by Kate Guthrie

Hours after the 7.3-magnitude earthquake shook Haiti on January 12, hundreds of survivors gathered in a field outside the Lifeline Christian Mission, 45 kilometres from Port-au-Prince. They gathered in a circle, held hands and sang. Twenty-six Kootenay residents joined them, including 17 students and three adults from Mt. Sentinel High.

“We’re a quiet society and they are not,” Cathy Spears reflected from the safety of her Krestova home last Thursday. As the parent volunteer on the high school trip, she was in Haiti with her twin 17-year-old sons, Owen and Skye.

“The Haitian people use music to support themselves,” said Don Warthe, teacher and group chaperone. The days that followed the earthquake were full of the sounds of praying, wailing and singing as people mourned deceased family members, ruined homes, hunger and devastation.

The earthquake hit Haiti less than an hour after the volunteers arrived on the island. “There was no way to stay standing,” said Owen Spears. “There was falling, smashing, screaming.”

People covered in dust walked through streets where few remained standing. Some people were showering; others were unpacking in their rooms of the Haiti Arise Mission. Skye Spears was outside, alone. “The locals started screaming and running away. I didn’t know what had happened, then realized it was an earthquake. I stayed outside and waited for everyone to come out [of the mission].”

The mission building was more solidly built than surrounding cinder block homes, Cathy Spears said. “It was a miracle.” Only Sue Rebitt, school nurse, was injured with a broken rib.

Although the building survived the quake, the group quickly bused inland to the Lifeline Mission. “There was a constant fear of something worse happening – a tsunami, an aftershock bigger than the initial earthquake,” Spears said. She described their bus ride away from Haiti Arise as being “one of the hardest things. I don’t want to lose the images but I want them to come only when I want them to... We were a bus of white people leaving the village. They were all reaching out to us, trying to hand us their children, crying for help.”

She said that the Mt. Sentinel group was in shock. “It was horrific.”

At Lifeline Mission, the group slept on 10 cots under a shelter. “We slept in a little pile,” Spears said. They set up cots around their mattresses to protect them in case the roof collapsed during an aftershock. Standing on the trembling earth “was like standing on an air mattress in a pool,” Spears said. “It doesn’t make sense.”

Owen said that the Haitians spent most of their days gathering wood to rebuild their homes, but people were in a state of limbo because they had heard that a bigger quake was coming. The Mt. Sentinel group spent most of their time in the Lifeline Mission compound. The smell of bodies, burning garbage and sewage permeated the air. Many people smeared toothpaste under their noses to mask the stench.

 Spears was the only parent on the trip. “It was a long time before I let my boys go beyond 500 metres of me. I made them sleep one on either side of me.” She said that she hugged the students when she thought that they needed it and checked in with them when they were separate from the group.

The group went to Haiti as their final field trip in a semester-long ‘Quest for Community’ academy program. “They’ve been together a long time,” Spears said. “They were strong and really supportive of each other, even before this.”

Quest for Community was designed by teachers Don Warthe, who was on the Haiti trip, and Ruby Peppard, who has since transferred from Mt. Sentinel. “It’s a social justice academy,” Warthe said, “to learn how to establish and maintain viable and sustainable communities.”

In Haiti, the students intended to learn about the Haitian community and the community at the Haiti Arise Ministry. “They fundraised and paid to have a well drilled” because we asked them what they wanted and they said they needed fresh, clean water,” they also planned to build a goat fence and to give workshops on dental and other hygiene, English, weaving and more. “We were in no way going to try and save the Haitian people,” Warthe emphasized. “We were going to learn from them and help them on a project they asked for.”

The group brought 34 totes filled with hats, clothes and dental supplies. “I asked them what they wanted and they asked for.”

They arrived by way of a Canadian Forces aircraft. “We want to thank everyone,” Warthe said, “from the Haitians, to the government, Canadian military, school board, our friends and neighbours. We have felt so supported.”

At Lifeline, Spears finally got access to the internet and sought her daughter on Facebook. She was amazed to find hundreds of messages of hope, love and support there. “I was sobbing,” she said, “trying to type and read at the same time. The students were so excited to hear there was a group on Facebook. It was a lifetime.” She posted that the group was safe but needed help. She encouraged people to call their MP and MLA. “Doing that on our status made it spread like wildfire.”

The students plan to begin fundraising immediately to support Haiti. “It’s really hard to imagine how they’re going to rebuild,” Skye said. At the mission, the elementary school, technical institute and partially built goat fence all collapsed in the earthquake.

“There’s a crazy amount of aid,” said Skye, and his mom was quick to add, “but it’s not enough.” Skye spoke of the politics behind aid decisions. “There’s no consensus about what is needed where. It’s very political.” One good thing about the Kootenay group being there, Spears said, was that “it brought the area a little bit of extra attention.”

“Their spirit is their hope,” Skye said. “I am amazed that they put their faith in something so strongly,” Owen added. “They have so much hope.”

This photo of the Mt. Sentinel group in Haiti was taken just before they left the country to return to Canada. Back row, L to R: Cathy Spears, Jodie Biggs, Cam Fraser, Elijah Leister, Nicole Amos, Bryden Cheml, Rachel Thropp, Blake Ouvet, Aubrey Bel, Ryan Ricton, Kate Wayfing, Margaux Toppin, Owen Spears. Front row, L to R: Jon Couture, Skye Spears, Don Warthe, Sage Fouquet, Brooklyn Marais, Kyler Peregolink.
Mountain caribou recovery takes a step forward with snowmobile clubs

Mountain caribou recovery takes a step forward with snowmobile clubs. The Province's Mountain Caribou project, as part of the Mountain Caribou Project, a regional project addressing caribou, goat and wolf populations, has received support from two snowmobile clubs. The Trout Lake and Meadow Creek snowmobile clubs have committed to monitoring areas of the caribou’s habitat to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

The clubs are responsible for providing snowmobiling information to the Province and are expected to support the public’s role in monitoring. The clubs will work with the Province and the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan to ensure the success of the recovery efforts. The clubs have agreed to a code of conduct and are expected to provide a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling experience for the public.

The clubs have also been asked to provide feedback to the Province on the success of the snowmobiling regulations. The Province is committed to monitoring the effectiveness of the regulations and will work with the clubs to ensure they are meeting the needs of the public.

Public comments wanted on rail trail extension to Summit Lake

The Valley Voice

by Jan McMurray

The rail trail from Three Forks to Kaslo was extended to Summit Lake, as long as the public supports it. The RDCCK has applied for a new railway permit to extend the rail line property when the CPR released it 20 years ago. The Province is accepting comments from the public until February 24. For more information, please contact the RDCCK at 358-2660.

MAX Mine plans for mine expansion

by Art Joyce

Roca Mines held an open house in Nakusp the evening of January 15 to discuss its expansion plans and receive public comments on its application for an amendment to its existing permit. The plans are expected to increase daily production from the mine to around $10 in the stock crash of 2008 (now at $15). The open houses were held in Nakusp, Trout Lake and Meadow Creek to receive feedback on the plans. The public can submit comments on the application until February 24.

The plans for the expansion of the mine include the construction of a new tailing pond to accommodate the increased production. The mine is expected to increase production by 20% to 25% over the next five years. The expansion will require the construction of a new road to transport the increased amount of material from the site.

The RDCCK and the Province have applied for an exemption from the Environmental Assessment Act to proceed with the expansion plans. The RDCCK will hold a meeting on the plans on February 24. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting and submit comments on the plans.

The expansion of the mine is expected to create 150 jobs and generate $2.5 million in annual revenue. The expansion will also require an additional one million hectares of land for mining operations. The RDCCK and the Province are working together to ensure that the expansion does not negatively impact the environment and the surrounding communities.

The expansion plans will be reviewed by the RDCCK’s Environmental Assessment Office and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The RDCCK will also hold a meeting to discuss the plans with the public and receive feedback.

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Slocan Park residents disappointed with Forest Practices Board report

by Jan McMurray

The Forest Practices Board has issued its report on the complaint received from a group of Slocan Park residents about British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) cutblocks in Slocan Park. The complainants, some who belong to the Slocan Park CARE (Community Action for Responsible Ecology) Society, are disappointed with the reports.

“We are disappointed because BCTS and the licencees are meeting the legal requirements, but the real problems are the deception and vagueness when compared to the old Forest Practices Code,” said Kirsten Olsen, chair of the Slocan Park CARE Society. The Forest Practices Code was replaced with the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) in 2004.

“We are happy that the report identifies that the Code and FRPA do not address these issues. They also do not address this new, public accountability for the public and more for industry now under FRPA, but the Forest Practices Board has neither the authority nor the will to effect meaningful changes to government legislation,” asserted Olsen.

Olsen says that she appreciates the work of the FPB, but that it became apparent to her during this process that the board is not really an independent watchdog for sound forest practices.

“I think it is important that I first call them – I thought they were more than they actually are – it is disappointing,” she said.

The residents were also disappointed that five of their concerns were not addressed in the report, especially the concern that BCTS did not consult with the Slinht First Nation about the operation that became planning needs to be re-assessed due to the effects of climate change.

“It is within their jurisdiction to investigate any potential conflict with First Nations, so if they were a strong independent organization, they would help enforce the duty to consult with the Slinht First Nation about the operation that became planning needs to be re-assessed due to the effects of climate change.

As for the climate change issue, the FPB stated there was no need to investigate this, as the Ministry of Forests was examining how climate change may affect forest policy and regulation. “By the time current provincial government examines how climate change may affect forest policy and regulation there will be no forests left to examine,” Olsen said.

The complaining’s concerns that the FPB addressed in the report were that BCTS did not consult with them effectively; that the logging would impact water supply, terrain stability, visual quality and fire risk; and that the logging operations would not be monitored.

The board found that BCTS met the legal requirements for public consultation but that communication between BCTS and Slocan Park residents was ineffective. The local BCTS office, in response to the complaint, has decided that it will now advertise its operating plans in local newspapers, send notification letters to nearby water licensees, adjacent private landowners and other known stakeholders, and post their operating plan maps on a BCTS website. This public referral process will allow for a 30-day comment period.

Olsen says the group is happy about “those minor improvements,” but points out that the 30-day comment period on operational plans used to be required under the Code and is no longer required under FRPA. Slocan Park residents would like to see these more rigorous requirements for public consultation back in the legislation.

Olsen added that the group is waiting to see if these new policies of the local Office will be meaningful and effective. She points out that they were not in effect to benefit the residents living near the Mt. Sentinel BCTS logging operation. “We’ll see if it works when Perry Ridge comes up for sale,” she commented.

The FPB found that the assessments done for terrain stability, visual quality and hydrosystems, and the recommendations in those reports to minimize risks, were reasonable. The report points out that licencees and BCTS were not required to do assessments under FRPA, but they are expected to make competent stewardship decisions and are responsible for the impacts of their decisions. The press release issued by the FPB about this report states: “The investigation also found that appropriate assessments were carried out and concluded that the likelihood of negative impacts to water quality and viewscapes, and the likelihood of landslides occurring, are all low.”

Olsen has written to the FPB to ask them to re-word this sentence on the grounds that it is inaccurate and misleading. She says it is inaccurate to say the risks are “low” because the Terrain Stability Assessment done on one of the cutblocks (cutblock 1) states that some risks remain moderate even after careful and detailed review, and the recommendations made in the report to minimize risk. She says it is misleading to say that “appropriate assessments were carried out” because a TSA was not done on cutblocks 1 and 2 until after the timber sale had been awarded and the public made it clear they felt the TSA was necessary. Because the post-sale TSA makes several recommendations to reduce risks, the residents feel that appropriate assessments were not carried out in a timely fashion.

Even though the report states that the licencees has agreed to follow all of the recommendations in the post-sale TSA, the society would like to see this in writing, in the form of a legal document. “We were hoping the FPB would take on the responsibility of getting that document in place, but they didn’t,” said Olsen. The group has made a Freedom of Information request to see if such a document exists, and if not, to ask that it be drawn up. She says the Freedom of Information office has passed on the request, but does not have the legal authority to order that the formal agreement be made.

The group has also made an inquiry to the Freedom of Information office about Ministry of Forests plans for the area above the BCTS cutblocks. “They are relying on the fact that these blocks are in the lower drainage areas of a much larger watershed, but what is the ministry planning for up above that?” She says the group has asked for that information a couple of times but has had no response, so they have made a Freedom of Information request through FOI and should have a response soon, definitely before March 1.

Other efforts the society is making to ensure responsible logging and accountability from the industry include working with West Coast Environmental Law and with MLA Perry Tootoo on the development of an NDP policy that supports sound forestry practices, including no logging in domestic watersheds and a ban on raw log exports. Olsen said the group would no doubt have public, peaceful demonstrations to raise awareness, as well.

It is interesting to note that the FPB report states logging in domestic watersheds has been a common source of complaints, but that the board has found the risk to water appears to be well within reasonable and quite low.

As far as monitoring the logging goes, BCTS has offered to conduct joint inspections with Slocan Park residents. Both BCTS and the Arrow Boundary Forest District will be monitoring the work separately, and BCTS has made a commitment to mitigate any impacts resulting from the operation.

The report concludes: “By all indications in this investigation, BCTS and the licensee are doing the right things to minimize the risk of impacts to the residents of Slocan Park. However, a number of the complainants are still very concerned about what might happen. Therefore, the Board invites the complainants to contact us should they see any negative impacts resulting from the approved harvesting and road building, and we will investigate the results on the ground.”
Notice to Michael Ignatieff and Jack Layton

If you do not demand that parliament be recalled according to the prudent interim schedule that was in place when the House recessed you will be viewed as actually supporting the undemocratic prorogue, and you will be giving Mr. Harper carte- blanche to rule by wret and without majority consent.

You must approach the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House, the Governor General, and if necessary the Supreme Court, and demand the prorogue be overturned. It does not matter if you are successful or not. What matters is that you be seen by the majority of Canadians as having the courage of your convictions.

Any other tack will be viewed as an attempt by you to use the anti-prorogue sentiment for partisan political purposes! Hence you will be viewed as being no better than Mr. Harper and his party!

Mr. Harper is in contempt of parliament. You need to thoroughly prosecute for that!

We already know what sort of leader Mr. Harper is! We need to know what sort of leaders you are.

We the Canadian people will not support you!

Will Webster
Kaslo

Which school is more important?

School closures are a hot topic right now. In School District 20, there are differing viewpoints on how the city council is viewing and supporting the schools. Other schools are supported by their own City councils.

Finally, Councillor Duff says, "critiquing the SD 20 now is premature." Why is it that March 2, 2009 when council received "Planning for the Future" document council voiced concern over maintenance of the maintenance yard and possible changes of online learning, but not school closures or student movements.

I want to council to show more support for Castlegar.

Deb Bayoff
Slocan Park

Second millenium, second decade – Jumbo wrap-up

Happy New Year 2020. As the first decade of the second millennium comes to a close, let us remember that the major headlines concerned global climate change – global warming. That weather trend continued, and continues to this day.

As the new decade opened we found the BC government and the City of Castlegar in conflict over mining. The City’s mission statement states: “The City of Castlegar is committed to a positive environment which encourages a sense of community pride and provides opportunities for meaningful involvement of all citizens, community groups and levels of government.” Wouldn’t this include regular dialogue with the community about mining and other issues?

Councillors agree as reported, "We’re not going to finger-point and rant and rave and bully our way to getting what we want." They say, "It’s tough to watch other municipalities participating in political bullying." For the record, I would like to know specifically who they think is doing the bullying and exactly what they consider to be “bullying.”

The City’s mission statement also states they are committed to “insuring the community’s vibrant future.” Although admirable they reported “concern about all schools in the district.” I would like to see them more important in Castlegar’s schools. Other schools are supported by their own City councils.

School District # 10 (Walter Posnikoff, Gary Groot and Pattie Adam) provided space/construction services and above all, moral support.

The Nakusp and Area Community Foundation provided funds to purchase the first batch of equipment.

I just want to say thanks to the above-mentioned groups. I know how much time and effort went in to licensing, building and maintaining the radio station on volunteer time.

I wish the Nakusp Music Fest Society all the best and hope they continue to sponsor our community and youth as the people mentioned above did.

Stephen Marks
Nakusp

School’s ‘no touch’ policy does not serve the kids

My youngest child graduated from high school in 1998, so I am out of the loop when it comes to doings in the local school system. But recently I found out that Nakusp Elementary has become a “no-touch” school.

“I beg your pardon!” I heard it right. The school is a no-touch school. There is a ban on touching.

No friendly hugs, no hand-holding, no high-fiving, no pats on the back. Even playing tug is against the rules.

Apparently we need measures to deal with bullying and inappropriate gropings. But no touch at all?

In the name of any common sense, what kind of hyper-sensitized member of the psychology industry comes up with this nonsense?

Touch is a natural part of life. Learning to manage it is a part of education, at home or in school.

Children need to learn the difference between appropriate touch and inappropriate touch.

They need to learn to distinguish between a friendly tackle and a vicious assault.

They need to learn when an arm around their shoulders is OK and when it is not.

They need to learn to respect their own boundaries and those of others. This is a life-long process that will never have 100% clear rules. All a school can do is make a start.

How can they learn to come from an unnatural no-touch-ever rule?

I look forward to a vigorous discussion on this topic.

Ivan van Houten
Nakusp

Beware of galvanized water pipes

Recently in the Voices from the valleys section I have read about concerns regarding impairment from corrosion and radiation and of course the present issue of legalization marijuana.

Plastic in water is a hot topic today.

The many valid health concerns are varied and complex to say the least.

However, there is a much greater health risk residing in many houses throughout BC and very present here in our communities – the release of contaminants such as lead, cadmium and zinc, in our household water, leaching from galvanized water pipes, especially older pipes.

Galvanized pipe is from the mid 1800s and was used extensively until 40-50 years ago when it was discovered that the leaching had serious health hazards.

This product and solids containing lead were banned in 1998 for use in potable water.

Lead is a killer. Lead in foods and drinking water has been associated with a wide variety of physical and mental disorders ranging from impairment of basic neurological processes, the gastrointestinal system, the blood forming process, the reproductive processes of both men and women and kidney functions. The young and unborn are at most risk.

Don’t blame the City water supplier. Lead in water is a result of the natural occurrence of the chemical in the source waters of our community’s water supplies. Galvanized pipe and lead solder joints on copper plumbing in residential and commercial buildings are the major source of lead contamination.

The release of lead from these sources is due to the corrosive action of water, which dissolves small amounts of lead from the plumbing materials. The amount of lead dissolved from pipes depends on the ‘aggressiveness’ or corrosiveness of the water, the contact time between the water and the plumbing, and the age of the plumbing.

Make no mistake – if a corroded pipe is in your water supply it will inevitably cause serious health issues. Leading the list is the use of galvanized steel water pipe.

So, what can you do about it? First, check your house piping and your water main. If it is galvanized it is probably the original pipe and the same age as the building. This is where galvanized is most dangerous. The older the pipe continued on page 5
Support the Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail

I would like to encourage those interested in securing the historic CPR corridor between Rosebery and Summit Lake as a public recreation trail to respond positively to the request for comments that opened on page 2 your last issue [and page 2 of this issue].

After two lengthy rounds of public consultation over the past ten years, the RDCK board has applied to the Province to manage this area as a regional park.

The railbed was built from Nakusp in the 1890s as the CPR raced against the K&S to the first to reach Slocan. Both screeched to a standstill in 1895, the CPR two months before the K&S.

The rail corridor hugs the Slocan shoreline from Rosebery to Hills, passes above Bonanza Marsh and wetlands, and then follows Bonanza Creek to Summit Lake. The lake section passes by several small, secluded beaches and the flat terrain and fantastic views of the Valhallas along the way. The creek section runs along the most important kokanee spawning habitat in the Slocan Lake through the historic railway artefacts, and features terrific mountain and creek scenery. It also provides habitat for many mammals and birds, including elk and moose, grizzly and black bears, cougar and lynx, mallard and white-tailed deer, beavers, bald eagles, great blue herons, great-horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, and dipper within the creek itself.

The proposed regional park trail would connect directly to the Galena Trail in Rosebery, but management rules and access may be different. The RDCK board passed both resolutions from the first public consultations that should contribute to comments that appeared on calls for an impact assessment of human recreational use on plants, fish, and other animals, with recommendations on how to limit damage. The board calls for working closely with stakeholders on issues associated with multi-use.

The recently completed Hills Community Recreation Survey shows the mix of feelings around use of this trail section. The vast majority of reported use is non-motorized, and only 23% of respondents support motorized-use outright while 41% are against it.

Another 35% support motorized use with conditions such as speed/noise controls and a locals only policy. The survey results reflect a neighbourly desire to accommodate one another, along with a strong will to retain the peace and seclusion the corridor offers and to protect the natural habitat for users.

The Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail is already widely used by locals, so the survey results reflect how popular they can become once established and publicized. It is important that management options consider the added impacts of increased use. Area H Director Walter Popoff has committed to seeking community input regarding these decisions.

The first step then, is securing the rail corridor as a public asset. Currently it is deterioration rapidly with water and other natural activity, and it is at risk of becoming fragmented under pressure for land development. So, see the January 13 issue of the Valley Voice, page 2, (also available online at www.valleymedia.ca) for issue, page 2 direction on securing the rail corridor and protecting this beautiful and historic section of trail long into the future.

Deadline for comments is February 24.

Richard Fox

In my past, and I am an alcoholic in my present as a police officer seen violence or did anything but make me sick!

marijuana is not separated from alcohol, and the number of lives taken because of marijuana. You are totally missing its people!

I have been smoking marijuana since I was 15 years old. It is the most beneficial plants in the world!

marijuana and health, and realize that is because it is too lucrative for organized crime. How else can they be non-motorized, are they still able to do what they need to, in order to keep their club moving forward?

I truly hope you will reconsider making it legal, when it is one of the most beneficial plants in the world!

I know the Hills Nordic Club also uses a snowmobile to pull a cross-country skier. If this trail is to be non-motorized, they will not be able to do what they need to, to keep the club moving forward?

- Since this grade travels through the ALR and borders many private properties, I feel it is the responsibility of whoever wanted to speak and responded to our concerns. No solutions were offered, but there were explanations why our needs were not addressed and assurances that our issues would be taken into consideration.

- It is comforting to feel you are being heard when, for years, letters, positions, and requests sent to BC Transit went unanswered and unacknowledged.

- Only one promise was made: to publish the information acquired through the public forums and the surveys.

- So ... has anybody heard?

Fran O’Rourke

More on marijuana

Will Verizon (‘War on pot is over,’ Dec. 16) misinterpret the policy of legalized marijuana? Verizon prohibition has never had anything to do with public safety; it is all about control.

Prohibition gives police all the power they need to harass the poor, the young, people of colour, and people with non-regulation haircuts.

Look at countries like the US, where the War On Certain Plants has been Uprooting plants for years. A handful of people are getting very wealthy from this policy, and it has been a huge success.

Chris Ellis (“Prohibition of marijuana is a colossal failure,” Jan. 13) is right about prohibition being stupid, but the notion that anyone anywhere could possibly go to jail for using or producing or selling any amount of cannabis is absurd and insane. Junk food kills many times more Canadians each year than all illegal drugs combined, and marijuana – which does have some negative applications – is yet to kill a single person in all of history. Pot should have no greater restrictions than alcohol or tobacco: 19 in 20 use it.

As for things like sugar, caffeine, ‘energy drinks’ and fatty foods – things that kill people in droves – they should also be classified and taxed like alcohol.

Russell Barth

Educators for Sensible Drug Policy

New Denver

Waiting for BC Transit survey results

I would like to know if anyone has heard any more about the Grand BC Transit Plan?

Way back in the fall, so long ago I can’t remember the date, I attended a public forum on the East Shore to discuss our vision of what BC transit should be. More than a dozen interested citizens braved a particularly dark and rainy night to attend the hastily arranged meeting despite the lack of official notice, slightly more than the community gym crowd.

We expressed two particular interests. We need, and were assured many months ago we would get, some form of transit service to a clinic that was ‘centralized.’ This is particularly important to the community of Riondel, where a large number of elders and people with disabilities rely on BC transit to the previous clinic. (Please note the transit forum was also ‘centralized,’ effectively excluding these interested potential riders.)

The second issue is for us the need to coordinate bus schedules with the ferry schedule. This would allow us to park at the east landing and ride on the other side. While an arrangement has been made that gets us there, nothing yet exists for the return trip. This would be an economic boon to the region in the way of coordinating other commuter opportunities.

The lack of planning and preparation for the meeting was not encouraging for those of us who wanted to speak and responded to our concerns. No solutions were offered, but there were explanations why our needs were not addressed and assurances that our issues would be taken into consideration.

It is comforting to feel you are being heard when, for years, letters, positions, and requests sent to BC Transit went unanswered and unacknowledged.

- Only one promise was made: to publish the information acquired through the public forums and the surveys.

- So ... has anybody heard?

Fran O’Rourke

Riondel
Silverton council, January 19: Grant
by Jan McMurray
• Council received an email from Ralf Waters of WSA Engineering asking if the Village would like the firm to apply for a grant for a municipal geothermal feasibility study. Waters says there is a $10,000 grant available, with a deadline of January 27. The firm could do a detailed study for $15,000, requiring a $5,000 contribution from the Village, or it could do a cursory study for $5,000, which would be covered by the grant funding.

Council voted to ask WSA to apply for the detailed study, with the Village contribution coming out of gas tax funds. The Village currently has $20,000 in gas tax money, which can only be spent on ‘green’ projects.

Councillor Barber was opposed. He wondered if it was necessary to spend $5,000 of Village funds on a feasibility study when council had not had much discussion on the geothermal idea. He indicated that he would be happier with the cursory study, which would be totally paid for with the grant. Chairman Mainie, speaking in favour, said the detailed study would look at the range of possibilities of heating one, two, three, four or more buildings and/or houses in the Village. She pointed out that most Village-owned buildings are heated with electricity or oil, and the council is skyrocketching.

• Councillor Barber asked if there would be an open meeting when council had not had much study when council had not had much experience.”

New Denver Sustainable Community Plan
Notice of Public Meeting
Where: Knox Hall in New Denver
When: 7 pm, Thursday, February 11, 2010
All people interested in learning about the New Denver Sustainable Community Plan being developed are invited. We are seeking community input and insights into how the final plan will look.

Anyone interested in completing a survey or who has questions can contact the Village office at 250-358-2316 or newdenver@neildea.com
Nakusp council, January 12: Grant for boundary expansion study denied

by Art Joyce

CAO Bob Lafleur read from a report on electronic meetings prepared for council by consultant Ken Pedder. He concluded that using digital tiles instead of paper council packages “will require a significant amount of staff time to scan and file,” and that therefore the net savings to council would be negligible. Council voted not to proceed with electronic meetings.

• Councillor Leitch reported for the Nakusp and Area Community Forest that the board has requested a waiver of its AGM and a waiver of the appointment of an auditor for the current financial year of the company. Leitch said this is to facilitate a separate meeting with council to present its annual financial statement.

• The Village has received posting plans and appraisal for Canyon Developments. CAO Lafleur will forward this information to the Integrated Land Management office for approval and can proceed with transfer of ownership.

• Permit tax exemptions and repair of the Village parade float was deferred to budget discussions, with a meeting scheduled February 2.

• Bylaw 614-6, 2009 to amend zoning bylaw 614 by providing regulations for steel containers was given first reading and final adoption, pending a public hearing scheduled for January 26.

• CAO Lafleur said he has received comments from the Ministry of Health Living and Sport on council’s proposed amendments to smoking and anti-idling Bylaw 623-2009. The ministry has asked council to remove anything requiring the provincial government to enforce the bylaw since they do not have the enforcement officers. The Administrator has re-drafted the bylaw accordingly. Council voted to defer to the next council meeting.

• Council voted for final adoption of Bylaw 479-15, 2009, the sewer rates amending bylaw.

• Bylaw 463-13, 2009, water rates amending bylaw – the public works foreman did not provide info requested and has asked for deferment to the next meeting. CAO Lafleur said the bylaw vote can only be deferred once more since rates notices must go out in February.

• Bylaw 496-4, for snow clearance received final adoption.

• The first three readings were given to Bylaw 625, 2009, to establish a heritage commission to complement the heritage registry. The mayor will appoint four persons from the public and one councillor to the commission. A heritage registry meeting will be held at the courthouse February 18, 5-7 p.m.

• The Municipal Security Issuing Resolutions, to repay the balance owing on the loan used to purchase the hot springs, was discussed. Interim Treasurer Barry McLean advised that council apply to the Municipal Finance Authority for a $50,000 loan to cover the balance and service charges.

• The old fire hall property has been listed for sale at $339,000. Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH), which owns adjacent properties, has right of first refusal.

• Council chamber renovations should be completed by January 14.

Nakusp council, January 12: Grant for boundary expansion study denied

by Art Joyce

CAO Bob Lafleur read from a report on electronic meetings prepared for council by consultant Ken Pedder. He concluded that using digital tiles instead of paper council packages “will require a significant amount of staff time to scan and file,” and that therefore the net savings to council would be negligible. Council voted not to proceed with electronic meetings.

La Cafamore puts on shining performance

by Cedra Eichenauer

La Cafamore String Quartet played the Bonnington in Nakusp on Saturday, January 23. Competing with an unseasonably brilliant light, the quartet drew a small but enthusiastic audience – and they put on a shining performance. All four musicians live in the West Kootenays and are members of the Symphony of the Kootenays.

The members of this group skillfully play together as one. In their black attire, unassuming, and using minimal motion, they brought to the audience the true spirit of the Nakusp Library and CBT launch project

The Nakusp Public Library and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy are celebrating Family Literacy Day with the launch of a Books Everywhere. Bins of books and magazines will be placed at popular spots around town, and everyone is invited to read them there or take them anywhere and everywhere.

The first item on the program was Haydn’s String Quartet in D major, Op. 64 #5 ‘The Lark.’ Josette Laforge played first violin. This piece highlighted the sound and beauty of the ensemble as it span each instrument as it took up the melody, as it soared and dips, dances and sings.

The second offering shifted the mood. Ravel’s String Quartet in F major. Carolyn Cameron took her seat as first violin. The tone of this piece moved between slow and sombre, and fast and breathless, with its passages of smoothly moving notes and pizzicato that simultaneously strummed and plucked occasionally with cello occassion strummed their instruments during this piece, providing another contrast in texture. The audience was whirled along, visiting each instrument by cello occassion strummed their instruments during this piece, providing another contrast in texture. The audience was whirled along, visiting each instrument as it took up the melody and passed it on.

After a short encore, the musicians stayed on stage to meet with audience members, who were eager to speak with them. We hope they will return.

For more books, movies, comments invited on BCTS submitted

The public is invited to review comments on BC Timbers Sales’ operating plan for logging and road building in the Arrow timber supply area (TSA) and tree farm license 23 until March 17. The operating plan provides detailed information on proposed logging and road construction activities and meets requirements as outlined in the approved 2006-2011 forest stewardship plan for the Arrow Boundary forest district. The plan includes information on proposed logging in the following areas: West Whatshan Lake, Worthington Creek, Eagle Creek, Carbin Creek, Halfway River, Dog Quinn Creek, Pete/Swift Creek, Little McPhee Creek, Lead Creek, Woodchuck Creek and Sheep Creek.

Interested members of the public can also make appointments to view the plan until March 17 during regular business hours, Monday to Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm, at Kootenay Lake Forestry Centre, Nelson (call Sean Simmon at 250-825-1100).

Nakusp Hot Springs IS FOR SALE!

An extremely rare asset has now been placed on the market by the Village of Nakusp. An established Hot Spring Facility, located in the heart of the Kootenays.

The Nakusp Hot Springs encompasses some 145 acres with a recently updated hot and warm pool, 30 plus camp sites and facilities including the licenses for the source water. The property is listed at $2.9 Million – reflected from a very current appraisal.

After February 15th, the facility will be listed with Colliers International.

Please visit our web site (nakusp.com) and click on the picture of the Hot Springs for an overview. A power point is available that provides the history of the Springs as well as details of the recent upgrade, people count, ownership and financial information etc.

For further information, please contact Bob Lafleur, CAO at blafleur@nakusp.com or call 250-265-3689
New Denver council, January 12: Council supports sculpture project

COMMUNITY

by Michael Dorsey

Hidden Garden Gallery’s Martha Nichols appeared as a delegate to speak on the proposed Toni Fujiyashita sculpture. Nichols read a statement by the artist outlining funding and his excitement about the project. Fujiyashita, 68 years old, was interned and lived in Slocan, and hopes to have the statue ready for the Hidden Garden Gallery’s 10th Anniversary on July 18, 2010. Although the final design has not been established, Fujiyashita will model a statue of the statue for approval by council and the HGG. The full-size statue will be 4 x 4 x 7 ft, and will weigh approximately one ton. Fujiyashita and another patron will donate the marble, a value of $14,000. Fujiyashita is asking council to donate site preparation (to be located at the foot of the main street), transport of the finished piece from Nakusp, and construction of part of the base, which may also include marble.

Council moved to support the project with work-in-kind, transport, and base construction.

• The Phase 1 draft of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is available at the Village office. A public meeting will be held at Knox Hall on February 11 to discuss implications. Mayor Wright noted that council will have to wait for the Spring 2010 provincial budget to know if the $350,000 for the Dunsmuir Avenue will have to augment resources for this.
• Rev. George K. Meier wrote to council regarding future use of the Zion United Church property for a Community Food Production Demonstration Garden now that the church main building has been removed. He queried whether the property is zoned for such a use, or if a variance or re-zoning would be necessary. The matter was referred to staff for a response.
• Council discussed the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the Nikkei Centre’s National Historic Site status, and moved to purchase such an item, with text to be written in Japanese and English. The cost is subject to final approval.
• Council approved the donation and planting of a tree in Centennial Park in memory of Barry Lamare. Sally Lamare will meet with council and staff to make plans for tree plantings and arrangements.
• Regarding the Hills Recreation Society request by Ellen Kinsel for additional outside water taps at the rear of the new washroom in Centennial Park for the Garlic Festival, staff reported that Public Works would need to investigate, as the sani-dump, two septic tanks and a main sewer line run through the building. Staff will return the Public Works report to council.
• A request by Loren Oldham was approved to rent Knox Hall to the Community Gamers’ Club at a group meeting. An agreement form will facilitate computer gaming regular events for local residents.
• The Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw Amendment (Bylaw No. 644, 2010) was referred to staff.
• The Capital Asset Policy was passed with two abstentions. Comments included that further consultation with the public would be necessary on some issues.
• A letter was received from Burgin Jacobs regarding a footbridge over Carpenter Creek. Staff reported that this item is in the OCP, and staff will inform.
• Accounts Payable of $86,441.89 General Revenue and $33,935.37 Water were approved.

Slocan council, January 11: Development Permit Area created for multi-family residential

by Laura J. Craig

• Council adopted an amendment to the Official Community Plan that had been approved for multi-family residential development in Slocan. This means that anyone wanting to develop multi-family residential units in Slocan would have to apply for a development permit at a fee of $200. Development permits are a tool commonly used by local governments to ensure that new development does not have a negative impact on, or be out of character with, existing neighbourhoods. The developer will be required to include detailed plans with the development permit application. Development permits are granted by council resolution.
• During public participation, one resident asked that public participation be moved further down on the agenda to allow for public questions and comments on issues that may arise during the council meeting. Council will consider this and have a decision for next month’s council meeting.
• Another request during public participation was for council to consider moving a washroom on a former location at the outdoor skating rink to provide more room for children to put on their skates. Potential places to move the washroom were suggested.
• The library survey will be prepared by the library committee and sent out to village residents with the next newsletter. Mayor Perriere suggested several different drop boxes be located around town to encourage participation.
• An amendment to the Fees bylaw was passed to include the $200 fee for development permit applications. This amendment bylaw also reduces the number of garbage bags permitted for removal from each property in the Village will pick up from two to one. The fee remains the same, but covers only one bag per week. This change was made because of requests at the transfer station have increased.
• Bylaw Enforcement Policy No. 2010-001 was adopted. The policy outlines that nonuisance behaviour will be dealt with in compliance with Village bylaws before initiating enforcement action. Enforcement action will begin when the Village receives two written complaints within a six-month period, or when the Village becomes aware of a violation that could be harmful to the citizens or a liability to the Village. Complaint details will be given to alleged violators, but the complainant’s name will be withheld unless required during any ensuing legal process.

The council adopted a $750 grant-in-aid for the West Kootenay Community Service Society to cover operating expenses.

• Staff was directed to draft a new Terms of Reference for the Fitness Centre Management Committee, to be considered by council at the next regular meeting.

• The Public Works supervisor presented a letter from Berry Lamare. A part-time employee has been hired to help when full-time employees are on leave. The new employee is currently being trained and “is catching on quick.”

The new septic system installation is complete and is providing a functional washroom in the Public Works shop.

Changing weather conditions this winter has kept the crews busy maintaining roads and walkways.

Cougars sightings on the rise – one cougar destroyed in Slocan Valley

by Ian McMurray

Reports of cougar sightings in the area are up this year, and Conservation Officer Arnold Deboon reported that they had to destroy one cougar in Valkican on January 22 after a killed three sheep. Deboon said one of the reasons sightings are up is that the actual number of cougars is up. “Cougars that are in places where people encounter them are more likely younger ones competing for territory, so they are occupying less desirable areas for cougars – they are being forced into these areas by bigger cats,” he said.

The cougar that was killed in Valkican was a two-and-a-half-year-old male that bore scars and wounds that were indicative of a territorial dispute with another cougar, reported Deboon. When asked why the cougar population is up, Deboon answered, “We have a healthy population of deer and other cougar prey species, so the females have more kits because there is adequate food. After two years, when they are chased off by the mother they need to find their own territory and the best territory is already taken.”

Deboon said there has been more than one sighting in the Nakusp area, as well.

He asks people to report cougar sightings by calling 1-877-952-7277. “We don’t respond to all sightings most we don’t – but if we continue to get sightings in an area, especially around a school or school bus stop, we are more inclined to come and deal with the cougar. If or if there is happened on domestic stock, we usually respond quickly to make sure the farmer doesn’t lose more stock.”

Deboon said that if you encounter a cougar, do not turn your back and run. “That makes the person behave like a prey species,” he said. It is best to watch the cougar and back away from it. “Make yourself look large – get a stick and raise it above your head and tell the cougar to go away,” he advised.

Nuisance bears hunt at times of low light – overnight and in the early morning – and they use cover and concealment.

“For the most part, cougars are not dangerous to humans, but they are unpredictable and there have been attacks, so people should be aware and cautious.”
**Kaslo Community Forest holds public vote on long-term vision**

*by Art Joyce*

“Kaslo may not be "so bright you gotta wear shades" but in Kaslo the community forest isn’t leaving it to chance. The public was invited to a meeting January 14 with the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) to hear four scenarios for the future and vote on which one will most help directors do long-range planning.

Steve Anderson introduced the meeting by saying, “Why engage in long-term planning? The short answer: trees take 100 years to grow. The consequences and results will show up way down the road. We want to improve the resource, not deplete it, to leave something to our kids and grandkids that’s an asset, not a liability.”

KDCFS directors hired Glorioso, Moss and Associates last year to sift through political, social and environmental factors and draft four scenarios that could unfold in the next 50 years. Based on this, the board will formulate a strategy to guide five-year forest management strategies, along with a monitoring and evaluation system.

Consultants Laurie Moss and Romella Glorioso had to analyze both external and internal strengths and weaknesses that could affect the community forest. The prime factor is climate change and its effects on the ability of certain tree species to grow. The second policy response by governments, public response in adapting to sustainability, and the subsequent effects on the economy as well as migration for amenity, economic or climate refugees. If the economy tanks as a result of decisions made, this could affect public will to move forward with sustainability, which in turn would affect the climate, and so on. Even the potential legalization of marijuana and its effect on land use is factored into the equation. Anderson noted that the discussion over carbon credits has included the revolutionary idea that in the future a community forest may be paid to grow rather than cut trees. Societal values change – a key factor – entails a shift in use of earth’s resources without compromising the needs of future generations.

The four scenarios are titled A - “slowly forward,” B - “getting on with it,” C - “growing without guilt,” and D - “winners and losers.” For example, Scenario A is characterized by gradual social change and includes increasing unpredictability in weather; slow and difficult international response to climate change; government and industry support of public demands for sustainability; global temperature increase from 1900 average by 2 degrees Celsius; weather becomes less predictable, storms more violent, with less snowpack and earlier runoffs each year, significant forest fires risk; with value of forest products varying but generally rising over time and value-added products becoming a bigger player. This scenario predicts a medium change in societal values and public policy promoting sustainability, a change to clean technologies, migration for economic opportunities, and a medium amount of medium climate change refugees. “You are not being asked to choose the story you like best,” Anderson explained. “You’re being asked which one you think we’re moving towards—that’s what we want to plan for.” Each scenario has trade-offs and the interactions are extremely complex. Scenario B has the highest social values change for sustainability and therefore the lowest climate change impact because of a corresponding move toward use of cleaner technologies. The highest climate impact is in scenario D due to having the lowest social values change and unrestrained use of fossil fuels. Economic activity and performance is highest in scenario C due to adoption of cleaner technology in the middle of the 50-year time frame. One audience member commented that he sees public policy as fundamentally driven by corporate interests who fund the political parties, making substantial change unlikely or slow at best. Mayor Lay said he felt it was far easier to achieve sustainability at the local level than internationally. Another said he thinks public values are changing faster than corporations and government, so change will be slowed despite popular sentiment. Others were pessimistic about society’s ability to create actions that will have an effect quickly enough given the runaway effects of climate change.

Sustainability is written into the community forest charter so any management scenarios chosen will still have to be steered toward that end. “By choosing (worst case scenario) D you’d actually be doing us a favour in our management plan because if it actually goes that way, we’ll be better prepared,” said Anderson. It was a lot to ask of an audience in just two hours. The vote seemed to fall almost squarely between the optimists and the pessimists, with 12 voting scenario A, 12 for scenario D and only one for scenario C. This means the board will now have to create two long-term strategies.
Kaslo council, January 12: Fire services contract for 2010 finalized

by Jan McMurray

• Acting Mayor Suzan Hewat chaired the meeting.
• The Acting Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer were authorized to sign a fire services contract for 2010, with a 5% increase, between the municipality and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.
• Council agreed to strike a joint committee to make recommendations on a future fire service agreement between Kaslo and the Regional District, as suggested by Director Andy Shadrack in an email. However, council wants to discuss the composition of the committee. Shadrack had suggested the committee include two citizen taxpayers from Area D and two citizen taxpayers from Kaslo and a fire department representative.
• Council received correspondence dated December 14 from the board of directors of the Perwinkle Children’s Centre, asking that the Village do the repairs to the building that has already been budgeted for. They would like the repairs done in January and February, while their application for a licence to operate full days is being processed.
• Council passed a resolution to inform that those repairs to the building will be done as a scheduling allows. Later in the meeting, council agreed to seek a contractor for the work Perwinkle said the Village is responsible for.
• Council received a brief update on the fuel management project from Jeff Martin of Kaslo Wildfire Forest Management Ltd. He offers to provide a monthly update, either written or in person by forester Charlene Strelauf. Council decided to request updates at the Development Services Committee meetings.
• Council received a copy of a letter from Peter McAllister of Woodlot 494 in the Back Road area to Curt Nixon of the Ministry of Forests. McAllister tells Nixon that after attending the December 8 meeting of the Kaslo Wildfire Interface Focus Group, he feels the woodlot is an unsuitable area for forest fuel treatment programs at this time. He also expresses that he is interested in being involved with a group that would develop a cohesive fuel management plan for the whole area rather than focusing on one project at a time. “In the absence of a legitimate, community minded Kaslo interface board, the woodlot management has no assurance that the proposed treatment areas are a part of an organized long term strategy to becoming fire safe,” he states. The letter was forwarded to the focus group.
• Kaslo Loggers Sports was given approval to proceed with the planning of upgrades to the Logger’s Sports area, including installing new climbing poles and seating along the roadside, servicing the area with power and hiking in fall to prevent future flooding. The committee would like the area to be used for other functions, as well. Council will also provide a letter of support.
• Columbia Basin Trust has confirmed a $400 grant for the Heritage Week Tea. Councillor Cormie acknowledged the efforts of City Hall Conservation Committee member Mary Linn in obtaining the grant.
• Notes from a meeting of building contractors working on the City Hall project held December 8 were received, along with minutes of the January 4 City Hall Conservation Committee meeting. The library has had flooding from the front entrance and the back – digging from geothermal work is likely the cause of the back end flooding. Council moved that the basement flooding issues be investigated and permanently rectified.
• Accepted for the City Hall sprinkler alarm system for $24,150 was accepted from Rogen Electric. Councillor Cormie excused herself due to conflict of interest for this item.
• The Village will apply for Community Development Job Opportunities Trust funding for the maximum amount of $250,000 prior to the deadline of January 22, 2010 for the Kaslo City Hall Conservation project. Councillor Cormie recognized the efforts being made by Deputy Clerk Hughes to complete grant funding applications on time to Parks Canada for its second funding intake, and to the Job Opportunity Program, which funds displaced forest workers to work on heritage buildings.
• Council plans to have a single-purpose meeting of the Municipal Services Committee in February with delegations from the Ministry of Forests (Forthofer Lake District Office) and Kaslo & District Community Forest Society.
• Council received a report on the Kaslo FireSmart Threat Mapping Strategy from North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society. Staff was directed to contact the society with outstanding questions on the housing survey.
• Council received Councillor Frary’s written resignation from the Regional Climate Change Committee, dated December 28.
• Resident Paul Woolgar sent in an email to express, among other things, disagreement with allowing storage of the Jazz Fest floating stage in the bay. This was referred to the Municipal Services Committee.

Kaslo Trailblazers report on 2009 year submitted by Val Koenig

The Kaslo Trailblazers completed another active year in 2009 with 93 individuals contributing 733 volunteer hours to keep the Kaslo River Trail open. The group participated in the North Kootenay Lake Salon of the Arts, Festival in the Forest, May Days, Farmers Market and Christmas Fair. The Trailblazers also sponsored a Variety Show with 81 prizes, the David Thompson Voyager Brigade DVD presentation and sponsored our second winter solstice event.

The Welcome to Kaslo kiosks on the approach to the village from New Denver and Nelson were completed. On the trail, some of the work parties saw the completion of the guard rails and steps from the highway down to the bridge. The proposed concrete blocks were made for a retaining wall and the trail was gravelled through the hornet area. Fifty more donated trees were planted and the hillside trail on the south side of the river was widened. Various work parties, still held every Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon, went down to other smaller projects to make the trail even more enjoyable. Some of our members also took the initiative to clear the MacBeth icefield trail and complete the Mt. Loki trail traverse.

In 2010 the group’s focus will be the proposed suspension bridge across the mountain to Gauvain Trail, including the sidewalk on Water Street which is a joint project with the Village of Kaslo. Part of this project includes a replacement of a bridge as well as the construction of new benches. These will be available for sponsorship at $1,500 each and will include a brass plaque measuring about eight by three inches with raised lettering.

For more information or to volunteer please call Val Koenig at 250-353-2168.

Kootenay Mountain Sports opens Kaslo store

by Art Joyce

Outdoor sports enthusiasts in the Kaslo area now have a new outlet for their four seasons recreational needs, Kootenay Mountain Sports opened December 1 on Front Street. Shon Neufeld and Janis Lampimaki are the owners and are looking forward to doing business in their new home.

Neufeld has worked in sports retail doing “pretty much everything from hockey to bikes and backpacking,” but

The area with power and hiking in fall to prevent future flooding. The committee would like the area to be used for other functions, as well. Council will also provide a letter of support.

Koo...
**AGING**

- **LIVING**

**Financial Forum with Debbie Pereversoff**

A lot has happened since Y2K!

It’s hard to believe that we have started a new decade. Has it really been ten years since New Year’s Eve 1999 when we partied it up to bring in the new millennium? There is no reason why our thinking should be bound by the calendar – but, as investors, it’s instructive in this case to do a comparison between the starting points of the last and next decades.

A lot has happened since Y2K. The United States went from being an irresistible economic force to a basket case. And how about Britney Spears – she started the decade at the top of the charts and finished it by making a comeback at age 28.

Ten years ago, Canadians were generally happy with their portfolios and enjoyed a rising market. Today, individuals and pension plans are behind where they need to be and are shell-shocked. They’ve been through two tough years of market corrections in 10 years and I’m sure many have considered that the mattress is now looking like a good option!

In 1999, asset allocation was all about the US stock markets south of the border and how they smoked our TSX throughout the 1990s. Most investors were questioning how much money, if any, they should have in Canada. In 2009, the roles were reversed. Canada was the golden girl, having beaten the US in eight of the last 10 years. Now, investors see little reason to place money outside of Canada.

As for stocks, it was all about science and technology, media and telecom a decade ago. Noritel accounted for a third of the TSX’s value and investors were certain the ‘new economy’ was the future. Today investors also have a strong view, but not quite the same one. Increasing demand from China, India and the developing world – and a secure supply hard to come by – that comes with the green revolution has driven up the value of the green companies.

Interestingly, technology lived up to its promise (maybe even exceeded it) but the science and technology stocks did miserably. In hindsight, investors placed too high a premium on potential growth and anything to do with the internet.

Back in 2000, growth managers were the stars of the day while value managers were hanging on by their fingernails (should I buy Noritel?). Of course, their fortunes reversed shortly after the technology bubble burst.

There have been other profound changes in the asset management business. Over the 10 years, most of the assets are now concentrated in the hands of a few mega-firms – the banks, the insurance-based conglomerates such as Power Financial and Manulife, and a small number of independents such as CI Funds and Hutton. The banks went from being middling players in 1999 to dominant asset managers today.

Some of the growth came from acquisition, which served to hollow out the industry’s middle tier. Important independent firms disappeared from the wealth management landscape including AIC, Altamira, Bissett, Clarington, Mackenzie, PH&N, Saxon, Talvest and many others.

On the product front, mutual funds were still pre-eminent in 1999. There was a wave of mergers and some funds in the late 90s, including specialty funds that tapped into the new economy and ‘clone’ funds that allowed investors to get more foreign content into registered accounts. Meanwhile, discount brokers, couldn’t hire staff fast enough to handle all the trading activity and new account openings.

As we head into the new decade, we can learn some lessons from the old one. Even when we’re right about our view of the world and no matter how difficult things are, we still need to be diversified. And when we look back with 20/20 hindsight in 10 years, the decade past will have been led by emerging forces and industries than the previous one. It’s a pattern that continues to repeat itself time and again. Embrace change. Seek advice. Remember – it was the turtle that won the race!


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CLASSIFIED ADS

CLAY CLASSES have started again at Artel Studios in New Denver. Drop-in Monday 1:30–4:30. For info, 250-358-2680.

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LARGE 3 BDR upper level apartment in Nelson, immediately available. Washer, Dryer. $525/month plus utilities. For info please call 250-358-2680.


SUITE FOR RENT one mile from Nakusp on acreage, three bedrooms, appliances, available January 1. 750. 250-860-0736; 250-365-4941.

SPACIOUS TWO-BEDROOM SUITE with lake view in Silverton on main floor of duplex, 6/6 Hunter St. Quiet area, one minute to lakeshore. All facilities, excellent woodstove, covered parking. $580/mo. NS. NP. Available March 1st. Call Emir Gerwig, 4-1-803-765-1510 or 1-250-358-2283.

FOR SALE

SHIMPO POTTERS WHEEL Estuar, Ohios scale twin beam, Banding wheel. Assorted tools and accessories Bought, but never used by seller Take all for $200. 250-365-3553 or sister2@telus.net.

FOR SALE:


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YOGA AT THE DOMES - the flow of life begins within. Open to all levels every day. MONDAY & SATURDAY MORNINGS 9:00-10:30 in LOW CLASS; THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 3:30-5:00 RESTORATIVE CLASS - a time to slow down and deeply rejuvenate through simple postures, to open up the breath and tune into the silence.

FULL SPECTRUM BODY WORK offers deep tissue and stress relief treatments in the privacy of your own home. For additional info and to book appointments please call 358-6808.

NOTICES


For your invite to get involved. Any questions promoting local artist, please accept this as

THE VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER is developing its Sustainable Community Centre. Please contact the Village office with your ideas. 250-358-2310 or newdenver@ netidea.com.

Bakery

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Nelson, BC

Phone: 250-359-1111

Wholesale Midwife

Lana Bungard

250-358-2313

maramaimidwife@yahoo.ca

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Open Wed., Thurs., & Fri.
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Phone: 226-7803
2826 Hwy 6 • Slocan Park
Don took the family out into the country whenever they could to camp or just for a Sunday drive. Madeline will be sadly missed by her two remaining sisters Betty (Gary) Wright and Joanne (Gary) Wright, her daughters Donna Jean (Gary) Wright and Joanne (Gary) Wright, her son Ted predeceased her in 1977.

A private burial took place in the New Denver cemetery on January 19. The ashes of her beloved husband were buried with her. The family thanks Reverend Therese DesCamp for leading the moving committal service.

In loving memory of Madeline Robson 1924-2010

Madeline left us on Saturday, January 16. Since April 2008 she had been a resident of the Pavilion, an exceptionally wonderful long term care centre in New Denver, BC. The family would like to commend the staff, nurses and doctors for their kind, affectionate and professional care giving.

Madeline was born in Indian Head, Saskatchewan into the vibrant Glass family. She had four brothers and three sisters. After the early death of her father, her mother raised them in a small house by the creek on the edge of town. Madeline often returned there, in fact and in memory.

She married Don Robson on December 2, 1948 in the Anglican church of Indian Head. They lived in Weyburn, Saskatchewan for three years and then moved to Calgary, where they raised their two children, Betty and Cory. Their daughter Vivian Smith and her husband Terry of Blackfalds, Alberta; granddaughter, Donna Jean (Gary) Wright and Joanne (Gary) Wright, her son Ted predeceased her in 1977. She married Don Robson on December 2, 1948 in the Anglican church in Indian Head. They lived in Weyburn, Saskatchewan for three years and then moved to Calgary, where they raised their two children, Betty and Cory. Their daughter Vivian Smith and her husband Terry of Blackfalds, Alberta; granddaughter, Donna Jean (Gary) Wright and Joanne (Gary) Wright, her son Ted predeceased her in 1977.

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In memory of our family friend

Don took the family out into the country whenever they could to camp or just for a Sunday drive. Madeline will be sadly missed by her two remaining sisters Betty (Gary) Wright and Alma (Hank) Pachal, her daughters Donna Jean (Gary) Wright and Joanne (Gary) Wright, her son Ted predeceased her in 1977.

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In memory of our family friend
People’s Garden presents film series on farming and gardening

submitted

The People’s Garden in Kaslo is presenting a film series “for the farmer/gardener in all of us,” beginning on January 31, Sunday, at 6pm at Kootenay Art Gallery, 421 Front Street.

The film that evening is The Real Dirt on Farmer John, a theatre-quality

submitted

Brent Kennedy school tile project open for viewing

Brent Kennedy Elementary is proud to announce the completion of their Tile Project, a new permanent artwork that runs right through the school. This ArtStarts funded project allowed a local professional artist, Natasha Smith to be the Artist in Residence during the months of October and November 2009.

The process of the collaged tiles creation began with students developing a series of symbols that related to their social studies curriculum. They then explored the technique of collage and developed their ideas. Excited to be creating a permanent artwork for their school, the students developed unique visual responses to their subject matter and the materials they chose.

“The whole school community had a delightful experience working with artist Natasha Smith to make the collage tiles that now adorn the school corridors,” said principal Laura Moll. “Together we created a colorful legacy that includes a tile made by every student in the school.”

ArtStarts and the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council provided funding support for this valuable creative project. Thanks are also due the workers from School District 8 maintenance for installing the pieces with care.

On January 15, each class got their photos taken with their tiles just prior to their installation. Nicholas, a grade 6 student is also going to design a webpage so that the project can be documented on the school website. The community is welcome to visit the school to view this great art project any time during school hours.

For information contact Lois Lawrence, Brent Kennedy Elementary 250-359-7297 or Lawrence@cbowmanwireless.ca

COMMUNITY

will be One Man, One Cow, One World – The Biodynamics Revolution in India on February 14; Der. The Movie (will make you want to get your hands dirty) on February 28. The Power of Community (Caluha survives peak oil with community gardens) on March 14; and Queen of the Sun (bees) or Our Seeds. Seeds Blong on March 28. Admission to all films is by donation.

The People’s Garden initiative, say Woody Wodraska and Barbara Scott, long-time biodynamic gardeners, aims in the first year for a downtown Kaslo garden designed as a place of beauty, light, and fragrance where “folks can stop for a minute, pick a flower, admire the scene, maybe munch on a green bean,” says Woody. “What kind of people? Old people, young people – children especially – lonesome people, people who love flowers, people who make peace.” For information, contact Woody Wodraska at 353-9636.

Summit Lake Ski Hill calls for donations grant in past years.

Baiko said there was recently a fundraiser at Three Lions’ Pub in Nakusp. “It was incredible – thanks to the community and Three Lions,” she said. However, quite a bit more is needed.

“We are hoping parents will respond now that the program is running and they see that it is worthwhile,” said Baiko. Donations can be dropped off at your local school or mailed to Summit Lake Ski Hill, Box 436, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Cheques are to be made out to School District No. 10 Extracurricular Funding. Tax receipts can be issued for donations over $25.

Astronomy nights at the Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted by Martha Nichols

The second in a series of binocular star parties sponsored by the Hidden Garden Gallery will be held in mid-February. Sandy Nichols, local amateur astronomer, will be present to guide a hands-on viewing session. Binoculars and star charts will be provided. A good view of the night sky is dependent on the weather. We will meet at the Hidden Garden at 7 pm Saturday, February 13 for a discussion and viewing if the sky is clear. If conditions aren’t clear enough to see the stars, we’ll try again on Sunday, February 14.

To find out if we’ll hold an additional viewing session please call 250-358-2899 after 4 pm. Hopefully, we’ll find a cloudless night on one of those two dates. Remember to wear really warm clothing.
Local loggers ignore legal notice in P&T's US bankruptcy case

by Jan McMurray

Local logging contractors are relieved to find out that the legal notices they received recently in connection with Pope & Talbot's bankruptcy are most likely nothing to worry about.

The legal document demanded that contractors return the money paid to them by P&T during the 90-day period before the company filed its bankruptcy papers, on the basis that P&T was actually insolvent 90 days before they officially declared they were. Contractors were given until January 18 to pay up or face further litigation.

The January 18 deadline has come and gone and nothing more has been heard of it. Crystal Larder of Nakusp’s Meadow Mountain Contracting, one of the contractors who received the notice, said the Interior Logging Association sought some legal advice for the contractors, and it is good news.

“They are of the opinion that unless they come from Canada, we don’t need to acknowledge this. It’s quite a relief,” she said. “Unless they come to Canadian courts, they really can’t do much, so I don’t think it’s going to go any further. Canadian laws are different than American laws, and chances are it would be thrown out in Canada.”

Larder says there were over 440 companies on the list to receive the notice – not all logging contractors and not all from Canada. She said there were eight loggers in the Middle Thompson, which is part of BC, and she also recognized some names of coastal logging companies.

“We when received the notice, our immediate concern was that we don’t have that money to pay back so we are relieved at the way things have turned out. But the concern that remains with us every day is Bill 13 and those losses,” she said. Bill 13 contracts were created by the Ministry of Forests and those losses, “they said. Bill 13 remains with us every day is Bill 13 we are relieved at the way things will proceed. Canadian laws are different than American laws, they really can’t do much, “Unless they come to Canadian courts, they really can’t do much, so I don’t think it’s going to go any further. Canadian laws are different than American laws, and chances are it would be thrown out in Canada.”

New green technology tested at Duncan Dam

by Jan McMurray

New green energy technology is being tested at Duncan Dam north of Revelstoke that could help “green the grid” and support BC’s Energy Plan.

Four floating Vertical Axis Hydro Turbines (VAHTs) are being installed temporarily at the dam. The floating turbines are based on wind turbines, and were initially developed for tidal generation. These turbines have the potential to produce energy in areas with low water flow speeds and are expected to have minimal environmental impacts as they require no water diversion, and do not require a reservoir. If this testing project proves successful, it could identify future opportunities for the new technology.

“BC Hydro sees great potential for this technology to provide clean, dependable electricity to remote, off-grid communities and customers currently Slocan community forest plans stand,” SFICo, the Slocan Integral Forest Energy Cooperative, will start its first logging operation on the community forest in the near future. The first harvest area will be 6.3 hectares of small patch cuts, located on gentle slopes about two kilometres up the Hewit Mine Road in the Red Mountain area. The prescription was developed in consultation with the Red Mountain Residents Association. Trees will be retained in each small opening for biodiversity and long-term conservation of debris inputs. There are no surface water courses in the harvest area.

The startup date will be set by weather and road conditions. SFICo hopes to log some of the area before spring breakup, and then to finish the harvest in dry conditions later in the year.

Correction and apology...

This is a correction to the story in our January 13 edition, we published pictures of all the local hockey teams. Somehow, the NakuspAtoms got their picture in twice, and the PeeWees didn’t get their picture in at all. We apologize for any inconvenience.
Lardeau Valley photographer Jim Lawrence wins provincial award

Patience and a keen eye pays off. Lardeau photographer Jim Lawrence has won first place in the Lions Gate Camera Club competition bird category for his stunning image The Last Supper, showing a bald eagle and a raven feasting on deer. Camera clubs from across the province submitted work, including the West Kootenay Camera Club and Kimberley Camera Club. The prize-winning image is the same one Lawrence donated for a fundraising raffle at the Hidden Garden Gallery last year during his show there.

With every great image comes a story and The Last Supper is no exception. Lawrence was on his way to Nelson for a talk on wolverines by John Krebs, head biologist for the Columbia Basin Trust. On his way past Kaslo Bay Lawrence spotted a deer carcass on the beach and could see the ravens and a bald eagle feasting. He says eagles always follow ravens for winter hunting.

“I was able to spend some time with them, they weren’t going anywhere,” Lawrence recalls. “The ravens were definitely in charge of the scene. When the eagle put his beak down into the ribcage to get the choicer meat, the raven pecked him on the leg and made him jump straight up in the air.”

Lawrence has used a canvas sheet with vegetation spread over it as a blind and even shot from the car at times. “I find it’s generally better to let the animal know you’re there, let it know your intentions, that you’re not intending any harm. The more time you put into it the more you get out of it.”

Lawrence has had a fascination for wildlife since childhood, when he spent a two-week stint with a fur trapper on his trampoline. His mother taught him the basics of photographic lighting and composition with a Kodak Brownie camera, and furthered his interest by working the darkroom at school. In the early 1970s Lawrence had been attending Friends’ World Quaker College at the Durban Institute of Technology. Raising a family back in the Lardeau Valley meant having to work in construction but since retirement he has been able to return to his passion for photography. The Lawrence family has been in the Lardeau Valley since 1950.

Lawrence sees part of his passion as raising awareness about the wildlife we enjoy in the Kootenays and the crucial importance of protecting wildlife habitat. “Herons and bears and orchids share our habitat, after all, and have as much right to a safe home place as we do,” he says. Lawrence will be preparing another of his popular slide shows for the North Valley Mountain Film Festival held in New Denver during February. His winning photo was submitted through the West Kootenay Camera Club along with other photographers. There were several categories including Best in Show, Wildlife, Montage and General Nature. Two photographers from the Kimberley Camera Club also won, John Lyon second place (birds) for Mountain Bluebird Landing and Neil Weisenberg honorable mention (mammals) for Grizzly in the Mist.

To see more of Lawrence’s work go to www.kootenayreflections.com.

The Lucerne Writing Class impressed the community with their poetry and prose at the annual coffeehouse, held January 21 at the Silverton Gallery.

The Lawrence family has been in the Lardeau Valley since 1950. The Lawrence family has been in the Lardeau Valley since 1950.

Wines & Vines meeting

by Dan Nicholson

Over 65 people showed up for a meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a wine-making region in the Arrow Lakes, held at the Nakusp Seniors’ Centre, January 15.

West coast winemakers Paul Troop and Daniel Cossman addressed the meeting, sharing their experience and advising prospective viticulturists of the pitfalls to avoid when developing a new wine region.

Both men emphasized the need to work co-operatively and to carefully select the varieties of grapes grown. Says Cossman, “We’ve identified 16 varieties as being potentially suitable for this region. Of those, you should probably grow only two or three. That’s how you develop a distinctive regional wine.”

The first step is to gather weather data from up and down the Arrow Lakes, and to put in a test plot of the 16 varieties that the two men think will do best in this climate.

At a capital expense of $9,000 - $30,000 per acre to set up a vineyard, you don’t want to be putting in the wrong type of grapes.

Local organic farmer, Corky Evans was impressed with the presentation. “First time I’ve ever heard agricultural experts tell people that they’ve got to work together and plan. It’s not normal.”

Vote for projects for a healthy economy in the North Slocan Valley

The opportunity to vote on projects that emerged from the ‘Building a Healthy Economy in the North Slocan Valley’ process is coming up on February 4 at 7 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall. “The more votes, the better, so we’re hoping for a great turnout like we had at the first meeting in November,” said Jan McMurray, member of the steering committee for the project.

The goal of the ‘Building a Healthy Economy’ process is to identify concrete projects that will foster economic development in the north Valley. To identify potential projects, a public meeting was held, and a survey and interviews with key community members were conducted last fall.

“We have almost finalized the list of projects to be voted on at the February 4 meeting,” reported McMurray.

Although subject to further refinement before the meeting, the list of projects as stands today is: community greenhouse, community freezer, fruit processing, grocery co-op, educational centre (for the arts, environment, rural living skills, agriculture), community power project, targeted recruitment of young families and foreign students, seniors care services, business resource centre, spa and wellness centre, welcoming committee, Roger Brooks tourism report implementation, wheelchair accessible community, value added uses for wood, showcasing green living, and forest interface thinning.

“We hope this list inspires people to come out and vote on February 4,” McMurray said.

‘Building a Healthy Economy in the North Slocan Valley’ is a project of the Healthy Housing Society and funded by Columbia Basin Trust.

Healthy Housing Society, spa and wellness centre, welcoming committee, Roger Brooks tourism report implementation, wheelchair accessible community, value added uses for wood, showcasing green living, and forest interface thinning.

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The Valley Voice January 27, 2010

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We Will be closed Jan 28-31 to move our store.

www.klcomputers.ca

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