations of any amount, if you are so inclined, would be greatly appreciated.

Please watch for our latest fundraiser - a cash raffle with an early bird draw at the New Year’s Eve dance in Silverton.

We thank you all for your many years of continued support.

Slocan Lake Arena Society
Whole School Celebrates New Space in Winlaw

by Kate Guthrie

The Whole School in Winlaw celebrated its new space with a grand opening celebration November 28.

“Volunteer parents and broader community members have given hundreds of hours of dedicated hard work to this space,” school coordinator Jane Medlar said. “The playground is up, the fence is done; it was time for cake and ribbon cutting. We are ecstatic about the new building,” she added. The Whole School is 36 years old this year, making it the oldest independent, non-aligned co-operative school in BC.

Located at 5615 Highway 6, Medlar described the new space as “beautiful, warm and inviting. It’s very much like stepping into someone’s home.”

More renovations are still pending, Medlar said, and in the meantime “we’re trying to make it as nurturing a space as possible for the children.”

For months previous, one couldn’t drive through downtown Winlaw without noticing the school’s parking lot full of pick-ups, backhoes and adults. A core group of paid professionals, including electricians and plumbers, prioritized the Whole School renovation over their own schedules, Medlar said. But most of the labour was done by parents of students, she added, in an extension of the school philosophy. “Every family is expected to contribute time to the school, as well as a nominal tuition…I think it’s model parents need to embrace—active involvement and engagement in their child’s education.” The model isn’t for everyone, Medlar admitted, but for those who value alternative education, “we are really blessed to have this alternative in our community.”

Two of the many volunteer teachers, Jennifer Rolufs and Jesse Demars, Principal Pierre Kaufmann and numerous volunteer parents support just over 20 students at the school. Students currently come from as far south as Crescent Valley and as far north as Slocan City. “Most of the transportation is done by the parent body,” Medlar said, “but the district does provide an after-school bus.”

“There is no such thing as a typical day here,” she said. “The rhythm changes a lot.”

Most mornings begin with a circle for songs and activities, a time when “kids are greeted and collected and brought into connection with teachers and parent supports.”

The school employs ministry curriculum with a heavy emphasis on environmental themes and social and emotional development. “We intend to nurture the whole education for a whole child,” Medlar said. According to the school’s mission statement, this includes the social, emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual growth of each child. “Every school wants to achieve the same thing,” Medlar added. “We keep our classes small and stay focused on the vision.”

Throughout the day, students are organized as a large group, in smaller, multi-age groupings and as individuals. “We incorporate the arts into every subject, reinforce environmental stewardship, emphasize hands-on learning and foster social justice—this is the heart of our program.”

To resolve conflict between children or parents, the Whole School has developed a “Peace Table,” Medlar said, based in Nonviolent Communication. Community members also contribute to the school curriculum. Recently, Shannon Bennett brought her Watershed Connections: A Web of Ecological Diversity Program to the kids, teaching them about the diversity of life that contributes to their water source. In the fall, the entire school visited the Sinixt land. There, they learned about native culture, regional history and environmental stewardship. “We had school in tips. It was wonderful,” Medlar said. “We’re so grateful that Bob Campbell and the Sinixt Nation opened their space to us.”

The Whole School children, teachers and community cut the ribbon to open up their new home on November 28.

Artist Barbara Maye exhibits at Nakusp’s Studio Connexion

by Art Joyce

If you’ve ever been inspired by a walk in the forest, then artist Barbara Maye has a collection of art for you.

Maye is exhibiting her latest show, Spaces in Between, at Anne Belliveau’s Studio Connexion in Nakusp from December 3 to January 23. This exhibition includes volcanic stone sculpture, woodcarving, painting and lithography. The opening reception will be Friday, December 4 from 5-7 pm with live music.

‘Creation from destruction’ is one of the themes of the show. Many of the artworks were made by first making rice paper and GRAPHITE Rubbings of patterns on trees created by pine beetle larvae, then transferring them to woodcarvings and other media. Maye did research on the pine beetle to learn about their life cycles and uses a Dremel router to carve the patterns into wood. The result is something akin to woodcarvings and other media.

Maye grew up in Saskatchewan and lived in the US for about ten years. She returned to Canada to complete an art degree in 2007 but has been showing artwork internationally for far longer. Maye obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from the University of Calgary, She has exhibited in Denver, Colorado, New York City and her portraiture in Germany at a private exhibition.

Working with Zombiehuan volcanic stone, Maye was very aware that she was working from material ‘from across the world and across time.’ She was mentored by a Shona master, who helped her realize that the work was about the spaces in between. The Shona people have no preconceptions about their art, no pre-set patterns. Instead they respond to the materials to guide them to the patterns that a large finished product.

“There’s this line between whether we see trees as living or as a commodity,” says Maye. “At the same time, we have to log to build our homes, but we’re also concerned about what’s happening to the planet. We really have to be conscious of what a precious place we have here, there just isn’t much left in the world like this.”

Since moving to Nakusp this year, Maye feels she has finally come home. She says she was born “accidentally” in Saskatchewan but feels she was really supposed to be born in BC. Maye had an exhibition at Alpha Guild Gallery in May and has wanted to leave the city for some time. She has since kept busy house- and pet-sitting and teaching art. Maye also does photography and portraits of people and their pets as a means of earning a living.

“You feel really embraced in a community like Nakusp. People have been so helpful to me.”

Studio Connexion is at 203 5th Avenue. The hours are Thursday and Friday 3-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 12-4 pm, but showings can also be arranged by appointment, phone 250-265-365. The gallery’s Christmas hours will be December 21 and 22 from 12-4 pm.

Maye’s website is www.barbaramaye.com and examples of her work can be seen at www.artincanada.com/barbaramaye.
Real estate in Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake

Kaslo council, November 24: Water Street proposal and Community Forest concerns presented

by Jan McMurray

Mayor Lay wishes to negotiate a 2011 OCP with the RDCK for better deal for Kaslo. He wants to change the wording of the OCP to make it clearer that the Village is not involved in certain decisions. He also wants to ensure that the Village is not responsible for the RDCK’s actions.

Councillor Heidt and Urton explained that the group would like to proceed with a financial analysis, etc., and needs support in principle from council in order to apply for funding to do this. They said many things would have to be in place before council approved the actual sale of property, which requires a public approval process. Also, they believe council should make every effort to support affordable housing.

Council received copies of reports on affordable housing in Kaslo by Dr. Romella Glorioso of Gloriozzo, Moss & Associates, and Stewardship Kaslo Community Services Society. The reports included a housing needs assessment and a ‘Regulatory Context Report for improving affordable housing in Kaslo.’

A letter from NKLCSS informs council that they did not submit their grant applications for affordable housing in Kaslo on time.

After receiving two proposals in response to the Community Capacity Building Program, mayor Lay was asked at the December 5 council meeting to discuss the use of staff for the select standing committee.

- Council approved in principle the sale of a portion of servicable, buildable Village lots, as a way to fund the Kaslo Housing Authority in its efforts to build a seniors’ affordable housing project. The Mayor and Mayor Lay were asked at the December 5 council meeting to discuss the use of staff for the select standing committee.

- Council passed a resolution to request the area to request the RDCK to present a financial analysis of the proposed sale of property before the sale of land is considered.

Kaslo and Area D at odds over fire services contract

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo council is not happy with the fire services contract with the Village and the RDCK. The current fire protection service to a portion of Area D, which includes very happy with the fire services contract. The tax rate for Kaslo citizens was 0.544/$1,000, compared to 0.427/$1,000 for Kaslo.

Councilor Frary said that he was not involved in negotiating the funding formula, a referendum is necessary, and it takes three months to complete a referendum.

Meanwhile, Area D Director Andy Shadrack has let council know that he is not interested in negotiating a new OCP, so a decision was made at the December 10 RDCK council meeting.

Councillor Frary had taken a good look at the numbers, and presented his findings to council. In 2009, Kaslo taxpayers contributed 64% of the total budget, compared to Area D’s 36%. The tax rate for Kaslo citizens was 0.544/$1,000, compared to 0.427/$1,000 for Kaslo.

Councilor Frary explained that the current method of determining the tax rate would have to be changed in the next 30 years or so, and is outdated. He argued that because the two jurisdictions have very similar total assessment values – Kaslo’s is $149 million and Area D’s is $147 million – the fairest way to determine the funding formula is to have a common taxation rate.

He said that to achieve identical tax rates in the two communities, the contribution from Area D would have to double. He said that the area that the it cost the RDCK $285,377.24 to pay the planner. They would like the burning bylaw to be extended to February 15, April 15 and October 1-November 30. Council decided not to amend the burning bylaw. Mayor Lay had researched the issue at the time they passed it, and did not amend it when asked by the wild fire intergroup.

The Village would like to see more collaboration with the Village and Area D rather than the way this is going. Mayor Lay said the RDCK was very clear that the approach used by Council’s letter would have been possible. However, he said that the funding formula was not used in other fire services in the district.

Councilor Leathwood said that the current contract was split 53%/47%, so did not understand why the Area D situation was so different. Councilor Frary said there would have to be a referendum next year, and “I think we should have long memories about this. I find this whole process extremely distasteful, and unwilling to support affordable housing. I will enlist the services of the RDCK planning department to help with the OCP. Second, the CAC will adopt a new Village OCP as a template for Kaslo’s OCP.

appointments to several committees were made. Councilor Frary asked to be removed from the climate change committee, as he feels “not involved in certain decisions” and being on the council “isn’t the majority of the council.” His request was granted.

The policy on the installation of culverts under driveways was amended to allow for the “potential for entrenching the property owner.”

A letter from Ramona Faust of North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS) serves notice that the society will relinquish the lease for the community garden property when the term expires in February 2010. The Community Garden Society of Kaslo, which has been managing the garden under a Memorandum of Understanding with NKLCSS for the past 4 years, is not involved.

Meanwhile, Area D Director Andy Shadrack be advised that the Village of Kaslo wishes to negotiate a 2011 Fire Protection Services contract early in 2010.

Boards By George will be taking a break between Dec. 18 - Jan. 4, 2010

Happy New Year

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30 per year

KASLO & DISTRICT

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

Thank you

The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.

Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch in support of the Valley Voice
Slocan riverbank restoration is a group effort

by Art Joplin

Six years ago, a group of people stood next to a severely eroding riverbank above Perrys Bridge. They looked at the deep water and broken bank and discussed the possibility of a restoration project that would serve two purposes – protect the land from further erosion and provide much needed high quality habitat for aquatic life. The group consisted of the landowners, Penny Clarke and Brian Cross, officials from Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, representatives from Columbia Power Corporation, and Slocan River Streamkeepers.

Despite many obstacles, the dream and desire to help the Slocan River would not go away. Why this site? The Cross/Clarke sheep farm is located at the south-end of the most productive fish habitat in the Slocan River. Fish count studies done over the last seven years by Mirkwood Ecological Consultants show that this stretch of river serves as the “recruitment site” for rainbow trout over the entire river. In other words, fish prefer to live here and move south occasionally.

The section between Lemon Creek and Perry’s Bridge is “where it’s at” for fish. Here, the river is wild, meandering, cold and fast-flowing with lots of large rocks; just what fish love.

The Cross/Clarke project is now complete. The Streamkeepers say they have learned a lot. When they began looking into restoration work they were inexperienced but firm in their view that any work done would be big on vegetation and wood in the river and light on rock. It had to fit Streamkeepers’ mission, which is to engage in projects that help restore the riparian land and aquatic environment.

They quickly learned they couldn’t just apply for a permit and begin work in large river systems. A detailed plan is needed, as well as an engineer’s report, ballast calculations, and a review by First Nations. Because of these factors, they probably would not have succeeded without the expertise and experience of the BC Cattlemen’s Association.

In addition to the Cross/Clarke in-stream work the Streamkeepers have planted hundreds of trees and West Kootenay Plants provided a variety of native plants. Others who pitched in include permaculture specialist Greigore Lamoureux, local volunteers, and funders like the Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation.

Call 250-226-7339 for more information about Streamkeepers programs.
Get ready for Kaslo’s Christmas parade and light-up

Christmas fun starts this weekend in Kaslo!
The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to once again host the annual Christmas Light Up parade and celebration on Saturday, December 5. The Chamber has partnered this year with the organizers of the annual Kaslo Christmas Faire, the Langham Art Show and Sale and the downtown merchants to ensure a full day of family fun in Kaslo.

Activities start with the Kaslo Christmas Faire to be held at the Legion hall from 10 am to 4 pm. The Faire supports local artists, crafters and community groups. There will be yummy baked goods for sale, and Whole Earth Foods will be onsite with hot lunches and snacks. Admission is free.

The Langham is hosting a Christmas Art Show and Sale from 1 to 7 pm. Come shop for affordable Christmas gifts handcrafted by Kaslo and area artists and artisans. The sale continues until December 20.

Shop local – it just makes sense!

submitted by Kaslo Chamber of Commerce’s Shop Local Committee

Did you know that shopping close to home:

1. Keeps your dollars in your town
   Shopping local helps support and maintain your community, creates jobs, keeps the downtown healthy and builds a community that is worth living in.

2. Supports local non-profits
   When local business owners thrive, they are able to donate more to local charities and initiatives.

3. Creates character and prosperity
   A thriving business core increases the overall satisfaction of a town’s inhabitants and enhances the value of homes and property.

4. Reduces environmental impact
   Consuming less gas not only saves money but saves the environment as well!

5. Creates new jobs
   Most new jobs in a community are provided by local businesses.

6. Means you matter more
   Isn’t it nice to be greeted by name when you enter a shop? Local business owners get to know you personally and are better able to respond to your individual wants and needs.

7. Is just a whole lot more fun
   In a small local shop inventory is carefully chosen by the owner; you can find all sorts of unexpected treasures and meet friends and neighbours along the way.

8. Supports diversity and leads to more consumer choices
   The more dollars spent locally, the more choices become available to the consumer.

9. Saves you money
   If you add in travel, parking costs, fees to transport larger items home and the value of your time, shopping local just makes sense.

Donations of wrapped gifts and non-perishable food items to the Kaslo Food Bank will be accepted at Santa’s Village and Kootenay Lake Computers.

Festivities and activities this year include face painting at Kootenay Lake Computers, the Kaslo Merchants’ Great Gift Giveaway, a children’s scavenger hunt, carolling, chestnuts roasting, hot dogs and hot chocolate, and of course, Santa’s Village where children will have a chance to meet with Santa and have their picture taken.

At 5 pm the downtown streets will close for the 23rd annual Christmas Light Up parade and celebration. Santa arrives, and then the parade begins at 6 pm.

The Valley Voice  December 2, 2009
2009!
Our biggest Capital Program in History!

Gazebo
$34,000

Thanks Carol, CAO

Museum Roof
$34,960

Thanks to Jeremy & crew, Chris, Barry & Sally and the people of New Denver

Reading Centre Renos
$20,000

Thanks to Mike & Steve, Public Works

Village Office Expansion
$419,983

• Geothermal heating
• Solar power
• Wheelchair access
• BC Climate Action Charter compliance

Thanks to the Government of Canada, the Province of BC, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Slocan Lake Arena Society, the Union of BC Municipalities, the Heritage Society of BC and The Land Conservancy.

Water Reservoir Replacement
$274,000

• Doubles our fire fighting capacity
• Serves Village growth strategy
• Stores more pure water

Thanks to the Government of Canada: the people of New Denver.
WSA Engineering and Stanco

All paid for in cash from municipal savings and co-funding from the Government of Canada, the Province of BC, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Slocan Lake Arena Society, the Union of BC Municipalities, the Heritage Society of BC and The Land Conservancy.

We believe in local hiring!
Remember a loved one on Celebrate a Life Tree

Nakusp Hospice has launched its 14th annual Celebrate a Life Tree 2009, running through December 31 at Hub International/Barton Insurance company on Broadway.

Hospice volunteers, and board members, will be on hand during office hours 9-5 and on Saturdays 9-1 until December 15, offering the opportunity to members of the public to inscribe a loved one’s name on a Christmas ball, and to hang it on the memorial tree. The Barton Insurance staff members have kindly offered to take donations from December 1-31 as well.

Nakusp & District Rotary Club presents its 12th Annual Dinner Theatre

Kiss or Make Up
A comedy based on the book by Jack Sharkey
February 12 & 13, 2010
Directed by Christina Nolan
Script provided by Samuel French
Tickets are $35.00 each, available at Hub International/Barton Insurance Brokers, 202 Broadway, Nakusp
Starting December 8, 2009

How age-friendly is Nakusp?
submitted by Corinne Tessier, contracted facilitator for the Nakusp Age-Friendly project

In just five years from 2001 to 2006, the median age of Nakuspites jumped from 41 to 46 years, according to Statistics Canada. During that same period, residents aged 55 and over went from being 29% of the population to 36%. Nakusp is ‘aging’ and the Village of Nakusp has obtained an Age-Friendly Community Planning grant to respond to this changing demographic situation. The Village knows that by helping aging adults with creative housing solutions, transportation alternatives, social and recreational programs, and support services, they can remain vital contributors to the economic and social capacity of the community. The Villages of New Denver and Slocan City are also responding and have obtained their own grants. The good thing about this is that each centre can tailor its process to unique community needs, yet also collaborate for greater overall impact in the area. The grants are administered by the Union of BC Municipalities and funded by the Ministry of Community, and health services, they can remain vital contributors to the economic and social capacity of the community. The Villages of New Denver and Slocan City are also responding and have obtained their own grants. The good thing about this is that each centre can tailor its process to unique community needs, yet also collaborate for greater overall impact in the area. The grants are administered by the Union of BC Municipalities and funded by the Ministry of Community Development and Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.

In Nakusp, a volunteer committee representing diverse interests of senior citizens is steering the process. Members are Barbara McInnes, Ray Blanchette (Senior Citizen’s Councilor/Nakusp Senior Citizens Society), Marilyn Boxwell (BC Seniors Advocate Network), Trish Cannon (Arrowatarian Villa), Linda Golds (Minto House/Arrow Lakes Hospital/IHA), Susan Gustafson (Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services/Halcyon Assisted Living), Don Lindsay, and Ulli Mueller/Bob Lafleur, (Counsellor/CAO (Village of Nakusp). The first step the committee took was to assess the age-friendliness of policies within the Official Community Plan. The second step is to survey residents, particularly those 55 and over, to learn that they think needs to change to enhance age friendliness within the Village. Lake New Denver and Slocan City, Nakusp is using the guidelines developed by ‘Age-Friendly Rural and Remote Communities Initiative’ in Canada and the World Health Organization Checklist for Age Friendly Communities.’

The committee identified some priorities for Nakusp from the list of hundreds of descriptors of age-friendly communities, and these formed the basis of the survey questions. The survey will be available starting Dec. 2, 2009 from various sources – see the notice in this paper. Residents in Nakusp and those in surrounding areas who frequently visit Nakusp, are encouraged to complete and submit the survey by Dec. 18.

Using the survey results and their OCP report, the committee will complete an ‘Age-Friendly Assessment Report’ and ‘Age-Friendly Guidelines’ and present these to the public in March 2010. The intent of the whole process is to increase local awareness about what mature people need to maintain active, healthy, and productive lives and help local government, businesses and agencies with planning, policy development and delivery of relevant services and products. Nakusp, New Denver, and Slocan may even be able to work together to access funding to support specific future initiatives.

For more information see http://www.seniorsincommunities.ca and http://www.agefriendlycommunities.org.

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

Village of Nakusp Age-Friendly Survey

Please take part in an age-friendly assessment of the Village of Nakusp. Your responses to the survey will help local government, businesses, and agencies understand and plan for the needs of people aged 55+ resident in Nakusp, and those in surrounding areas who frequently visit Nakusp. The opinions of seniors are particularly important. You can access the survey on-line at http://www.nakusp.com or pick up the survey from the following locations:

- Village of Nakusp Office
- Arrow & Slocan Lake Community Services
- Nakusp Public Library
- Kootenai Savings Credit Union
- Chamber of Commerce – Visitor Centre
- Nakusp Post office
- Royal Canadian Legion Hall
- Selkirk College

The final date for submitting your completed survey is December 18, 2009. Instructions are included on the survey.

A public information meeting with be held in March 2010 to present an ‘Age Friendly Assessment Report’ and ‘Age-Friendly Guidelines for Nakusp’, which will be developed from survey results.

If you have any questions, please contact Corinne Tessier, consultant for the Nakusp Age-Friendly project at 250-265-9951 or ctessier@affirmingworkplace.ca
Burton Fire Group hosts first Burton Community Christmas

The newly formed Burton Fire Group is hosting its first annual ‘Burton Community Christmas’ show on Saturday, December 19, starting at 3 pm, to help raise funds for more firefighting equipment.

Burton’s fire equipment consisted of a small hose reel and lengths of fire hose in a small shed. Today, thanks to dedicated volunteers, local funding, Columbia Basin Trust grants, and the Nakusp Fire Department, Burton’s firefighting capabilities have improved beyond recognition. Housed in a brand new fire hall, and equipped with a trailer equipped with a 1200-litre water tank, three pumps, one generator, fire hose, and safety clothing.

Foolthish Brass show at the Bonnington was very engaging

The Foolthish Brass quartet gave Nakusp a great show at the Bonnington November 21. They’ve been here before, but not quite like this. In the 10 years since their last appearance here, the members have changed and their program has evolved. Trumpeter Chris Morrison, the group’s founder, is the only original musician left.

The members of Foolthish Brass wear many hats (at least three each), as well as many hats. They are a trapeze equipped with a 1200-litre water tank, three pumps, one generator, fire hose, shovels, pulaskis, fire extinguishers and safety clothing.

The volunteer Burton Fire Group maintains this building and provides training and equipment, and organizes training sessions for community members in its use. Wanting to have some fun and at the same time raise funds for new equipment, this non-profit group of six volunteers has enlisted the help of the community to start a new tradition in Burton – the Burton Community Christmas.

Starting at 3 pm with a Christmas parade, the event continues with a Christmas light parade, BBQ, turkey taffy, artisans market, live music, dancing and licensed bar.

Harp Angel delights audience

The first half of Nyack’s enchanting performance was certainly fulfilled: “Serious fun!”

The harp was played with such range, artistry, and commitment to the program.

Harp Angel delights audience

Harp Angel delights audience

The first half of Nyack’s enchanting performance was certainly fulfilled: “Serious fun!”

The harp was played with such range, artistry, and commitment to the program.

Foolthish Brass show at the Bonnington was very engaging

The Foolthish Brass quartet gave Nakusp a great show at the Bonnington November 21. They’ve been here before, but not quite like this. In the 10 years since their last appearance here, the members have changed and their program has evolved. Trumpeter Chris Morrison, the group’s founder, is the only original musician left.

The members of Foolthish Brass wear many hats (at least three each), as well as many hats. They are a trapeze equipped with a 1200-litre water tank, three pumps, one generator, fire hose, shovels, pulaskis, fire extinguishers and safety clothing.

The volunteer Burton Fire Group maintains this building and provides training and equipment, and organizes training sessions for community members in its use. Wanting to have some fun and at the same time raise funds for new equipment, this non-profit group of six volunteers has enlisted the help of the community to start a new tradition in Burton – the Burton Community Christmas.

Starting at 3 pm with a Christmas parade, the event continues with a Christmas light parade, BBQ, turkey taffy, artisans market, live music, dancing and licensed bar.

Harp Angel delights audience

The first half of Nyack’s enchanting performance was certainly fulfilled: “Serious fun!”

The harp was played with such range, artistry, and commitment to the program.

Foolthish Brass show at the Bonnington was very engaging

The Foolthish Brass quartet gave Nakusp a great show at the Bonnington November 21. They’ve been here before, but not quite like this. In the 10 years since their last appearance here, the members have changed and their program has evolved. Trumpeter Chris Morrison, the group’s founder, is the only original musician left.

The members of Foolthish Brass wear many hats (at least three each), as well as many hats. They are a trapeze equipped with a 1200-litre water tank, three pumps, one generator, fire hose, shovels, pulaskis, fire extinguishers and safety clothing.

The volunteer Burton Fire Group maintains this building and provides training and equipment, and organizes training sessions for community members in its use. Wanting to have some fun and at the same time raise funds for new equipment, this non-profit group of six volunteers has enlisted the help of the community to start a new tradition in Burton – the Burton Community Christmas.

Starting at 3 pm with a Christmas parade, the event continues with a Christmas light parade, BBQ, turkey taffy, artisans market, live music, dancing and licensed bar.

Harp Angel delights audience

The first half of Nyack’s enchanting performance was certainly fulfilled: “Serious fun!”

The harp was played with such range, artistry, and commitment to the program.

Foolthish Brass show at the Bonnington was very engaging

The Foolthish Brass quartet gave Nakusp a great show at the Bonnington November 21. They’ve been here before, but not quite like this. In the 10 years since their last appearance here, the members have changed and their program has evolved. Trumpeter Chris Morrison, the group’s founder, is the only original musician left.

The members of Foolthish Brass wear many hats (at least three each), as well as many hats. They are a trapeze equipped with a 1200-litre water tank, three pumps, one generator, fire hose, shovels, pulaskis, fire extinguishers and safety clothing.

The volunteer Burton Fire Group maintains this building and provides training and equipment, and organizes training sessions for community members in its use. Wanting to have some fun and at the same time raise funds for new equipment, this non-profit group of six volunteers has enlisted the help of the community to start a new tradition in Burton – the Burton Community Christmas.

Starting at 3 pm with a Christmas parade, the event continues with a Christmas light parade, BBQ, turkey taffy, artisans market, live music, dancing and licensed bar.

Harp Angel delights audience

The first half of Nyack’s enchanting performance was certainly fulfilled: “Serious fun!”

The harp was played with such range, artistry, and commitment to the program. 
Chickens to be allowed in Silverton under new bylaw

by Jan McMurray

Silverton council passed the Animal and Poultry Regulation Bylaw third reading after hearing from the public on the issue at the November 17 council meeting.

Council received two pieces of correspondence in favour of the bylaw, and two pieces against; and a petition with 53 signatures in favour of the bylaw, and a petition with 38 signatures against. Seven people spoke in favour of the bylaw at the meeting, while four people spoke against it. Those against the bylaw felt that chickens would attract predators (such as coyotes and bears) into the village, could attract vermin, and could spread disease. They also felt that chicken coops would take away from the beauty of the village, and that chicken coops would create a nuisance and attract mosquitoes, which could spread disease. They also felt that there are already bears, coyotes, etc. in the village, and fruit trees and garbage were probably bigger nuisances than chickens would be.

Mayor Everett commented that the bylaw had been amended to please as many as possible. He said that bears generally leave chickens alone. Mayor Everett suggested that the third reading of the bylaw be tabled to the next meeting so that some amendments could be considered. One councillor wanted to give the bylaw third reading. Adoption of the bylaw is on the agenda of a special meeting scheduled for December 1.

Silverton council, November 17: Geothermal idea to be researched

by Jan McMurray

• Councillor Johnson reported on attending a meeting with the Administrator and Public Works, where they discussed the idea of developing a Village-owned utility using a geothermal system. He said Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has indicated that study grants are available for projects addressing climate change, and he would like to approach CBT with the idea. Council gave Johnson and staff the authority to research the idea further.

• Johnson reported that he and staff also revisited the proposal that will be added to the Official Community Plan regarding restrictions on wells going into the Village aquifer.

• Councillor Johnson reported on a November 12 meeting with YRB regarding highway maintenance. Bruce Limott, local area manager with the Ministry of Transportation (MoT), asked Johnson to create a “wish list” for the Village of Silverton. Later in the meeting, Johnson was named Village liaison to MoT, and councilors were asked to send him their input for the wish list. During public time, one resident asked that a bicycle or walking lane be added to the highway. Another mentioned the north end of the bridge, where puddling and ice occur. Johnson said this had already been brought to YRB’s attention.

• Mayor Everett reported that he met with a representative from the Columbia Basin Trust, who said the trust expects its income to increase substantially over the next five to ten years and is looking for input on how to allot the money. He also reported that Corporal Todd Bowden of the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment is being transferred to Vernon in January. His replacement has not yet been named. The Public Works department has three major projects underway: water, washroom/shower building in the campground, and arena renovations.

• Councillor Main reported on the Recreation Commission No. 6 meeting of November 4. Grants of $8,605 were approved. The commission decided that assets purchased with the grants will belong to the Recreation Commission, and that all organizations will be required to report on the grant monies they receive from the commission.

• Councillor Johnson reported that the ‘Building a Healthy Economy in the North Slocan Valley’ meeting on November 5 was well attended and well presented.

A Facilities Operation Policy was adopted. The policy covers all facilities that are owned by the Village: the municipal hall, arena, historical corridor, campground, Memorial Hall and Silverton Gallery. The policy is very general, stating that the facilities are primarily for the residents of Silverton, but also serve the surrounding areas; that the Village has identified three options for operating the facilities; that the facilities may need financial support from the Village.

• A letter from the Healthy Housing Society, congratulating the Village on a beautiful renovation job at the Silverton Memorial Hall, and inquiring to consider a special rental rate for local non-profit organizations. The society recently hosted an evening event there, and paid $100 for the hall and the kitchen. The request was referred to the Facilities Committee for consideration.

• The Village will contribute $200 to the New Denver Renewing Centre. This will come from the grants-in-aid budget, which had $325 remaining in it before council agreed to the contribution. Silverton’s $200, plus a $400 contribution from the Village of New Denver and a $400 contribution from Area H, will make up the $1,000 grant to the reading centre that the Province cut this year.

• The Ministry of Environment sent a response to the Village’s letter of concern about cats to parks and park ranger staffing levels. The letter states that revenues to the BC government have fallen dramatically as a result of the economic slowdown, but health care and education expenditures continue to increase. “This means most other ministries must find ways to reduce spending, and has prevented the Ministry of Environment from hiring as many park rangers in 2009 as were hired last year.”

Councillor Bell reminded council of the child who was injured while hiking in Valhalla Park during the school canoe trip earlier this fall. Several trees had fallen onto the trails in a severe windstorm were a hazard to hikers. She wondered if BC Parks would allow volunteers to help maintain the trails in the park. Councillor Barber said he would discuss this with area resident Bob Fuhrer, who is a park ranger, and report back to council.

• Brought forward from in-camera was the decision to rent the recycling building to the Silverton Community Club for $50 per month for the 2010 calendar year. The agreement includes the area east of the building, where the club will store the gazebos used during the Christmas by the Lake event.

• Accounts payable of $23,005.68 were approved for payment.
Hello from Denmark

I have now been in Canada for almost a year, and the time has gone by really fast.

It was one year ago when I first sent my application to Rotary Denmark, and waited for ages until I finally found out that I had been accepted, and that I was going to Canada. But then for a couple of months I did not know where in Canada I was going, and there is a pretty big country. Last week I got a chance to go to the north, a big city, Quebec, where I would have to speak French, or a place like Nakusp.

I choose to come to Nakusp because it has always been this beautiful but enormous country, with the most amazing nature in the world, and real things to do. And then I found out I was going to Nakusp, on the right (check with P. Roulston for its name) disappeared into the mists of the only cloud in the sky. Not a bad start to this journey.

What made it even better was knowing that we would be headed to the Kaslo Hotel for lunch. New, the Kaslo Hotel has been open for just under a year. Shortly after it opened I wrote about having dinner at the Kaslo Hotel the night before there. The place is such a pleasure to visit that I have been back several times. A month ago I was there with a pal for lunch and we both had the hens and beef brisket. Their main course from France, Thomas Stedelmann, had out-done himself with this dish. Thick, meaty and delicious. I literally couldn’t get enough.

I know, I’ve tried this before. However the Kaslo Hotel yet again. On the outside the place looks just like a big turn-of-the-century boomtown hotel. Inside it is warm, welcoming, open, and casually elegant in all respects.

Andy LeCouffe, the manager (and a friend) walked me into the pub/ dining room and showed me the new three-page menu that covers all meals during kitchen hours, which are 11:30 am to 9:00 pm.

The restaurant and pub are both part of a very long room with big windows along the wall that give a stunning view of Slocan Lake and the Purcell Mountains. The entire building is geothermally heated, and a huge Rumsford fireplace in the bar makes it all just that much more cozy and cozy.

OK. The menu. One of the three pages is entirely dedicated to “comfort food.” You gotta love that! There are steak sandwiches and a variety of burgers. Let’s just say they’re fantastic. I know, I’ve tried them. How about vegetarian pasta: fettuccini tossed in hollandaise sauce. Welcome home Bob!

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

You want to go to the Kaslo Hotel

Hello all you people who eat. I guess that’s everybody. First off a quick Kootenay Food Flash: Bob Fuhrer is back in the Kootenays after a long rangering gig in Bella Coola.

Last winter was excellent for skiing and I decided to walk the whole three km to the tunnel, and you could write a great book about the driving adventures that everyone had.

While I was walking along the road/ trail last week to scope it out I met a local lady walking her dogs and we both agreed that the fractures in the rock wall surrounding the tunnel seem to be much more widespread and deeper, and that if the overhang of the tunnel ever collapses into the lake it will send a major surge down the lake and into the river. Yikes. It is unlikely that the tunnel will collapse on you, spoiling your little outing, but I will feel better once I’m through it and can look back at those towering stony piles. Apparently there has been a cougar hanging around the area lately, though I didn’t hear whether it actually had been spotted, or if signs of it had been noted. Cougars are smart hunters and don’t mind walking wild or domestic prey and the idea of an attack is scary, so maybe some measures will be taken if it is a problem, or it may end up getting shot if in the village. Once the snow comes there will be all sorts of tracks to identity where things have been.

Anyhow, this little piece of highway is well worth a visit at any time of year. Although you’re never too far from Slocan City or the highway, it has a wild appeal to it and the difficult task of building it years ago is hard to imagine. Along the lake there are several rocked-up walls to support it and directly above are the severe cliffs of granite. The forest canopy is generally open so it seems light and the snow can reach the ground to provide good coverage depending on winter temperatures. Visit this route either from the sawmill lots in Slocan City or from the bouldered backyard beside the large paved highway pullout overlooking the lake, several kilometres north of the tunnel for Slocan City.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and has always liked cats, but those of a domestic variety. 250-358-2133.
CLASSIFIED ADS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS? Community Futures offers business counseling and start-up information. Appointments available in Nakusp and New Denver. Contact Farhana Dastur at HFDC, ext. 205 or email nakup@futurebc.ca.

CARD OF THANKS
TO THE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY OF NEW DENVER – We were deeply saddened and shocked with Ian’s unexpected demise. We, Ian’s family, were pretty much overwhelmed and so grateful to the wonderful people of New Denver and envision for their unconditional support and love. We have visited New Denver quite a few times over the years, and always had the same experience of a warm welcoming group of very special people – I know of no other group like yours.

A very special thank you to Sharie, Wendy, Paul, the Oldhams, Joan and Ken. You have been and continue to be a support to Lila – and hence the rest of us. My gratitude knows no bounds - and New Denver will always hold a special place in my heart. Yours is a community of heart and generosity. Thank you all – and a virtual hug to every one of you.

Very courteous to those of us who walk the morning chip trucks and logging trucks are available at Silverton Building Supplies.

WE ARE NOW KNEE DEEP IN LEAVES! Our garden needs to be said that the early summer and fall is a community of heart and generosity. Thank you all – and a virtual hug to every one of you.

YOU have been and continue to be a support to Lila – and hence the rest of us. My gratitude knows no bounds - and New Denver will always hold a special place in my heart. Yours is a community of heart and generosity. Thank you all – and a virtual hug to every one of you.

Thank you very much. Madeleine (2475).

To see you there! Madeleine (2475).

BRICK, CONCRETE & MASONRY
Kootenay homeowner magazine

KASLO CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP Celebration, Saturday, December 5 Enjoy a day full of activities for all ages. Santa arrives at 4 pm.

NEW SMILE DANCE at Silverton Memorial Hall with the Razzberry Rockers! Door Prizes. Midnight Lunch. Tickets $20 available at Mountainberry Foods and Silverton Building Supplies.

A WEEKS END OF THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR presented by Aspen Switzer & Jesse Lee, Friday, December 4, 7:30 pm. Come celebrate with a delicious Indian fusion meal, amazing music, homebaked goodies, and an art-filled, locally crafted silent auction. You will find the perfect Christmas gift. Then dance the night away with Adam Shaikh! Washin Hall, downtown Kaslo. 7 pm. $15 ages 15 and over. All ages, no alcohol event. Help us raise money for our new building. Call Tamara 250-355-2565 for info.

CHRISTMAS BY THE LAKE – Silverton Gallery, December 4-6. Join us for our 3rd annual traditional, European-style Christmas market. Featuring: gifts made by Kootenay artisans, ice and snow sculptures, horse-drawn sleigh rides, Santa and the Grinch, dancing, basket weaving, glass blowing, blacksmithing, roaming bannock and roast chestnuts over open fires and more!

WINLAC PAVEMENT BREAKFAST with Santa & Dolly, Saturday December 12, 8-11 am. Photos with Santa 10-11 am. Silent auction ends at 11:30. Come help raise funds for Winlac students while enjoying a pancakes breakfast and doing some Christmas shopping at the silent auction. See you there!

TRAILFINDER DINNER at The Cup and Saucer, Silverton, Saturday, December 5, 5:00-8:00 pm, with guest chefs Christopher and Anastasia Love. Four-course meal, $20. By reservation only: 250-355-2267 or thecupsaucer@gmail.com. See bulletin board for reservations.

MUSIC AT THE MANOR presents: Aspen Switzer & Jesse Lee, Friday, December 4, 7:30 pm. Tickets $15 at the Apple Tree or call Howard 250-355-2206.

BOTTLE DRIVE - Support Nakusp Secondary Ski & Board Team! Sat. Dec. 5 at Happy Face Recycling, Nakusp. 10 am to 2 pm.

THE KASLO TRAILBLAZERS SOCIETY are pleased to host our second Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the bridge picnic area. Light Up at 5 pm with free hot chocolate and cookies while you warm. There is very limited parking so please walk or be dropped off. We urge you to bring your own lantern to insert one of ours and join us for a lantern procession from the main trailhead at the end of Railroad Avenue to the bridge starting at 5:30 pm.

CRES CENT VALLEY YOUTH CENTRE AGM – Thursday, December 10, Mt. Sentinel School, 7 pm. Youth and adults welcome.

FOR RENT

4 BDR PENTHOUSE suite for rent overlooking Slocan Lake. Top suite at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Completely furnished. 2 washrooms. Can view it online. $1,000/month includes all utilities except cable, laundry. 250-359-2855.


NEW HOUSE FOR RENT in New Denver! 3 bdr, 2 bath. 5 appliances. Close to lake and Silverton Lakeshore Inn. 2 car garage. $200 plus util. References required. Available February 1, 250-355-2126.

COLES RENTALS (BEDROOMS, PROPERTIES, ETC.)
- FLAT FARMERS, LIVESTOCK, PIGS, CATTLE, ETC.
- FREE DUMP TRUCKS, SAND & GRAVEL, ETC.
- SITE PREPARATION, GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

COLES RENTALS (BEDROOMS, PROPERTIES, ETC.)
- FLAT FARMERS, LIVESTOCK, PIGS, CATTLE, ETC.
- FREE DUMP TRUCKS, SAND & GRAVEL, ETC.
- SITE PREPARATION, GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
- VINYL ROOF LAYERS, TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED WALLS, ETC.
- TRANSFER GENERATORS, ETC.
- VARIOUS HOME IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
COMMUNITY

Hills Nordic Ski Club offers programs for all ages

submitted

The Hills Nordic Ski Club has several programs to offer the young and old alike in between. You don’t need to be from Hills to be a member or participant; Hills is just an area that has for years had lots of snow and motivated organizers.

For the children ages 5-12 we offer a ski trade-up program and we still have a lot of equipment available especially in the 8-12 year old sizes. This program offers one time buy-in or annual rental to a complete cross-country ski package and then trade-up in sizes until your child reaches 13. Join the club and take advantage of this affordable program.

For adults, the Hills Nordic Ski Club is offering a cross-country ski program that will help our members maintain fitness, socialize, and have fun during the winter season.

Slocan Valley Christmas Tea for seniors

sessions are from around the interested audience at the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission’s annual Christmas Tea for Seniors. This relaxing, fun-filled, free afternoon event, on Saturday December 5, runs from 1 to 3 pm at the Slocan Park Hall.

There will be refreshments, entertainment, prize draws, and the chance to visit with Christmas crafters. Members and guests can enjoy this event a wonderful celebration of Ian’s life. It is our hope that the tea will be a popular event and that the memory of Ian will live on for us all.

BC Hydro announces preliminary results of Clean Power Call

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro is getting close to announcing successful independent power projects from the November 2008 Clean Power Call.

Of the 68 projects proposed, BC Hydro is ready to negotiate terms with proponents of 13 of them. However, exactly which 13 has not been made public yet. Twenty-one projects have been eliminated from consideration due to administrative errors. BC Hydro will provide an opportunity for interested proponents to make their proposals more attractive in the future.
Kaslo’s Official Community Plan process jump started

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo is moving forward with its OCP revision after a long dormant period.

At a meeting of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) on November 18, Mayor Greg Lay proposed a process that would result in a draft OCP by May or June. The committee agreed to the process, as did council at its November 24 meeting, with Councillors Cormie and Frary opposed.

Lay explained at the November 18 CAC meeting that he and resident Maggie Winters had worked out the process together. Winters attended the meeting as recording secretary, although she is not a committee member.

Transportation tops age-friendly wish list

by Katrine Campbell

Out of New Denver’s population of around 500 (512 in 2006), more than half are seniors, with that group being 55 or older. Twelve of them – including this reporter – showed up to a meeting November 24 to discuss the results of an ‘age-friendly’ survey commissioned by the Village. Out of the 300 sent out to all households, 34 were returned, a response rate of about 11 per cent.

The surveys were drafted by consultant Brenda Dahlie, who then compiled the results and hosted the meeting.

The responses were generally similar. Better transportation was the overwhelming priority need cited, followed by wheelchair accessibility, home care services, assisted living and subsidized housing, and sidewalk/maintenance.

On the positive side, respondents listed “friendly, helpful and inclusive community” as New Denver’s top age-friendly asset. The other four were the walkable, level and compact community, the presence of the health centre and doctors, the centralized business core, and the opportunity for volunteerism and recognition of seniors’ past and ongoing contributions to the community.

The participants discussed and debated various tools, particularly the problem of transportation. Many residents, not just seniors, have trouble getting to medical appointments, shopping, or travelling between New Denver and Silverton, or getting safely home after a night out.

The group agreed that making improvements for seniors would help everybody. For example, easier access (e.g. ramps instead of steps) to buildings would also help parents pushing strollers or with toddlers, those in wheelchairs, and anyone else who has trouble with steps.

Dahlie will submit her report to council, with recommendations drawn from the surveys and the public meetings, for consideration at its next regular meeting, December 8.

Kaslo’s OCP will be based on New Denver’s. Winters has created an electronic document that takes each of the sections of the New Denver OCP and provides room for comments on each section. Each member of the committee will provide their comments on each section by December 18, working with three different OCP documents: the New Denver OCP, the existing Kaslo OCP and the SmartGrowth draft OCP for Kaslo. Winters will collate all of the comments and will send this out to the group between Christmas and New Year’s.

Each committee member volunteered to be responsible for one or two sections. When they receive the collated comments from Winters, they will concentrate on their chosen section(s) and will draft the language for their section(s) for the committee to consider at an all-day workshop on February 6.

Lay said he expected the document would be presented to the public in mid-March, and the bylaw would be ready for council’s consideration in May or June. Councillor Suzan Hewat, CAC member, asked if there would be any consultation with youth and seniors. She said SmartGrowth had promised to do this consultation, but did not. Mayor Lay suggested that youth and seniors be invited to the February 6 workshop.

Ramona Mattis, General Manager of Development Services at the RDCK, also attended the meeting. She told the committee that one of her staff would be able to assist with some of the language that is required by law to be in an OCP. Since New Denver’s most recent OCP was adopted, the Province has made it mandatory to include greenhouse gas reduction targets in OCPs. The other requirement that is currently missing from Kaslo’s OCP is some analysis of future build-out, including how many vacant lots there are and what it would take to service them. Mattis assured the group that her staff would help them take care of these items. This RDCK assistance will not cost the Village anything extra; it is covered in the Village contribution to the RDCK.

There is language in the SmartGrowth draft OCP for Kaslo that belongs in the ‘Integrated Community Sustainability Plan’ (ICSP), which is required of local governments in order for them to be eligible for gas tax funding. Lay and Winters explained that this language would be identified during the committee’s OCP process, and set aside to pass on to a separate committee that would be working on the ICSP.

During the council meeting of November 24, Councillors Frary and Cormie explained that they were against this OCP process, mainly because they wanted to see one person hired to coordinate the OCP, the ICSP, and other plans the Village is involved in. The hiring of one coordinator was the original plan, and the Village put out a Request for Proposals for the position of ‘Community Capacity Building Coordinator.’ Two proposals were received. At the November 24 council meeting, council decided to advise the respondents that the position was being re-assessed. This decision was recommended by the Municipal Services Committee, with Councillors Cormie and Frary opposed.

Nakusp Hot Springs

A group of contracting companies based in British Columbia wishes to make an offer to purchase the Nakusp Hot Springs and to be included in the bidding process. The group is comprised of people with years of experience in constructing, repairing and maintaining swimming pools across British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The group is also experienced in running hotel and restaurant operations, with all the related technological knowledge and experience to make Nakusp Hot Springs a true marvel.

PROmise TO THE RESIDENTS OF NAKUSP

Our group makes the following promises to the residents of the Village of Nakusp:

1. Unrestricted public access to the Hot Springs, year round, with full hours of operation.
2. Ticket prices will remain in line with the past, adjusted only for inflation, in order to retain the support and attendance of our customers.
3. Discounted Tuesday prices for seniors.
4. Safe provision of other services, in accordance with all regulatory requirements, with unsurpassed water quality.
5. All the current advantages will be retained, but without the cost to the Village and taxpayers.
6. The Hot Springs will be organized and managed under the daily supervision of the owners. The owners and their families intend to become residents of Nakusp and will not offer the property for sale for a ten year period after the completion of the purchase transaction.
7. The owners welcome input from the residents of Nakusp in order to provide the best service to the community. Suggestions will be heard and replied to publicly and with all respect.
8. The owners wish to be part of the community and to provide quality service to the public.
9. The owners wish to benefit the local economy by making the Hot Springs and the Nakusp area a popular destination for tourists to visit.
10. The owners are also interested in a potential opportunity for expansion by creating nature-like caves, similar to those found at Ainsworth Hot Springs.

The group understands that the bidding process will be open to the public. The Hot Springs were donated to the Village of Nakusp by a family with certain intentions, and we wish to follow in the spirit of those intentions. Since the Hot Springs are now owned by the public, we believe the public has the right to consider the bids and choose the one that is in the best interests of the community.

For more information, please contact:

BC Pool and Tile Contractors Consortium
Attention: Igor Landa
c/o Rockies Law Corporation
P.O. Box 490, Suite 202, 502 Third Avenue
Fernie, BC VOB 1M0
info@rockieslaw.com
MAT GEORGE
1969 – 2003
We never need a special day to bring you to our mind.
For days without a thought of you are very hard to find.
Missing & Loving You
The George Family

The Valley Voice December 2, 2009

**Public to choose most likely future for Kaslo community forest**

by Jan McMurray

All Kaslo and Area D residents are invited to a January 14 public meeting on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society’s long-term plan. “The meeting marks a significant step in the project,” said Steve Anderson of the KDCFS. “The public will help us choose the most likely future for the community forest.”

Anderson says the long-term planning team has “brainstormed, talked and thought a lot about general directions in the future. Clearly, nobody can make a firm prediction, but we can speculate about likely trends. Those have been identified, and now Laurie Moss [consultant hired to lead the project] will write four possible scenarios.”

At the January 14 meeting, the background as to how the team came up with the four scenarios will be explained. Then the public will help choose the one most likely scenario.

“We want the most likely, not the most likeable,” said Anderson. “The four scenarios will be a mix of positive and negative. But we’re making a plan for the future, so what we want to know is what is that future likely to look like?”

The two main themes that the team thinks will impact the future are the ‘greening’ of the forestry industry and climate change. These two themes will form the basis of the four scenarios.

After the most likely future scenario is chosen, the long-term strategy will be written. The society hopes to present the draft strategy at the AGM in the spring. Anderson says some people feel it’s a waste of time to try to predict the future, but we do all the time. He gave some examples. “When you buy house, you are predicting you can pay it off over 25 years. When you invest in post-secondary education for your kids, you are predicting it will serve them well.”

He likened the long-term planning process to a voyage on a sailboat. First, you choose your destination, and then you plan accordingly. If you choose a tropical destination, your preparations will be very different than if you choose an arctic destination. “When you are about to leave the harbour, you have done some predicting – you have prepared as best you can – so that’s what we’re doing. We’re sitting at the harbour with a defined destination which last year’s AGM helped to set, and now we are trying to figure out how to engineer a successful voyage. You acknowledge that things can change, but it would not be wise to set out without making plans,” explained Anderson.

Anderson said the society is engaging in the long-term planning process because it has just received a 90-year licence on land with trees that take 80 to 100 years to grow. “It’s a resource that takes a long time to grow, so it would be reckless not to have a long-term plan.”

COMMUNITY

**The Candlelight and Cake event in Nakusp on November 25 was a wonderfully festive evening in downtown shops. At closing time, organizers Debra Rushfeldt of Prima Materia, Dawn Devlin of Re-Awakening and Nancy Bone of Evolution Boutique (missing: Heather Maxfield of Treasure Trove) drew names for the prizes of gift certificates for all four stores. Anne Beliveau and Nancy Bone were the lucky winners.**

**Christmas by the Lake**

Join us for our 3rd Annual Traditional European Style Christmas Market – Silverton Gallery -

Friday Dec 4th, 4pm to 8pm
- Illuminating and decorating of trees & community Caroling while enjoying traditional savories, sweets, and spirits

Saturday Dec 5th, 10am to 6pm
- Visit old fashioned European style wooden huts and experience the magic of craft-making
- Enjoy delicious European food and drinks
- Starting Saturday the Gallery will be open with local Kaslo artisans selling a variety of handmade quality gifts

Also featuring
- Ice and snow sculptures
- Homemade baked goods (Saturday)
- Santa of course and the Grinch too
- Dressing the old maple trees at Silverton
- Candle Ripping – Basket weaving
- Glass blower - Blacksmith
- Blaumack - Storytelling
- Silent Christmas over open fires

Silverton, BC
Dec. 4th to Dec. 6th 2009

Www.christmasbythelake.ca

Shuttle service from Nelson and Nakusp to Silverton:

Transit Bus from Nakusp to Silverton
- Leave Nakusp 11:00 am at ASLCS building
- Leave Hills 11:25 am from row mail box location
- Arrive in Silverton 11:45 am

Transit Bus from Nelson to Silverton
- Leave Nelson 11:00 am from bus stop at SaveOn Foods end of Chako Mika Mall
- Leave Playmour Junction 11:25 am from Polyburn Park and Tate bus shelter
- Leave Slocan Park Co-op 11:35 am
- Leave Passmore Lodge 11:40 am
- Leave Winlaw 11:50 am
- Leave Slocan City 12:15 pm from Bus shelter by Slocan Inn
- Arrive in Silverton 12:45 pm

Transit Bus from Silverton to Nakusp
- Leave Silverton 4:00 pm
- Leave Slocan City 4:30 pm
- Leave Winlaw 4:55 pm
- Leave Slocan Park 5:10 pm
- Leave Playmour Junction 5:20 pm
- Arrive in Nelson 5:45 pm

Transit Bus from Silverton to Nelson
- Leave Silverton 4:00 pm
- Leave Slocan City 4:30 pm
- Leave Winlaw 4:55 pm
- Leave Slocan Park 5:10 pm
- Leave Playmour Junction 5:20 pm
- Arrive in Nelson 5:45 pm

**New stock arriving**

Did you get your ‘Buff’ yet? Great Christmas stocking stuffer idea – over 20 styles to choose from.

Little Mountain, your community’s outdoor gear store for the whole family.

**Midnight Madness is on this Friday, Dec 4th from 6 to 9 pm – Up to 50% off on selected clothing line**

**Wild Moonlight Buys**

206 Broadway St, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0 • 250-265-2226

**The Candlelight and Cake event in Nakusp on November 25 was a wonderfully festive evening in downtown shops. At closing time, organizers Debra Rushfeldt of Prima Materia, Dawn Devlin of Re-Awakening and Nancy Bone of Evolution Boutique (missing: Heather Maxfield of Treasure Trove) drew names for the prizes of gift certificates for all four stores. Anne Beliveau and Nancy Bone were the lucky winners.**

**New stock arriving**

Did you get your ‘Buff’ yet? Great Christmas stocking stuffer idea – over 20 styles to choose from.

Little Mountain, your community’s outdoor gear store for the whole family.