The Valley Voice is 100% locally owned

Slocan Hotel project not progressing without difficulty

by Jan McMurray

The project to convert the Slocan Hotel into condominiums has not been going entirely smoothly. This may not come as a big surprise – many people would agree that complying with building bylaws and the building code can be trying. The Slocan Hotel project is even more complicated because the property needs to be re-zoned as well.

“With the re-zoning requirement, it becomes more time consuming and requires more patience,” acknowledged Chief Building Official Max Hoedeman in an interview. “It’s a matter of following the process.”

The property is zoned tourist commercial, and must be re-zoned multi-family residential in order to build condominiums. The Village of Slocan’s zoning bylaw does not include a multi-family residential zone, so both the Official Community Plan bylaw and zoning bylaw must be amended.

Village of Slocan Chief Administrative Officer Shana Paivarinta reported that Village staff has prepared all the paperwork to amend the bylaws. However, the re-zoning application by the proponent (Ray Caouette of Slocan Holdings Ltd.) is incomplete. To complete the application, the proponent must post a ‘notice of development’ sign on the property.

“This requirement is right in the bylaw and is no different than any other community in the province,” said Paivarinta. “There hasn’t been anything asked of Slocan Holdings that wouldn’t be asked of anyone – any developer in any community would be required to follow the building bylaws and building code.”

When asked about Caouette’s claim in his letter to the editor published in this issue of the Valley Voice that Slocan Holdings has been expected to pay for, and has paid for, costs associated with the bylaw amendments, Paivarinta answered, “That is incorrect.”

Paivarinta added that the re-zoning paperwork will not go before council until the application is complete. She says the only decision council has made related to the project is to give a lane closure bylaw three readings. “Council has made no decisions on this, apart from the lane closure bylaw, because nothing has been put before them – because the paperwork is incomplete.”

She said the lane closure bylaw would likely be adopted at the February council meeting.

Slocan Holdings Ltd. has obtained a demolition permit and a structural permit since the project started. Under the demolition permit, the hotel was demolished down to the foundation. Hoedeman explained that the structural permit was issued as a “concession” to Slocan Holdings so that construction work could get underway while the re-zoning was in process. “Changing zoning is lengthy, and Mr. Caouette wanted to buy some time and get going.” Under the structural permit, the use of the building cannot change. So, he’s allowed to build structure for a hotel, but not for condominiums until the re-zoning is finalized and a building permit is applied for and issued. There have been three Stop Work Orders put on the property since the project began. One was placed last fall because there was a concern that the retaining wall being built around the hotel was higher than five feet, and therefore would require engineering and a building permit. This was resolved when Slocan Holdings showed that the wall would not be higher than five feet. Another Stop Work Order was posted on September 3 last year. Slocan Holdings had applied for the structural building permit on August 23, and the permit was issued on October 22. There was work happening on site before the permit was issued, hence the September 3 order.

The latest Stop Work Order was posted on November 30 because the height of the building was in excess of the maximum height allowed in the Village zoning bylaw. Hoedeman reports that at the time the order was placed on the property, Slocan Holdings was requested to meet three conditions before the order could be removed: truss documentation, confirmation of building height, and accurate and detailed plans.

Hoedeman says Slocan Holdings provided acceptable truss documentation in December, but did not satisfy the other two conditions. However, work continued in defiance of the Stop Work Order. Hoedeman reports that Slocan Holdings’ engineer submitted documents on January 8 that may satisfy the remaining two requirements that will allow the order to be removed. He says he will take a close look at the documents this week. The building inspector will be taking his regular trip to Slocan on January 14, so the issue may be resolved that day.

“My concern is that communication is not happening directly between Mr. Caouette and the Village at this point,” said Hoedeman. “My sense is that the Village is open for business. There’s a process Caouette should go through, but this is not proceeding the way these projects usually do.” He explained that although the Village and his office at the RDCK partner to provide building inspection services, the Village office is usually where communication takes place. He added that re-zoning is totally in the hands of the Village.

New Denver area residents will carry Olympic torch on January 24

by Jan McMurray

New Denver area residents Deb Hicks and Valdis Vilks will soon hold history in their hands when they carry the Olympic Flame in the Vancouver 2010 Torch Relay.

Each will carry the flame for a distance of approximately 300 metres on the morning of Sunday, January 24 – Hicks in Genelle and Vilks in Trail.

Hicks will start her run in Genelle along 12th Avenue, from 5th Street to 4th Street, at 9:27 am. Vilks is scheduled to carry the torch along Cedar Avenue in Trail from Helena Street to Eldorado Street, starting at 11:34 am.

So, it would be easy for spectators to catch them both.

Hicks was chosen after entering the contest sponsored by Coca-Cola, where she had to write a story about the six Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, re-wear and rejubilate). She wrote about composting, following the 100-mile diet, and passing down unwanted items to others.

Vilks entered the Royal Bank-sponsored contest and had to write about his efforts to be environmentally responsible. His piece was about his family’s creative use of the heat generated by their pottery kiln. After firing pottery for the family business, they bake bread and pizzas in the kiln.

Valdis Vilks and Deb Hicks of New Denver were chosen to be Olympic torchbearers. On January 24, Hicks will carry the flame in Genelle at 9:27 am and Vilks in Trail at 11:34.
submitted

Property assessments have been sent out, and most homeowners are worth more this year than last, reports Dennis Hickson of the BC Assessment Authority. He says that New Denver and Silverton property owners will typically see increases in the 10-20 percent range, while residents of Slocan and Kaslo will see increases up to 30 percent.

An example of a single family home in Slocan that demonstrates the local market trend was worth $155,000 on the 2009 assessment roll and is worth $192,800 on the 2010 assessment roll.

Overall, the Village of New Denver’s assessment roll increased from $83.4 million last year to $95.7 million this year. The Village of Silverton’s assessment roll increased from $41 million last year to $49.4 million this year, and the Village of Nakusp’s assessment roll increased from $233 million last year to $257 million this year. The surrounding rural area increased from $935 million to $1.1 billion.

The Village of Kaslo’s assessment roll increased from $167 million last year to $184 million this year. Hickson gave the example of a single family home in Kaslo that was valued at $879,000 in the 2009 assessment roll and is worth $919,000 for the 2010 roll.

The rural area surrounding Creston and Kelso, and including the East Shore of Kootenay Lake increased from $1.8 billion last year to $2.1 billion this year.

Homeowners in Nelson will see increases typically ranging from 0 to 15 percent. Changes in property assessments are reflective of movement in the local real estate market and can vary greatly from property to property. When estimating a property’s market value, a professional appraiser analyzes current sales in the area, as well as considering other characteristics such as size, age, quality, condition, view and location. Assessment changes reflect market value changes but also include subdivisions, rezoning and new construction.

2010 assessments are the estimate of a property’s market value, a professional appraiser analyzes current sales in the area, as well as considering other characteristics such as size, age, quality, condition, view and location. Assessment changes reflect market value changes but also include subdivisions, rezoning and new construction.

2010 assessments are the estimate of a property’s market value, a professional appraiser analyzes current sales in the area, as well as considering other characteristics such as size, age, quality, condition, view and location. Assessment changes reflect market value changes but also include subdivisions, rezoning and new construction. Overall, the Village of Creston and Kelso saw an increase in their assessment roll from $167 million last year to $184 million this year, and the Village of Kaslo saw an increase in their assessment roll from $167 million last year to $184 million this year.

The Canadian Cancer Society calls for BC cosmetic pesticide ban

The Canadian Cancer Society British Columbia and Yukon today called on the BC government to enact legislation to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides. The society is also asking British Columbians to participate in the online public consultation.

Barbara Kaminsky, CEO, says that in 2010, BC will have an opportunity to demonstrate national leadership by adopting the strongest cosmetic pesticide ban in Canada. The society in partnership with Toxic Free Canada BC where several members of the public can provide their input by email, by contacting their local MLA or by joining the Pesticide Free BC Facebook group. The society is also hosting the Vancouver Premiere of A Chemical Reaction, a documentary that tells the story of the Canadian movement to ban lawn and garden pesticides on January 20.

Agrowing body of evidence in published studies from the World Health Organization and US Environmental Protection Agency on the carcinogenicity of pesticides points to an increased risk of cancer to both adults and children cancers that include leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, prostate, brain, and lung.

“Children may be at a higher risk due to their rapidly developing bodies,” says Kaminsky. “By eliminating these harmful agents from our lawns, gardens, sports fields, playgrounds and recreation areas, we will be helping to prevent cancer in children and adults.”

The society will be a partner in a proposed Bill to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides in BC, and is currently working with legislators to enact a provincial ban.

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Vines and wines to be explored at Nakusp meeting, January 15

by Jan McMurray

A meeting on January 15 at 7 pm at the Seniors’ Hall in Nakusp will explore the possibility of growing wine grapes in the Arrow Lakes area with industry experts Paul Troop and Daniel Cosman.

The idea of establishing vineyards and wineries to complement the tourism industry in the area comes from Jody Scott, who owns a B&B & Breakfast on Alexander Road just outside Nakusp. He started when the Scotts planted some grapevines as a landscaping feature on their property. “It’s a hobby that got carried away,” he confided.

Scott planted 50 vines in 2007, and then another 500 or 600 vines in 2008. He recently made wine from his 2007 grapes (it takes three years to get a crop), but unfortunately the wine won’t be ready in time for Friday night’s meeting. He says he is interested in organizing a winetasting, however, so watch for that.

Scott enjoys the work and is encouraged enough by his results so far that he is planning to take a three-month course in grapevine propagation management at South Okanagan College in Penticton.

In researching which varieties would grow best here, Scott has met a few industry experts, among them Paul Troop and Daniel Cosman from Salt Spring Island. These two will make a presentation at the meeting.

Troop is a winemaker and vineyard owner and manager. He has also been involved in the propagation of grapevines, both self rooted and grafted. Last year he and Cosman teamed up to start a propagation company, called Omega Vines. Cosman is also a winemaker, and is currently doing vineyard and winery planning, consulting and vineyard installations, as well as working with Troop at Omega Vines.

Scott contacted Troop two years ago in search of a variety of grapes that wouldn’t need to be sprayed. Troop told Scott about the Blattner varieties, developed by a Swiss grape breeder in Ontario and subsequently brought to the Okanagan and the coast. Scott ended up planting several Blattner varieties in 2007.

Troop says he feels these varieties will fare well in our area. “These Blattner vines represent a major step forward for the coastal region and I believe some of them will be perfectly suited for the Arrow Lakes as well. They combine high levels of disease resistance with commercially viable crops, and wine that is outstanding in ways that the traditional varieties grown in cool climates seldom match. For the grower it means lower costs and less chemical usage. For the winery it is a chance to work with grapes that, while not vinifera, taste very European. This opens the door for the creation of a unique regional wine identity.”

Corky Evans will also attend the meeting out of interest. “I’m always fascinated about possible economic opportunities in the region, and I like the energy, thoughts and ingenuity of people who farm. The possibility that there are varieties of grapes suitable to the Arrow Lakes or the West Kootenay is a totally exciting idea.”

Scott says he is not the first person to plant vines in the Arrow Lakes. He says Henry Zobel planted some in Burton in 1970 that are still being looked after by current owner of the property, Curt Rupp. “They are healthy vines that produce quite well,” he said. He also points out that fruit growing used to be a major industry in the area. “There was a fruit industry in this valley – it petered out in the ’50s when the paddleswheelers stopped, a’dn then a lot of these orchards from Deer Park to Beaton were flooded for the dams. Now, Lytton, Lillooet and Grand Forks are doing feasibility studies for vineyards – so why not here?”

Atamanenko criticizes Harper government for proroging parliament

submitted

Alex Atamanenko, MP, BC Southern Interior, is accusing the Harper government of missing his privilege to prorogue parliament in order to suit its own political agenda. Parliament, which was scheduled to resume on January 25, has now been extended to March 5, a date which appears to have been coincidental with the conclusion of the 2010 Olympics. Stephen Harper’s justification for this move is to consult with Canadians on the economy. “If as they say they want this time to ‘consult with Canadians’ they should resume parliament on schedule and consult with the MPs who are elected and paid to make representation on behalf of their constituents to the government,” stated Atamanenko. “I’m sure I’m not the only MP who hears from his constituents on a daily basis about the economic concerns they face.”

“Harper is using his privilege to prorogue as a panic button so that he can avoid having to answer some very serious questions relating to his government’s mishandling of the treatment of Afghan detainees and now he can avoid doing so for another two months.”

Atamanenko expressed his disappointment that his own Private Members Bill (C-474) on genetically modified crops, which was to receive its first hour of debate on February 3, will be now be postponed until the House is reconvened. Another motion by Atamanenko before the Standing Committee on Agriculture, to protect the Canadian Wheat Board at the World Trade Organization, has also been stalled. “The government has refused to challenge language in the current text of the DOHA agreement that would see the end of the Canadian Wheat Board by 2013,” declared the NDP Agriculture critic. “It is unacceptable that the government does nothing.”

Atamanenko noted that this government’s history over the past four years has been to disregard majority votes in the House of Commons, ignore legislation (including their own law on election dates), and to shut down committees and the whole of parliament to avoid defeat or embarrassment.

Atamanenko says Harper has misjudged how much Canadians care about their democracy and referred to recent polls which indicate that 50 percent – in some polls over 60 percent – disagree with this unwarranted prorogation of parliament.

“Believe the government’s strategy to prioritize Olympic photo opportunities over accountability to the people’s parliament will continue to backfire,” concluded Atamanenko.

We Value BC

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Ron Cantelon, MLA (Parskville-Qualicum) Chair
Doug Routley, MLA (Nanaimo-North Cowichan) Deputy Chair

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

An all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly is currently reviewing the province’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RSBC 1996, c.165) and is interested in your views on the legislation. The purposes of the Act are to make public bodies more accountable to the public and to protect personal privacy. The Act gives the public the right to access the records held by BC government ministries, local government bodies, health regions, hospitals, universities, schools and other provincial public bodies.

A public hearing will be held at:

VANCOUVER
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Waddington Room, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
900 West Georgia Street
Parliament Buildings

To appear before the Committee or make a submission (online, as an audio or video file, by mail, fax or email), visit our website at www.leg.bc.ca/carli or contact the Office of the Clerk of Committees, Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8Y 1X4; phone: 250-356-2933 or toll-free in BC: 1-877-429-8337; fax: 250-356-8172; e-mail: FOICommittee@leg.bc.ca

The deadline for receipt of submissions has been extended to February 28, 2010.

Craig James, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees
Slocan swimming pool

Regarding the proposed swimming pool in Slocan City—sign me up for a lifetime membership.

Holding my breath,

Rahi’a Window

Prohibition of marijuana is stupid

This afternoon I read Mr. Herb Cochrane’s letter titled “Futility of Prohibition” in the December 2 Valley Voice. I agree with Mr. Cochrane. Prohibition of the legal sale of marijuana is stupid.

I am in favor of the use of this ‘controlled’ substance being totally legal under one circumstance. You have to have a daily and daytime phone number for your supplier and you must show a special BC government photo ID which would be issued after a qualified citizen has taken Oregon government sponsored health seminars regarding the pitfalls or the consequences of marijuana overuse.

If you get caught with marijuana and purchase it illegally, you go to prison. The government sets the price like it does with alcohol and taxes the bejesus out of it. Everybody wins!

Chris Ellis

Federal election needed

As I understand it what is that people see in our federal government that they want to keep these self-serving misfits in power.

First off, it is a minority government that thinks it has a majority in the House of Commons.

Do all the people in BC want the notorious HST slammed in their face next summer? That’s what we will get. We as British Columbians should be putting all kinds of pressure on Ottawa and all its parties to avoid this measure. The federal Liberals say that they will keep it if they gain power but Ottawa and all its parties to avoid this get. We as British Columbians should want to keep these self-serving misfits needed.

Mike Moehler

Corporate welfare in Castlegar

“I heard the news today, oh boy” about a company that owned the City of Castlegar almost $4 million dollars in back taxes and had, miraculously, decided to pay it off.

“I heard the news today, oh boy” that this same company had just received $40 million dollars of our money from the federal stimulus fund to build a co-gen plant so that they can sell power to BC Hydro to sell back to us.

Hey, I think it’s a great idea for this company to build the plant and produce power that would otherwise just go up in smoke. But come on, this company will now profit from the federal stimulus fund to build a co-gen plant so that they can sell power to BC Hydro to sell back to us.

Maybe I’m just too cynical and too jaded but doesn’t anyone else see the irony here?

Why isn’t this company being made to turn over all the profits it makes from the sale of the power from the money it was able to garner from taxpayers to a megafund to mitigate the effects of climate change?

Or will this be another example of corporate welfare?

“Capitalism is killing us all.”

Leon R. Pendleton

Edgewood

Thanks to Kaslo Bigway

I would like to thank Bigway for the sincere efforts they have made to be part of the Kaslo community. I know it has been extremely difficult and that they have struggled in these tough economic times.

In December, previously in Kaslo we were very fortunate to have a big box super chain for a grocery store and we enjoyed all the benefits that big box stores bring to the consumer. When IGA closed and you took over, prices were a little higher and some things a lot higher. There was the usual complaining and constant threats to support Nelson instead.

However, I have noticed that you have worked hard to reduce prices and keep them as low as possible. Sure, you will never be a Sobeys or Safeway, but you came here and you have tried hard to win our support. Your weekly flyer is informative and the specials are second to none for value. In point of fact, it has been, you have contributed regularly to the endless requests from our many groups and organizations, and are always willing to help.

We always say we support our local businesses and we should, but sometimes it means paying a little more. Kaslo should be very glad to have you and we should be sorry and much poorer if we lost you.

For one would like to know that your efforts to be competitive and to unsellish support of our community have not gone unnoticed. You deserve our gratitude, respect and patronage.

Bruce Freeman

Kaslo

Area uniquely endowed

Making council’s decision to sell the hot springs is the right one. It is an opportunity to create jobs and create a revenue base for the long-term benefit of the region.

The scienc idea here, though, is to entertain a social enterprise model, which refers to the proposal by Toews and Tessor for a non-profit society, as featured in The Valley Voice on December 16.

Do politicians intend to stay on the hook for a facility that has persisted as a burden to the “Village”? A facility, under a social enterprise model, that would partially depend on volunteers and outside funding (public sources)? How long until those people burn out?

The hot springs is a fabulous facility for leisure and will always remain a tourist destination, but I’m very skeptical at any proposal that suggests that tourism solves anything. Hate to say it, but every travel destination thinks they are the greatest place on earth. One of the most frowned upon keywords on the Internet is ‘tourism.’

Why can’t a facility like this produce real jobs and revenue? It may well be time to ask if there is a better way to use the power brings to the consumer. When IGA closed and you took over, prices were a little higher and some things a lot higher. There was the usual complaining and constant threats to support Nelson instead.

Sure, you will never be a Sobeys or Safeway, but you came here and you have tried hard to win our support. Your weekly flyer is informative and the specials are second to none for value. In point of fact, it has been, you have contributed regularly to the endless requests from our many groups and organizations, and are always willing to help.

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Bruce Freeman

Kaslo

Cell phone issue highlights poor process

The New Denver cell phone outcry is unfortunately symptomatic of a much larger issue prevalent in the decision-making process. Who decides what happens in the built environment, and how this process is implemented is a delicate issue. Unfortunetly it is easy to get it wrong than right.

In a democracy it is true that we all have a right to voice what happens in our local environment, but at some point somebody has to make a decision which invariably results in someone being disappointed. The current process is complicated and manages to exclude the vast majority of the public. It is simply not designed for meaningful public participation.

One reason for community resentment is a lack of knowledge of process and the lack of information. This leads to misunderstanding and potential conflict. How many people here in the community knew, after they had voted one way or another in the local cell phone poll, that the ultimate decision on whether or not a cell phone tower could be erected in the village could be made by the federal government, completely bypassing any local, regional or provincial decision?

Any elected body with decision-making responsibilities has the obligation to ensure that all decisions are open, democratic and transparent, to make the decision-making path understandable, and to seek to involve the local community at all levels in a meaningful manner. Decisions taken in the full understanding of the process and what may follow reduce community resentment and anger.

New Denver is now having to deal with being let down by a failing planning process and poor communication. Whether or not cell phone infrastructure is harmful to health will doubtless be decided by the courts in the long term, but what is abundantly clear is that we are now potentially faced with the social impacts and tensions which will arise from cell phone usage. More time, energy and resources will be spent on managing cell phones in schools and other public places when it simply was not an issue before.

Tim Sander

New Denver

Scientific certainty sometimes comes late

When an issue arrives at your doorstep it takes on an entirely new meaning. It was shortly after I learned that my stepdaughter developed a tumour on her head where she held her cell phone that we had our first meeting with Telus at Knox Hall in New Denver. I remember vividly the claim made by the Telus representative that there was no evidence that cell phones and their antennas caused health problems. Then I learned of other cases of similar tumours. Was I missing something?

I began to understand this discrepancy when I read a quote from a lead researcher, Dr. Ashok Agrawal, who told Reuters: “Our results show a strong association of cell phone use with decreased cancer mortality. However, they do not prove a cause-and-effect relationship.”

I think we have a language problem here. The average American has no idea what the language of science and the language that you and I use in our daily lives. In science, causal relationships are not readily accepted unless the causal ‘link’ or ‘mechanism’ is followed step by step. Since we usually don’t look for these mechanisms in our daily lives, the term “association” in scientific English is usually called a “cause” in common English.

Scientific language has found its way into law. You don’t call someone guilty by mere ‘association’. You have to follow the intricate steps of the crime. Similarly, the absence of a known causal link is the shelter under which a business continued on page 5

The Valley Voice

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Publisher - Dan Nicholson - Editor - Jan McMurray - Food Editor - Andrew Rhodes - Arts & Culture Editor - Art Joyce

Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor 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)
Get a grip

After driving over 900 kilometres a week in all seasons on West Kootenay roads for the last 20 years I have some expertise in winter tires and winter driving that you may find useful.

Most importantly, you should be driving on winter tires that have at least 50% tread. If you are running on anything less, your vehicle’s steering and overall performance is significantly reduced, especially in deep snow and slush.

For example, while driving in 5 to 10 cm of slush, your vehicle’s handling and performance is significantly reduced, especially in deep snow and slush. Getting on the road in these conditions is more likely to be successful if your vehicle is equipped with newer tires. New tires will allow you to steer into a berm of slush without losing control of your vehicle.

Commuting to and from work is safer and faster when driving on new tires. After driving over 900 kilometres a day for the past 20 years I have had some experience in winter driving. If you drive slowly enough, you would save 25 minutes a day on a 100-km commute in deep snow and slush!

Titanium Factories put all the traction enhancing compounds like silica in the top 50% of the tread block. Your winter tires with 50% tread may look like winter tires, but they have lost most of their traction capability.

Winter tires with worn-out tread make good summer tires. Perhaps some of their traction capability. Your winter tires with 50% tread may have good summer tires. Perhaps some of their traction capability.

The authors did not assess cell phone usage at the individual level during this time period, only brain tumour incidence. “Because of the high prevalence of mobile phone use in this population and worldwide, long-term follow-up of time trends in brain tumour incidence rates are warranted,” the authors write.

One of the problems with using cell phones is the broad-spectrum wave of radiation from the tower and the frequency of these waves. Even when you don’t use your cell phone, the wave is a constant pulse – an odourless, colourless, tasteless wave of electromagnetic radiation moving through space, that is absorbed by the human body. Even as your children and grandchildren sleep, what could be more important than the health of our children for today and tomorrow?

Health Canada’s cell phone safety standard, known as ‘Safety Code 6,’ deals with thermal radiation, and studies have not revealed anything about the effects of long-term non-thermal radiation? There are more than 13,000 studies on the PubMed website on the topic of RF exposure and possible harmful effects, including breaches of the blood-brain barrier, reduction of melatonin (we need this for sleep), single, double and triple bands of RF. All are leading to things like brain cancers, leukemia, miscarriages, sterility, tinnitus, neurological and behavioural effects, dementia, Alzheimer’s and the list goes on.

Doesn’t the government have a duty of care to alert the public to the non-thermal biological effects? How can we trust our homes, children and the world’s workforce to be forced to go to school and work surrounded in a sea of untended and unregulated radiation? Has any account been given to the unique susceptibility of growing children? Credit is most definitely warranted.

Those who want cell phones talk about progress, and getting with the times. I personally don’t call leaving a known legacy of enormous proportions with health and economic consequences a cure but a trip.

The limits on exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) that have been set for the general public are as follows: 1,000 microtesla (unshielded). But these are still used today. I don’t think we have even seen half of what is to come from this overloading of man-made EMF radiation on our society, especially for our children. I think it’s worse than smoking, asbestos and DDT put together, and they weren’t even progressed. Is there anything more important than health? Until we can find a safer way forward, my answer is no.

Susan Yurchuk
New Denver
Feel the heat at 18th Silvertown Winter Blues Boogie

submitted by Dick Callison
Saturday, February 6, 2010
Silvertown Memorial Hall
7 pm
COME VOTE ON PROJECTS that were short-listed from feedback from our November public meeting, surveys and interviews
Everyone is invited – let’s top the turnout at the November meeting!

This is a project of the Healthy Housing Society, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust

Building a Healthy Economy in the North Slocan Valley

February 4
Silvertown Memorial Hall
7 pm

Come Vote on Projects that were short-listed from feedback from our November public meeting, surveys and interviews

Everyone is invited – let’s top the turnout at the November meeting!

This is a project of the Healthy Housing Society, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust

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Silverton’s madly popular Winter Blues Boogie is set for Saturday, February 6 featuring bands 'No Excuse' and 'Holly and the Blaze Kings.'

Slocan Valley Rec hosts Olympic torch workshop and hockey day

submitted

Want to find something homegrown and special to help mark this Olympic year?

With the Olympic torch coming to Nelson on the evening of January 23, we want Slocan Valley kids to make their very own torches and become part of the festivities. The workshop takes place on Saturday, January 23 from 10 am-12 noon at Sleep is for Sissies in Winlaw. It comes complete with local art instructor Tim Furrage, a pile of craft materials and plenty of ideas on how to make your very own torch. Then take your torch into Nelson to share the festivities. This free workshop is funded in part by the Nelson Spirit of BC Committee.

The next winter event will be Going for the Gold – Hockey Day in Winlaw, a homegrown hockey game where everyone gets a chance to grab the glory.

As you’re coming call Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

Lucerne Writers Coffeehouse

submitted by Emma Dahl
Lucerne School students are gearing up to entertain the community once again at a Writers Coffeehouse to be held January 21 at 7 pm at the Silverton Gallery.

The coffeehouses are a wonderful way for the students to share their writing with friends and family. They are an opportunity for the school to show the community the skills of the students.

With all our individual strengths and traits to share, we ask you to please come out and support us, while enjoying tea, coffee and treats. We look forward to seeing you there!” said student Emma Dahl.

For information on the health effects of wireless technology, visit www.wiredchild.org

This message sponsored by

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Has your internet service provider let you down?
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Red Mountain Internet Society is your local solution for a reliable, high-speed Internet connection.

www.redmnt.ca

Call 250-358-2869

Hills Recreation Society Youth Bursary
Up to $200.00 is available to any Hills Youth (19 or under) who requires financial assistance towards participating in educational/recreational pursuits either locally or away. Applicants should write a letter/email outlining details addressed to the Hills Recreational Society c/o donna J. Shaw, R.R. #1, Site 2, Comp. 12, New Denver, BC. V0G 1S0. Applicants will be expected to provide a written/verbal account of their experience upon return or can choose to volunteer some hours-in-kind.

The Valley Voice January 13, 2010
Nakusp Community Radio transfers reins to Music Fest society
by Art Joyce

The Nakusp Roots Music Society has entered into an agreement with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) to manage Nakusp Community Radio. Music Society spokesperson Doug Switzer says the board is applying to the CRTC to have the license transferred to the society.

"Initially there was some confusion as to whether a licence could be transferred but it looks like they've cleared that up now," says Switzer. "One of the things we want to do with the station is make it a local station."

He says that CBAL, whose office is based in the East Kootenay, agrees it makes more sense for someone locally to manage the station. CBAL was the station’s original sponsor. Switzer sent a copy of the CRTC application to the National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCCRA) for consideration and they felt the new management plan was a good fit for the community. The NCCRA acts as an advocate for community and college radio across the country.

Switzer says obviously promotion of the Music Festival, as one of the area’s premier cultural events, will be carried out on community radio. But an attempt is being made to create programming that promotes all local community events.

Local bookseller Meritxell Books currently has a show promoting books and literary events.

"That’s what we want, is for people to be able to talk about what they want, whether its social, political or whatever," says Switzer.

The station, it would have to make its own decisions. CBAL is based in the East Kootenay, agrees it makes more sense for someone locally to manage the station.

It’s a community-based station so the community should decide what goes on.

The Music Festival board was uncertain at first whether to take on the station but decided it would be good for the community. The board is not involved in day-to-day operation. The station will be run by volunteers as is typical for community radio stations.

"When we presented the idea to the board we made it clear that the Music Festival wasn’t going to be subsidizing the station, it would have to make its own way with fundraising and volunteers."

Switzer adds that work still needs to be done to build up awareness in the community that ads can be purchased on community radio.

Although CRTC licensing applications can be a very lengthy process, the fact that the station already has its license and is running should speed things up.

"We’re one of the few community stations that’s in such a small rural area; most of them are in larger urban centres."

Switzer says some people are nervous about going on air but there are many other jobs that need to be done, from technical to writing tasks. Shows will be taped to be run automatically rather than having staff-intensive live operations.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the station can contact Switzer at the Music Fest office, 265-2141.

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Nakusp Roots Music Society
Box 559, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
Phone: (250) 265-2141
Toll Free: 1-877-265-5365
Email: nakusp@nakuspuniversity.ca Website: www.nakuspuniversity.ca

Wanted: Project ASSISTANT (two positions available)
General office duties, solid customer service skills, willingness to work varying schedules.

to apply: Cover letter with resume to Jackie Watson, Office Manager, Nakusp Music Fest, 619 Broadway, Nakusp
Closing date: January 22, 2010 at 5 pm.

Wage to be determined.

Qualifications: This is a Job Creation Partnership Position. Please visit Outreach Employment Services for more information

Nakusp Library collections fund supported by Area K and businesses

Paul Peterson, RDCK Director for Area K, has generously donated $1,500 to the Nakusp Public Library’s collection fund campaign.

Individuals and local businesses have donated nearly $3,000 to the campaign, demonstrating the community’s ongoing support for the library.

In order to satisfy patrons and best serve the community, each year the library holds a collection fund campaign. When a donation of $10 or more is given, the donor’s name is put on the colourful stack of books sign at the library made by Bob Cliff. Donations in someone’s name or in someone’s memory are always welcome and will be noted on the stacks too. A donation to the collection fund is a gift that will be appreciated and used by many library patrons for many years.

The library’s annual budget for the collection is approximately $11,000, but the library spends about $5,000. There is a collection reserve, but if this is used every year, it won’t last. Nakusp Public Library is committed to not overspending and not going into debt. This policy was followed when the library expanded and remodelled a few years ago, and when the project was completed there was a small surplus.

The Nakusp Public Library serves a diverse population. Over 2,100 people of all ages and tastes borrow over 36,000 items each year and request a wide range of materials from the bestsellers to the classics.

Library users’ tastes include books, magazines, movies, and audio books. The library aims to please and tries to purchase most requests.

Max Molybdenum Mine

FortyTwo Metals Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Roca Mines Inc.) operates the MAX Molybdenum Mine located near Trout Lake, BC. FortyTwo has filed an application to amend BC Mines Permit M-226 with the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The proposed amendment seeks to increase total annual production of the underground mine; no changes to other permits, such as effluent discharge are required. The amendment will provide for improved operating efficiencies and extend the mine life. New employment opportunities will result with the proposed changes. Importantly, the proposed plan can be achieved with a small net increase (approximately 1.0 ha) to the current footprint of the mine.

FortyTwo Metals invites the public to attend a meeting where management will present information on the mine’s performance to date and discuss the proposed amendment changes for the operation. Please note the following public meeting dates;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday January 14, 2010</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Lardeau Valley Hall Meadow Creek, BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday January 15, 2010</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Legion Hall (4th Ave NW) Nakusp, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday January 16, 2010</td>
<td>5:00 – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Trout Lake Community Hall Trout Lake, BC</td>
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John Shantz 250-308-7941 (cell)
Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.
250-547-9296
Congratulations to all the players, and especially to the coaches and parents who support Minor Hockey. You always win with teamwork!

Play for the love of the game!

Have a great Minor Hockey Week!

Practice good sportsmanship in both hockey and life!

Enjoy Minor Hockey Week 2010!
MINOR HOCKEY WEEK

Congratulations to all the players on a great season! Keep up the hard work and have fun!


Happy Hockey Week!

Bon Marché DOLLAR $ DOLLAR
Nakusp • 250-265-3644

Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic
86 Broadway • Nakusp
265-9993

Hockey helps kids score life’s big goals!
Celebrating Minor Hockey Week!
Big Lodge Contracting, Ltd.
Nakusp • 250-265-4642

Play for the love of the game!

Arrow Lakes Ready Mix
Nakusp • 250-265-4615


Hockey builds character!

Little Mountain Outdoor Gear
260 Broadway St, Nakusp, BC
250-265-2226

Play Hard, Have Fun!

We have Nakusp home and away minor hockey socks for sale! Also sticks, tape, bottles, laces
Little Mountain, your community’s outdoor gear store for the whole family.

Victory is in the quality of competition, and not in the final score

Slocan Lake Home Hardware
New Dover • Slocan

Congratulations to all the players on a great season, and enjoy Hockey Week!

Arrow Lakes Welding & Scot Norsemen Enterprises

Celebrating the young athletes in our community!
Minor Hockey Week, 2010

Overwaitea Foods
100% very own food people
516 Broadway, Nakusp, BC
250-265-3622

Nakusp PeeWee: Front Row, L to R: Dugan McInnes, Dane Bateman, Liam Bobicki, Logan Mengler, Castle Bobicki. Middle Row, L to R: Greg Bobicki, David Faucher, Logan Hascarl, Austin MacDonald, Ashley Herdige, Barry Streliev. Back Row: Arturs Vilks, Jake Williams, Kira Streliev, Jordan Deckoff.


Hockey builds character!

Good Sportsmanship always pays off!

Happy Hockey Week!

Victory is in the quality of competition, and not in the final score
SILVERTON CELEBRATES

2010 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Olympic Winter Games: February 12 to 28, 2010
Paralympic Winter Games: March 12 to 21, 2010

Silverton Memorial Hall will be home of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Viewing for all Silverton and Area spectators!

An invitation to view the Olympic Events on the Memorial Hall big projection screen:

• Opening and Closing Ceremonies
• Ice Hockey and Curling
• Figure Skating and Speed Skating
• Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding

For more information on how to make your group or individual reservation, contact the Village Office during regular business hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
250-358-2472

Come Share the Excitement in Silverton!

Silverton News Bites

Top Stories
2010 Olympics to be shown in the Memorial Hall

Silverton fulfills its 2010 Legacy commitment to show the 2010 Olympics, starting February 12th with the opening Ceremonies. Silverton will be showing many of the Olympic events including the opening and closing ceremonies, figure skating, hockey games and many other events. Snacks will be available. Check the village website for more details soon.

Towns for Tomorrow

Silverton receives $400,000 Towns for Tomorrow grant to improve water system. Combined with $120,000 in Village gas tax reserves the Village of Silverton will spend $520,000 upgrading its water system. This funding will allow Silverton to upgrade the water system to provide clean potable water for many years to come. Silverton provides its residents among the purest untreated water in the province. Upgrades include a second well, new electronic controls, increased capacity, a new second water tower, repairs to our aging existing storage tank and water main improvements.

Infrastructure Grant for Campground

Silverton has received a $99,000 grant to provide new washrooms and hot showers at the lakeside campground. As part of this project we have partnered with SICA - Southern Interior Construction Association to provide employment and training. The project currently has four trainees. This project will also provide a boost to Silverton’s economy by increasing use of our campground.

Infrastructure Grant for Arena

Silverton was also successful in receiving a $28,333 grant in conjunction with the Slocan Lake Arena Society. The grant will allow the Village to continue with renovations to make the arena operational again and provide a needed venue for winter activities. The Slocan Arena Society is contributing an additional $35,000 with the Village contributing a similar amount from its reserves and 2010 budget.

Williams Family donates Land for Water Tower

Anne and Parker Williams have generously donated the land on which our water system resides. Previously Silverton had been granted a covenant to use the land. We wish to express our thanks to Parker and Anne.

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Village installs generator for water system

The Village of Silverton has installed a generator to provide power to its water system in the event of one of our many power outages. In the past surface water would have been diverted from Bartlett Creek to maintain Silverton’s water supply. Surface water is no longer considered a viable source by the Ministry of Health.

Thank you to our funding and supporting partners:

• Community Adjustment Fund (CAF)
• Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC)
• Slocan Lake Arena Society
• Southern Interior Construction Association (SICA)
• British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA)
• Area Residents who signed the application for funding in support of the Arena Upgrade project

CAMPGROUND WASHROOM AND ARENA PROJECT EMPLOYEES:

• Patrick Crabbe
• Michael Dubreuil
• Jason Greensword
• Angela Hartley
• Bruce Phelan
The Corporation of the Village of Silverton P.O. Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0 Phone: 250/358-2472 Fax: 250/358-2321 Email: cao@silverton.ca

NOTICE

Council will be holding budget meetings in the near future and welcomes public input from members of the community with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the 2010 budget.

Please submit your comments or concerns to:
The Village of Silverton
PO Box 14
421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, BC V0G 2B0
Or
Email to: cao@silverton.ca

Deadline for submission: February 11, 2010

Please check the Community Bulletin Board at the Silverton post boxes for Budget Meeting dates and times.

Thanks to an infrastructure grant under Canada’s Economic Action Plan, the Silverton Arena will be undergoing much-needed renovations.

Silverton’s Municipal Campground is undergoing a facelift, thanks to Canada’s Economic Action Plan.
100 Miles and Six Minutes at the Vallican Whole Community Centre

You’ve heard of things going a mile in a minute. How about 100 miles and six minutes? On Saturday, January 23 you are invited to the Locovares’ Feast, followed by Six Slocan Valley Minutes. Both parts of this evening rely completely upon our resourceful valley community for their success. The feast is the 100 Mile Winter Potluck, hosted at the Vallican Whole Community Centre by the Rural Alternatives Resourcing and Training Society (RARTS).

“The Locovares’ Feasts are becoming a beloved valley tradition and are a major component of the new wave of folk music that includes Iron and Wine, Jon Butler, and Jack Johnson. “Simply one of the most amazing solo performers on the scene, he’s a true renaissance man,” says organizer Moe Lyons. “The winter one is especially impressive and is a great place to get to know your neighbours and to spend time with friends, old and new.”

The dinner is licensed, and consists of (mostly) locally grown food, prepared lovingly and brought to the hall to share with your neighbours and friends to stand in front of us all and tell a story, sing a song, perform a skit, or make something fabulous.

Marcia Brandy is gathering interesting items for a silent auction, including collectables as well as local art and valuable odds and ends donated from people’s attics and storage areas. Any suggestions where artists are once more compelled to try to get up on stage and share something – just about anything, as long as it is not illegal, immoral or disgusting – with the rest of the Locovores? Feel free to gesture towards areas that artists will be more than happy to help you, too.”

This year you have the option of signing up for just two minutes if six is too scary. And if you really can’t imagine getting up on stage for any reason whatsoever, you are the perfect audience member: someone who will truly appreciate the sheer guts it takes for your neighbours and friends to stand in front of us all and tell a story, sing a song, perform a skit, or make something fabulous.

The survey results will be available shortly.

For more information see http://www.myspace.com/dominofrauissard.

Hills recreation survey results tabulated

The survey had four sections: demographic information, recreational practices, suggestions for recreation programming, and feedback regarding future development of the abandoned CPR rail trail in Hills.

Results show a fairly even distribution of long-term and recent residents, and that 50 percent of residents are over the age of 55. Hills residents are an active bunch, and listed their top three recreational activities as gardening, hiking and walking. The majority supports the continuation of a many-use/multi-use rail trail on the old CPR right-of-way in Hills.

The surveys were separated into two piles for the tabulation of results—those filled out by landowners adjacent to the rail trail and those filled out by all others. Feedback about the rail trail from surveys in both piles was very similar.

Complete copies of the survey results will be available shortly.

For peace, OXFAM

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Complete copies of the survey results will be available shortly.

Langham hosts Salon of the Arts

During the month of January the work of some 35 North Kootenay Lake artists is on display in both galleries at the Langham Cultural Centre. This annual show attracts new work by established artists as well as newcomers, and can be viewed during regular gallery hours Thursday through Sunday, 1-4 pm.

The Salon Performance and Auction Night takes place on Saturday, January 30, at 7 pm. This popular event is a mélange of performances by Kaslo and Area actors, musicians and storytellers along with the live and silent auction of items solicited from local businesses, galleries, and artists. This annual fundraising event sustains Art Walk, the Saturday Market, the Banner Project, and the Scholarship Fund and Art in the Market activities. The auction is a great way to get involved in support of the community and competitive bidding. Eight performing groups entertain.

General inquiries can be directed to David Stewart at 366-4623 or 354-3566.
Fauquier-Burton Christmas Bird Count report

submitted by Ruth Bumpus

One of the lowest counts in years was recorded by bird watchers during the 31st annual Fauquier-Burton Christmas Bird Count held on December 20. Several species were found, matching the number of years the count has taken place. During the last decade, the average has been closer to 400 species, while this year the count was held on a day that was foggy and snowy, with birds being exceptionally inactive. Also, the Arrow Lakes reservoir was one of its lowest levels ever recorded and food sources were found by the population of water birds far away from viewers.

There was one particularly interesting find – Cedar Waxwings, a species usually only found here in the summer or early fall months. A few were always recorded in the Okanagan Valley Christmas Bird Counts, but this was a first for the Arrow Lakes. Perhaps this is an indication of climate change.

Man charged in motorized vehicle incident on Sicamous

submitted

A man has been charged in connection with a May 24, 2009 incident involving the hijacking of a motorized vehicle on the Sicamous Valley Rail Trail. The operation of motorized vehicles is strictly prohibited by signage posted along the rail trail.

Matthew John William Kalmakov has been charged with two counts relating to the incident: Operate on Private Property and Prohibited Entry to Premises After Notice. According to the court registry in Nelson, Kalmakov pleaded not guilty to both charges on Dec 1, 2009 with a trial date yet to be set.

On May 24, 2009 an operator and passenger were observed riding a motorbike on the rail trail near Sicamous. They were informed by a director of the Sicamous Valley Heritage Trail Society that they were in trespass and were asked to leave. However, the motorbike operator ignored the request and continued to drive on the trail. Several minutes later, a second attempt was made to stop the individuals and request that they cease trespassing on the rail. A collision and alteration resulted. After a witness called police, the trespassers left the scene.

The entire 50-km rail trail from South Sicamous to Sicamous Lake is a non-motorized recreational trail and is very popular year-round with locals and visitors alike. Motorized trespass poses a danger to children and others who use the trail. The Sicamous Valley Heritage Trail Society is working with the RCMP to investigate this incident and rule out other trespassers on the Sicamous Valley Rail Trail. The public can assist by recording details that would help identify trespassers and reporting any incidents that they witness on the trail. The Sicamous Valley Heritage Trail Society can be reached at 1-888-683-7878.

Selkirk College explores local early childhood education training in Kaslo

submitted

Several members of Selkirk College, including Rhonda Schmitz, chair of the School of Health and Human Services and Coordinator for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), met with interested community members of Kaslo to provide information and answer questions regarding the local availability of ECCE training.

Currently, Selkirk College offers six of the 16 courses required to complete a certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education in an online format. This certificate is geared for individuals interested in becoming licensed early childhood educators. The college is currently exploring partnership opportunities with Northern Lights College to offer the entire ECCE certificate in an online format.

Jonathan White receives mobility van thanks to fundraising

by Art Joyce

Ghost Peoples: The Sinixt – original inhabitants, leading him on a quest to his roots, a young muscular dystrophy patient from New Denver who is currently studying in Nelson at Selkirk College, has received his new mobility van. The vehicle, a Chevrolet Venture, is the result of fundraising efforts warmly supported by the community.

The specially converted van was purchased by Global Gift Mobility in Kelowna for $38,000. The ‘vacation’ conversion creates a lowered floor with a manual ramp and 56-inch entrance that allows Jonathan to drive his wheelchair easily into the van and take his place on the front passenger side. State-of-the-art equipment is included.

This is the first time since Jonathan has been in a powered wheelchair that he can sit in the front.

The new van had to be purchased because the old one had become unsafe due to the restricted height of the entrance. Jonathan had to tilt his chair so far back that he could not get in and the caregiver had to physically push him into the van. The Jonathan White bocce tournament and donations raised $8,000. and grants were obtained from the Kingsmen Foundation ($14,500) and Safeway ($66,400 - sponsored by Muscular Dystrophy). Jonathan’s family thanks “the people in our community in helping Jonathan successfully reach his goal for a safer, new van.”

Author Cliff Woffenden to read at Nelson Library

submitted

In 1956 the Canadian government declared the Arrow Lakes Indian Band – also known as the Sinixt – extinct. As Nakusp author Cliff Woffenden explains, this was not the one problem they were still alive. Woffenden will read from Nakusp Author, Cliff Woffenden explains, “Our story is not complete without the truth of our prehistory; our landscape is barren without its original inhabitants.” For information about the reading contact Anne DeGrace, Nelson Library at adegrace@nelson.ca or 250-352-8250.

Request for proposals to repair/replace the Village’s three (3) entrance signs

The Village of Nakusp is inviting proposals to refurbish or replace the three signs on highways 23 and 6, at the entrances to the Village.

We are not being specific at this time in order that we obtain some innovative ideas and proposals for consideration. The only criteria is that they be complimentary, attractive, uncluttered, and that they reflect the Village’s new logo.

Please submit your proposals prior to January 29, 2010 to: Bob Laffleur, CAO Village of Nakusp PO Box 280, Village of Nakusp V0G 1R0
Kaslo council, December 15: Upgrades to arena and logger sports grounds in planning stages

by Jan McMurray

A special meeting of council was called to discuss the need for a new ice plant. Present at the meeting were council, Director Andy Shadrack, Joe Chirico (RDCK staff), Lynda Lafleur (CBT), Alan Barclay (Kaslo Curling Club) and Mel Bryce. It was agreed that the first step is to assess the condition of the building, including the heating, ventilation, dehumidification, refrigeration and electrical systems. This assessment will be necessary for grant applications.

The estimated cost of the assessment is $25,000-$30,000, which should be shared among the Village, RDCK and arena association. Lynda Lafleur said she would look into the possibility of a $10,000 contribution from CBT for the assessment. A committee will be struck with representation from the arena association, Kaslo Curling Club, RDCK

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www.century21kaslo.com
Kulig 7 x 15, 8 x 11
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Century21 Mountainview Realty Ltd.

Thank you Valley Voice

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

Kaslo Wildfire Interface

Focus Group ponders its future

by Jan McMurray

Now that the Kootenay Wildfire Interface project is complete and the licence to cut has been issued for the Back Road project, the Kaslo Wildfire Interface Focus Group is winding down and looking at the possibility of a ‘Firewise’ or ‘FireSmart’ board to take its place.

The focus group was set up by Village council in response to public dissatisfaction with the first wildfire interface project, completed in spring 2009. The group is giving a final short and long-term objectives with a view to getting the public on side with wildfire interface work.

At the group’s meeting on January 6, members stated that they had done a fairly good job of completing their short-term objectives: to strengthen public support for interface fire management, establish high-quality planning for projects, and to get the various groups (Village, RDCK, fire department, community forest, Ministry of Forests) working cooperatively on interface management.

The group has not been able to find any funding for the focus group, and has not completed its long-term objective of completing an action plan, which would include an overall community interface wildfire management plan, a dispute resolution process, a communications strategy, and a governance and funding structure that would ensure Kaslo and area is ‘FireSmart.’

The group has expressed how it could progress to a ‘Firewise’ board and thus no longer be a committee of Village council.

Noreen Clayton, emergency coordinator with the RDCK, pointed out that the Village would always have to take responsibility for interface management work, as it is the Village that will be making applications for the projects. John Calthor, Registered Professional Forester hired by the Village as a consultant on the focus group, said the focus group had tried to build the mechanism by which the Village would respond responsibly to members of the public who were looking to the Village for accountability. He said council should be fully aware if they feel these mechanisms are in place.

John Addison, who has been working with Progressive Forestry on the Kaslo projects, said the Village ‘Firewise’ board is in. He said, "there is a program where a community can establish a Firewise board that holds a planning committee of members on firesmarting their homes, neighbourhoods and communities. The community is then recognized as a Firewise community by government, and the BC government does not have a different program to date, there was general agreement among focus group members that establishing such a board in Kaslo would be the direction to take.

At the next group’s meeting on January 20 at 4 pm in council chambers in the Kootenay Centre, they will continue this discussion on their future direction.

Requisitioned meeting on KDCF finances to be held February 17 by Councillor Leathwood

Six members of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society have petitioned the board for an extraordinary meeting. The petition, which will be voted on at the meeting, will vote on the following resolution: "That the society cease depleting their cash reserves and funding of Standing Timber Inventory (STI) for the fiscal year 2010.”

The meeting will take place February 17. In order to be able to vote at the requisitioned meeting, a member must be a member in good standing of the society for at least 30 days.

Under the society’s bylaws, the board is obligated to hold a meeting within 75 days if petitioned by 10 percent of current members. With membership standing at about 50, five signatures were required to requisition the meeting. The petition, with six signatures, was submitted on November 25.

Among the six members who signed the petition were the society’s president, David Cormie, and Erik Bird, who have been publicly expressing their concern about the financial state of the society in recent months.

The society has had a rough go lately, as the forest industry has been in a downturn. No logging has occurred since spring 2008, and the income statement for the period ended October 2009 shows a loss of $177,977.74.

However, things are looking up. The society has recently advertised and accepted a tender of 5,850 cubic meters of timber, which will bring in an estimated $800,000.

Cormie says he acknowledges that the timber receipt is the sufficient funds for the society to operate without depleting its cash reserves. He has also had a look at the society’s preliminary budget for 2010 and is encouraged that the board is getting its financial house in order. Still, he feels it is important for the requisitioned meeting to go ahead so that the board can explain how it will make sure that the society stays solvent.

‘My main interest is in seeing that the society survives—I want to make sure there is a future for a Kaslo community forest,” he said.

The future is uncertain: how will the North Kootenay Lake area be affected?

Issues such as global warming and changing demographics may have big effects on Kaslo and the surrounding areas. Are you interested in exploring this subject at a public meeting?

Come meet with the Long Term Planning Team of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society. Help us set priorities that will position the Community Forest to be an effective and profitable organization for the years to come. All residents of Area D are invited to join us.

Where: JHV School
When: Thursday, January 14, 2010
Time: 7 to 9 pm
Refreshments will be served.

Supported by the Columbia Basin Trust
Harmonized sales tax coming July 1, 2010

I was in the market for a used car lately, which brings to mind a few thoughts on purchasing a car this time of the year. It has been my experience that December is one of the best times of the year to purchase a car. I suppose this is because people are putting money away for Christmas and there simply isn’t that much else to spend it on. I am not necessarily advocating this kind of spending, but it is a reflection of what is going on. New cars bring to mind thoughts of form and function of the car, which brings to mind thoughts of what makes a car. Ideas of comfort, function, power, and beauty are some of the considerations that come to mind.

To be fair, the new tax is not altogether unfair. There are savings in the way that they are interpreted and put into practice. There is a burden on those members of our society that have little disposable income. It is these people that end up paying a disproportionate amount of their income on tax because most of their disposable income must be spent on these very same things that are included in the sales tax list. Meanwhile, those that are richer are able to put aside a greater percentage of their income into tax-free investments, as they require a proportionately smaller amount of their income be spent on these same commodities. This is an argument that seems to have been lost in all the chatter about the government’s new “harmony” tax, but one that we should all keep in mind as we approach the summer.

Margo Talbot to give talk on ice climbing

Have you ever wondered what would draw someone to play and work in some of the coldest environments on the planet? Fredericton, New Brunswick, the Rocky Mountains of North America to the highest Antarctic peaks, and to the cold of the coldest environments on the planet. What would draw someone to play and work in some of the wildest and most remote reaches of the planet. That is the question that Margo Talbot will be answering in a talk she will be giving January 31 this year at the golf course.

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Vineyards and Wineries in the Arrow Lakes Region

- Are you interested in being part of:
- Developing a new wine region in the Arrow Lakes?
- Grapes and Wine with profit and sustainability?
- A local winery?

You are invited to meet with experienced winemakers and viticulturists to learn more.

Date: January 15, 2010
Time: 7:00
Location: Seniors Hall - Nakusp

For more information, contact Curtis Roe at 250-265-9087, Tel: 250-399-4836 • Fax: 250-399-4831

The Valley Voice January 13, 2010
Slocan Valley Rail Trail features day and night events

The daytime ski day this year takes place on Sunday, January 24 from noon-2 pm. Skiers, snowshoers and walkers will find the best locations between Slocan Park and Passmore, just south of the Passmore slide. Best parking will be found either at Slocan Park or by the Passmore trailhead.

The full moon ski takes place Friday, January 29 between 7-9 pm at the Valley View Golf Course north of Winlaw. The society will be setting a ski trail around the course this winter (conditions allowing), which will be accessible from the rail trail. There will be refreshments and a bonfire and all kinds of terrain to enjoy. You can park at Perry’s Siding and ski down the trail, or if you have young children and just want to sleigh or toboggan, you can park at the golf course parking area.

Both events are by donation. New members are always welcome to join the SVHTS and this might be a great time to get involved. Because of questionable weather conditions this year, it may be wise to bring your lantern and moon ski event closer to the date.

Find out what’s happening by calling 1-888-683-SVRT or Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-226-0008.
FLIKS screening of The Horse Boy

FLIKS and the Langham present the multi-award winning The Horse Boy as their film series season opener on Friday, January 15 at 7:30 pm.

An intensely personal yet epic spiritual journey, The Horse Boy follows one Texas couple and their autistic son as they trek on horseback through Outer Mongolia in a desperate attempt to treat his condition with shamanic healing. When two-year-old Rowan is diagnosed with autism, Rupert Isaacson and his wife seek the best possible medical care for their son but traditional therapies have little effect. When they discover that Rowan has a profound affinity for animals – particularly horses – the family sets out on a quest for a possible cure.

Part travel adventure, part insight into shamanic tradition and part intimate look at the autistic mind, The Horse Boy gives voice to the thousands who display amazing courage and creativity every day in the battle against this mysterious and heartbreaking epidemic. This ravishing documentary odyssey gives insight into how, in life’s darkest moments, one can find the gateway to joy and wonder. One of the most popular films FLIKS has ever presented, The Horse Boy runs 90 minutes and is rated PG.

“There is a real desire to see quality, independent, international films in the North Kootenay Lake area,” says Michael Young, film enthusiast and the driving force behind this new FLIKS and Langham collaboration.

The Langham Film Series screens one film a month on Friday, and features FLIKS’ top films. The Lardeau Valley Seed Savers invites public to potluck that are doing well under changing conditions may help buffer adverse effects. In any event, seeds grown locally are bound to do better than seeds grown thousands of miles away. Seed saving has a long tradition. Many of us already save seeds, and would be interested in exchanging seeds with others, or helping novice gardeners start out. For more information, call Kate at 366-4452.

The Horse Boy runs 90 minutes and is rated PG.

Slocan District Chamber AGM set for January 18

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce invites all interested business owners and others to its annual general meeting January 18, 7 pm at Knox Hall in New Denver.

The directors have spent the last year reviewing the Chamber’s mandate and activities and the directions it should take in the future. Business owners can be called to be called or visited and asked for their opinion on how the Chamber can do a better job going into 2010.

Planning improvements include a regular newsletter to improve communication between the executive, the members, and the broader community. The newsletter will be a two-way street, with opinions and challenges from members most welcome.

The Chamber has also agreed to organize the pre-Christmas Merchant’s rally, with opinions and challenges from members most welcome. The event will take place at Winlaw School, in the Strong Start room, from 10 am-2 pm and is being organized by the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council.

This is an opportunity for parents to learn more about their child’s stage of development by meeting with their child and a trained consultant, using a questionnaire and play-based approach. Displays, art and play activities, snacks, and door prizes will make this a fun and informative day. Drop in to chat with the public health nurse, hearing, vision, and dental screening, and hearing screening, browse the displays and take home important resource information. Open to all families with babies and children from birth to age 6, but if you want to arrange for one of the individual sessions, book early, as space is limited. For information or to book an appointment call Penny at 250-226-7605.

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Nakusp Minor Hockey President’s message

Nakusp Minor Hockey is having another fun-filled year. We have 74 boys and girls registered from the ages of four to seventeen. Under the guidance of volunteer coaches, these kids learn more than just the hockey skills needed to play this great sport. They are learning that teamwork makes things happen and that physical activity and a healthy lifestyle are rewarding.

Tournaments this year have been very successful. There has been an increase in the number of out-of-town teams attending and these teams have commented on our wonderful rink. Hats off to the arena staff members!

Spectators to the games played in our arena range from parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts, to neighbours and friends. When you come out to a game here in Nakusp, you can visit, have a meal and be entertained. No wonder we have such large turnouts!

Although registration is low this year, especially in the younger ages, we hope to see it bounce back in the near future. We look forward to seeing more families join our hockey program and enjoy what this sport has to offer.

Paul Reitmeier, President
Nakusp and District Minor Hockey Association
Archivist Shawn Lamb reflects on 25 years at the Nelson Museum

by Art Joyce

Nelson archivist Shawn Lamb gave a presentation the afternoon of January 9 at Touchstones Museum of Art and History reflecting on her amazing 25-year career. Like most of us starting off in a career, Lamb began with good qualifications but a lot to learn. Lamb brought to the job a degree in history from UBC and experience on the local and regional arts councils. Although she grew up in Nelson, she admits she knew little of its history other than what she’d learned in a few classes in primary school. Volunteers and board members had been working tirelessly since 1955 to establish a museum and art gallery in Nelson. Like a stray dog it had gone from house to house but still lacked a Nelson. Like a stray dog it had gone from house to house but still lacked a Nelson home. Lamb was hired by the museum in 1984 after volunteering as secretary since 1981. Doreen Irving and Lamb were given the job of cataloguing the immense amount of artefacts and archival material.

“I would just plunge into the past,” recalls Lamb. “By cataloguing the old photos I began to see what it was really like here, and how we all build on the past.”

The economy tanked in ’84 and Nelson lost its sawmill and the David Thompson University Centre, which had hosted the Kootenay School of the Arts gallery. Both federal and provincial governments saw the need to fund job training programs and the museum used these to hire students and staff. One of their jobs was to transform a meeting room into the Mildred Erb Gallery. The tiny basement gallery exhibited art continuously until the opening of Touchstones in 2006. In 1995 Lamb was finally hired on salary as full-time museum director. She had been doing community outreach through writing a historical column for the Nelson Daily News since 1988, until Art Joyce began writing his Heritage Beat column in 1996. Mrs. Frederick Niven had written a Day in Nelson History column in the 1930s and 40s, later done by Daily News writer Doris Brashaw from the ’50s to ’70s, followed by Lamb and today by Greg Scott.

The museum’s publishing program began with a brochure on the Silver King mine in 1986. Historian Nelson by John Norris was published in 1995 with the museum’s sponsorship, followed by Joyce’s A Perfect Childhood on the city’s heritage homes during the Nelson centennial in 1997. The Touchstones shop now carries a wide range of books on local history.

“I think we really set a standard for historical publishing in this area,” says Lamb.

In 2004 fire struck the Anderson Street museum, destroying the carefully restored forestry boat MV Amabilis. The museum’s other crown jewel, the beautifully restored speedboat Ladybird, escaped destruction.

“We could have lost everything if the boy at the gas station across the street hadn’t stepped out for a smoke and seen a plume of flame shooting up,” Lamb recalls. “The fire cemented the fact that we needed to move.”

The Nelson Public Art Gallery committee arose from positive public response to a Baker Street exhibition during the centennial year. Stephanie Fischer, Deanne Monroe, and others helped raise the bar so artists would get used to having their works curated. “We could have lost everything if the boy at the gas station across the street hadn’t stepped out for a smoke and seen a plume of flame shooting up,” Lamb recalls. “The fire cemented the fact that we needed to move.”

The valley was ready.

Kaslo girls chosen for Kootenay hockey team
submitted

Three Kaslo-area girls have been chosen to play on the Kootenay zone girls U-16 hockey team to compete at the BC Winter Games in Terrace at the beginning of March. Ava Collier, Heidi and Kathryn Haegedorn were selected to the team after a tryout camp in Invermere at the opening of Touchstones in 2006. In 1995 Lamb was finally hired on salary as full-time museum director. She had been doing community outreach through writing a historical column for the Nelson Daily News since 1988, until Art Joyce began writing his Heritage Beat column in 1996. Mrs. Frederick Niven had written a Day in Nelson History column in the 1930s and 40s, later done by Daily News writer Doris Brashaw from the ’50s to ’70s, followed by Lamb and today by Greg Scott.

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