School District No. 8’s board of education will decide the fate of Winlaw and WE Graham Schools on April 13, as part of the district’s ongoing review of its facilities. At a public meeting in Winlaw on February 1, the board and some district staff members presented the three options they had at the public’s disposal to close Winlaw Elementary; close WE Graham; or make Winlaw a K-3 school and WEG a grades 4-6 school plus the grades 7/8 outdoor program and the grades 9/10 Valhalla Wilderness Program.

Superintendent Pat Dooley encouraged community members to “think outside the box” and try to come up with a better option, which is what happened during the recent school closures and reconfigurations in Nelson. The Slocan Valley review process will involve three more meetings: February 16 at WEG at 6:30 pm, primarily for the public to provide input; March 29, for the board and staff to respond to the public input; and April 13, decision day.

It was explained that the district is taking into account the environmental, educational, financial and community impacts in their decision-making process. Dooley said the board has to respond to enrollment trends and to look at the utilization of its facilities.

WE Graham has the lowest utilization rate of all schools in the district at about 23%. It was built for 254 students and has an enrolment of 60. There are three classes this year: a K-6, the 7/8 outdoor class and the 9/10 Valhalla Wilderness Program (VWP).

The K-6 split class is causing educational concerns. During public question time, Dooley said, “The reason we are looking at these options is because WE Graham has 23% utilization, and multi-age classes that are putting a lot of pressure on us to add more staff, which impacts the rest of the district that has already had lots of changes, and we have new environmental considerations and financial considerations.” She also mentioned that full-day kindergarten is being implemented province-wide over the 2010/11 and 2011/12 school years and said, “We worry about kids starting off their school life in a multi-age class.”

Winlaw Elementary’s utilization rate is also quite low, at about 38%. It has a capacity of 124 students and an enrolment of 73.

The estimated savings of closing Winlaw School is $64,000. In this scenario, it was assumed that all kids from the two communities would go to WEG, although it was acknowledged that some parents would choose to send their children south to Brent Kennedy. The 7/8 outdoor class and 9/10 VWP would remain at WEG. The Strong Start currently at Winlaw School would move to WEG, where there would be a classroom available for it.

The estimated savings of closing WEG School is $110,000. In this scenario, all K-6 kids would go to Winlaw and all grades 7-12 kids would go to Mt. Sentinel. This would require one or two extra classes at Mt. Sentinel, and a portable at Winlaw for the Strong Start. If the VWP were to survive this option, it would move to Mt. Sentinel. The $110,000 savings assumes having just one extra class at Mt. Sentinel; if two extra classes were needed, another approximately $90,000 for a teacher would reduce the savings to about $20,000.

The third option of keeping both schools open would result in no financial savings and would not address utilization concerns, but is the most acceptable option to the community.

All three options address the educational concerns of multi-grade classes. In all three scenarios, there would be a K, a grade 1 class, a 2/3, a 3/4, a 4/5, and a 5/6. If WEG remained open, there would also be the 7/8 and 9/10 classes.

In the two cases involving school closures, there is the savings of one principal position. During public question period, one person suggested that option 3 could result in the same savings if there were just one principal for the two schools. Superintendent Dooley said this could certainly be considered – it is the case elsewhere in the district.

Another suggestion was to look at four-day weeks. Dooley pointed out that this would only address financial concerns, and would not affect utilization or multi-grade classes. She also pointed out that it would make the day even longer for kindergarten.

If WEG closed, one parent asked if there would be room for the extra grades 7-10 students at Mt. Sentinel, which has a utilization rate of 94%. Mt. Sentinel principal, Glen Campbell, was at the meeting and said she would not know for sure about space until the numbers of students came in. Another parent wanted to know if it was viable to move the VWP to Mt. Sentinel. Campbell answered, “Anything is possible.”

Another concern if WEG closes is the fate of WE Graham Community Service Society. The society gets some of its funding from the school district because WEG has community school status. Dooley said she knew of a community school near Castlegar that was closed, but the funding was still coming in and there were still community programs running at the school.

Former Slocan Valley school trustee, Penny Tzees, commented that busing was at the core of the three options. She pointed out that busing would make the day very long, especially for full day kindergarteners, and she hoped parents would ask board members to consider this in their decision.

Ahead of the February 16 meeting at WEG, parents are asked to submit their ideas in writing to the district office in Nelson, or to book a spot to make a presentation by contacting Elaine Henderson at 250-505-7046 or ehenderson@sd8.bc.ca.

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Slocan Lake Stewardship Society provides update on foreshore project

by Art Joyce

Former Premier Vander Zalm files for anti-HST petition

Submitted

Former BC Premier Bill Vander Zalm has filed an application with British Columbia’s Chief Electoral Officer, Harry Neufeld, for a petition to eliminate the provincial HST tax. The petition will be issued on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and Vander Zalm has 90 days to collect signatures from 10 percent of voters in BC’s 85 electoral districts.

Six other initiative petitions have been launched in BC, and none have been successful, but Vander Zalm is confident his initiative will succeed, with volunteer teams ready to collect signatures. If the petition is successful, it could trigger a referendum. According to Bruce MacDonald of the federal Fisheries and Oceans Nelson office, there are eight foreshore management plans currently underway in BC, but Slocan Lake is the only one to be done proactively, before intensive development has occurred.

An initial foreshore fish and wildlife habitat assessment has been completed, but more field work remains to be done to refine current data. Settlement patterns on the lake are another factor being analyzed to see what the level of impact will be.

The aquatic habitat index is new to this year’s report, rated according to level of human impact, shore type, substrate (gravel, boulder, etc.), riparian band width (vegetation along the shore), littoral zone slope (below water level; shallow, moderate or steep), and land use (rural, industrial, or residential). Five sensitivity zones have been designated along the foreshore that contain fragile ecosystems vulnerable to any development. These zones include all stream mouths and the lake outlet, macrophyte zones (aquatic vegetation), shallow shell/gravel beaches, Bonanza Marsh, and the elk winter habitat in Rosebery.

An initial foreshore fish and wildlife habitat assessment has been designated along the foreshore that contain fragile ecosystems vulnerable to any development. These zones include all stream mouths and the lake outlet, macrophyte zones (aquatic vegetation), shallow shell/gravel beaches, Bonanza Marsh, and the elk winter habitat in Rosebery. A 250-metre buffer zone was allotted on each side of the mouth of 12 creeks that have an alluvial fan. A 100-metre buffer zone was accorded to all other creeks entering Slocan Lake. A buffer zone was allotted around each of the other zones of sensitivity as well.

The study has identified two major industrial impact zones, at Rosebery and Slocan, with up to 100 percent foreshore disturbance, while Valhalla Park has zero disturbance, and the rural zone has about 50 percent disturbance from human settlement.

Individuals or organizations who intend to oppose the initiative, conduct initiative advertising, or canvass for signatures must be registered with Elections BC. The deadline to apply for registration as an initiative opponent is March 8, 2010. For more information on the initiative petition, visit the Elections BC website (www.elections.bc.ca/index.php?referenda-recall-initiative/hst/).

This Notice is published pursuant to section 4 of the Recall and Initiative Act.

Approval in principle has been granted on an application for an initiative petition. The petition will be issued to proponent William Vander Zalm on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and signature sheets must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by July 5, 2010.

The Title of the initiative is:

An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST).

Summary of Initiative:
The purpose of the initiative draft bill is to declare that the agreement between the federal government and the British Columbia government to establish a harmonized sales tax (HST) is not in effect. The draft bill would repeal the harmonized sales tax (HST) and provide for the same exemptions as were in effect as of June 30, 2010 and establish the provincial sales tax as the only sales tax in British Columbia for the purposes of raising provincial revenue. The draft bill proposes that it be effective retroactively to June 30, 2010. The Bill also proposes that the provincial share of HST revenues received between June 30, 2010 and the date of Royal Assent of the Bill that exceeds what would be collected under the PST rules as of June 30, 2010 would be reimbursed to British Columbians on a per capita basis.
by Jan McMurray

A helicopter used by organized crime to smuggle drugs across the Canada-US border was seized from the Red Mountain Road property owned by Congo Recreation on January 23.

“The helicopter first came to police interest in September 2007 and has been the subject of many joint investigations with US and local partners since then,” Sgt. Dennis Blanche of the RCMP Border Integrity Program in Nelson.

Blanche said the helicopter had been seen travelling back and forth over the border at least ten times in the last year-and-a-half, and was stored at at least five different locations in the Kootenays. Pilots would use the chopper to make short hops across the border from one rural location to another, bringing as much as 180 kilograms of pot and sometimes ecstasy out of the country, and returning with a payload of cocaine.

“Helicopters can travel very quickly over very rough mountainous terrain, and in these particular cases they fly on low-level or even in darkness at tree-top level, making it difficult for law enforcement to monitor and take the appropriate enforcement actions,” said Blanche. He said this type of aircraft represents a significant risk to the public, as organized crime groups often use inexperienced, unlicensed pilots and unregistered and poorly maintained helicopters.

A police video of the seizure on January 23 shows the Black Bell 206B Jet Ranger helicopter being airlifted out by an RCMP helicopter, and loaded onto a flat bed truck at the gravel pit on Red Mountain Road. The helicopter was transported to Nelson RCMP headquarters, where it will stay until the courts rule on its status. The hearing will take place in Victoria. Officers from the New Denver and Nelson RCMP detachments, Nelson Border Integrity Program, and Kamloops RCMP Air Section participated in the seizure.

Although court documents state that John Colby Mohnsen of Winlaw and Joseph English of Nelson have been in possession of the helicopter at various times since mid-2007 and that Congo Recreation Ltd is the owner of the Red Mountain Road property, no one was arrested. The helicopter was seized under the authority of the BC Civil Forfeiture Act, which only relates to assets, not persons. Blanche said people would have had to be caught in the act in order for an arrest to be made.

“But every time the RCMP can take away an aircraft from organized crime, we consider it another step in the right direction,” he said. “We want the courts to hit criminals right where it matters, and, in this case, take away an expensive asset that assists them in trafficking controlled drugs.”

Clean energy report for BC issues recommendations

A collaboration of many of the province’s top environmental organizations have delivered a report with clean energy recommendations for the future of energy policy in British Columbia. The move was made in part to counter BC government energy policies that are widely seen as insufficient and costly to taxpayers.

The report, Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in British Columbia, was authored by the David Suzuki Foundation, West Coast Environmental Law, Watershed Watch Salmon Society and the Pembina Institute.

The report says British Columbians are intensely concerned about climate change and sustainability. Many citizens are also alarmed at the government’s Independent Power Project (IPP) plan, which committed BC Hydro to paying micro-hydro power producers much more than the market rate in long-term contracts. In a submission to the government’s Green Energy Advisory Task Force, the Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee calculates that export plans will cost BC taxpayers $450 million a year in money-losing power sales. The committee is comprised of BC Hydro’s major clients – the province’s biggest industries. Energy Minister Blair Lekstrom has acknowledged that some will sell at a loss, with contract rates at between $88-120 per megawatt hour.

The report, Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in British Columbia, was authored by the David Suzuki Foundation, West Coast Environmental Law, Watershed Watch Salmon Society and the Pembina Institute.

The report states that is more transparent, strategic and inclusive of and beneficial to all British Columbians – First Nations and the public alike. Among its recommendations are that energy conservation and efficiency be made the highest priority and that BC’s electricity supply be as clean, renewable and low-impact as possible. It urges adoption of a renewable electricity planning framework that limits environmental, social and economic impacts and maximizes public benefit. Water licensing, land leasing decisions and governance need reform, and the environmental assessment process needs to be strengthened to manage cumulative effects as well as improve monitoring and compliance. An informed consensus needs to be reached about the conditions whereby renewable electricity could be exported from BC, if at all.

Full moon ski event on rail trail postponed due to lack of snow

Full moon ski event on rail trail postponed due to lack of snow

Because of a lack of snow in the region, the Slocan Valley Heritage Rail Trail Society has postponed the full moon ski event. The event was scheduled to take place on Friday, January 29 at the Valley View Golf Course in Winlaw. The group are praying for more snow so they can try it again during the February full moon. The new date being set for the ski will be February 27, at the same location between 7-9 pm.

For more information contact the group at 1-888-683-SVRT.
Don’t buy LG appliances

If you are thinking of buying an LG appliance, don’t. None of the appliance repair companies that service this area will work on LG appliances. I bought a dishwasher just over 2 years ago and I have to replace it. No one will fix it. Even if you have a warranty, it can’t be honoured. All of the repair companies say that they are difficult to repair and that they can’t get any help from the LG technicians. Also, they say that it takes too long to get the parts, which they can only get from LG. I called LG and was told they could do nothing for me — and I had to wait on hold for an hour to hear this.

Susan Johnson
New Denver

Olympics and freedom of speech

I am alarmed by the arrest of the protesters at the Olympic torch ceremony in China. These people were exercising freedom of speech and freedom of assembly as supposedly provided for in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. How can China expropriate territory with China over human rights abuses when we are well on our way to an abusive totalitarian rule here? Our governments and their barking dogs, the police, are not our friends. They are all part of the corporate agenda, a marriage between government bureaucracy and multinational corporations.

The Olympics is the crowning jewel of corporatism and consumerism. It is consumerism that is killing us, not that we don’t have a need for manufactured goods, but rather that the construction of, and useful life of these goods, is appalling.

The New York garbage dump on Staten Island (now closed so it won’t interfere with air traffic) is the largest man-made structure on the planet. ‘Garbage Island’ in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is twice the size of Texas. Check out ‘garbage island’ online for a similar search for ‘Fresh Kills landfill’ or ‘largest man-made structure on earth.’

The Olympics is about driving the human body to extremes and quite often with later health consequences. It is about human conquest, and therein is the crux of the problem — this desire in man that we must conquer the earth and defy our mortality.

The Olympics is about using our tax dollars at the expense of other pressing social needs to conduct a frivolous celebration that is a culmination of everything that is wrong in this world. The attempts to make these games look ethical is laughable at best. All the sheople may be fooled, but some of us are not so cute and cuddly… or stupid.

Sadly, the Olympics will ultimately be a flawed jewel of fading luster on a continent of living human beings. It is about island’ on YouTube and do an internet search. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean is twice the size of the planet. ‘Garbage Island’ on YouTube and do an internet search. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean is twice the size of the planet. ‘Garbage Island’ on YouTube and do an internet search. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean is twice the size of the planet. ‘Garbage Island’ on YouTube and do an internet search. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean is twice the size of the planet. ‘Garbage Island’ on YouTube and do an internet search.

GMOs – what you don’t know can hurt you

One of the most serious issues that has come along in quite some time is the genetic experiment currently being forced upon the vast majority of the inhabitants of this planet. That is the genetically modified organisms that are currently finding their way into our food supply. With no human trials being undertaken and no reporting by the mainstream media in North America, the whole population has become the guinea pigs.

GM crops were widely introduced in 1996. Within two years, the incidence of people in the US with three or more chronic diseases nearly doubled, from 7% to 17%. According to the Centre for Disease Control, visits to the emergency room due to allergies doubled from 1997 to 2002, and overall food-related illnesses doubled from 1994 to 2001. Obesity, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, and autism are also among the conditions that are skyrocketing in the US.

More than 70% of the foods on supermarket shelves contain derivatives of the eight GM foods on the market – soy, corn, oil from canola and cottonseed, sugar from beet sugar, Hawaiian papaya, and a small amount of zucchini and rock-

neck squash.

The US government has ignored the warnings of the scientists at the Food and Drug Administration and made back in the early 1990s. They even went so far as to recruit Michael Taylor, Monsanto’s former attorney, to head up the formation of GMO policy. That policy, which is in effect today, denies knowledge of the scientists’ concerns and declares that no nifty ‘science’ can demonstrate otherwise. And it is up to Monsanto and the other biotech companies – which have a long history of lying about the toxicity of their earlier products – to determine if their own foods are not organic.

Highly recommended viewing online: The Future of Food and The Future of the Seed. According to Monsanto: www.nongmoshoppingguide.com

Daniel Thorpe
Silverton

Atamanenko’s GM Bill about economics, not politics

I read with interest the January 21 article in the Western Producer about my Private Members Bill C-474, ‘NDP MP’s Bill Worries Canola Industry.’ The article gives voice to the industry preference to avoid the market analysis of new GM crops being proposed by this Bill and presents a rather hollow argument that this could put a chill on R&D. It seems more like a political ploy than an acknowledgement of the market reality which exists internationally towards GM. The recent loss of our flax markets due to contamination by GM Triffid makes it pretty clear that a GM technology that is not accepted by our major export markets has no economic value whatsoever.

European zero-tolerance is the current reality. The outcome of any possible negotiations toward low tolerance levels in other countries is far from guaranteed and relying on this as a panacea will only destroy the market. Why must farmers in this country continue to invest in GM crops at any cost, even if this cost is not in our own markets? The reality is that GM contamination and happens is hurting farmers in Canada. Flax farmers knew that the threat of GM contamination was a danger to their European markets. Unfortunately, they were right. There is nothing in our current regulations to prevent the commercialization of GM seeds that we know would lead to economic disaster.

The biotech industry may wish to avoid this economic reality but the people’s government should not have that luxury. Bill C-474 was meant to ensure that the government provides an analysis of the level of market acceptance before permitting the introduction of new GM seeds. I believe this is a necessary step to ensure that farmers are protected from unwanted GM contamination that could actually destroy their business.

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior
NDP Agriculture Critic

Slocan Lake studies

On January 31 the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) hosted a public meeting to present two documents. One was a scientific study of the fish and wildlife values of the foreshore and littoral areas (where plants grow underwater) of Slocan Lake.

The other was draft Shoreline Management Guidelines that would guide the issuance of permits for docks, marinas, boat houses, inflint, retaining walls, boardwalks and many other activities such as geothermal loops (drilling in the lake to cool water from solar heating systems - presumably connected to lakefront development). These guidelines were apparently written by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the BC Ministry of Environment, the RDCk and some other parties, with input from the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society.

There were strong indications that the BC government is preparing for the sale of Crown land along the lake to developers. The guidelines were based only on the fish and wildlife values determined in the scientific study. Impacts on our communities, such as diminishing public access to beaches, sound impacts from jet skis, explosive commercial waterfront development, and contamination of drinking water, were not taken into account.

The SLSS says many other considerations would be considered in further planning steps. But neither the presentation nor the government stated what those further steps would be or when they would occur.

In the guidelines, only ‘Very High’ values for fish and wildlife would receive...
continued from page 4

full protection, and that would cover only 5.9% of the lakeshore. It would include only 27% of the shoreline of lakes, and the one-third of the shoreline around the entrance of the lake.

'touchless' areas cover 69.1% of the total lakeshore. The research means they would have the possibility of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Many of us remember the shameless Enbridge Assessment of this Cedar Pulp Mill expansion, the Jumbo Resort and the Glacier-Hower private power development. Canadian and BC Environmental Assessments seldom turn down projects, even when there is extensive evidence of major environmental damage.

Ninety-nine per cent of EAs are ‘screening processes’, which do not necessarily allow public input or even public information. They can be no more than reports written by the Ministry of Community Development, not reviewed by the federal or provincial agencies.

In total, under these guidelines, 94% of the wilderness would remain in wilderness or parks, and 5% in development under some conditions. Of that, 27 kilometres are in Valhalla Park. We assume the Park Act would take the Valhalla and the park would be fully protected. But what about the western shore of the park? What about most of the eastern shore?

The Valhalla Wilderness Society invites input from the public. People who weren’t at the meeting will have the opportunity to wait until the documents are publically released. The Valhalla and the Valhalla Wilderness Society’s submission based on public meeting on our home page at http://www.vws.org. Or stop by the Valhalla Wilderness Society office and pick up a copy.

Anne Sherrod, Chair
Valhalla Wilderness Society

NES does not have ‘no touch’ policy

In response to Len van Houten’s letter in the January 27 Valley Voice, Nakusp Elementary School does not have a ‘no touch’ policy. We do have a ‘hands off’ policy and we explain to our younger children as “hands are for helping, not hurting.”

Our playground rules teach self-control, consideration of others, respect for order, and proper behaviour in public places. In a crowded playground with children of all ages from all kinds of backgrounds, play-fighting and rough-housing can confuse, intimidate and hurt children. We have to be sure that children of all ages and abilities will be safe on our playground.

Our rules are not just “skin deep”. We teach children to respect other people’s boundaries and set their own, to refrain from name-calling and exclusion, and to speak up for their own needs and the needs of others. These lessons take years to learn. Families and communities do a lot of this work, and we are grateful.

This is a very grey area. No child should have to hug someone they don’t want to hug. High fives and pats on the back can be appropriate, but they can also be a subtle form of intimidation. As adults with an enormous amount of experience dealing with interactions between school children, we know that even the most well-meaning person who can say for sure whether something is bullying – and they are often too scared to report.

In the last two or more years, children need to learn appropriate touch and boundaries because they are particularly vulnerable to physical abuse and inappropriate touching.

Students at Nakusp Elementary School have been involved in a variety of projects, many of which involve touch. In the last five years our playground has become increasingly safe and friendly due to ongoing education about appropriate behaviour, appropriate boundaries, and bullying.

Children grow up to be thoughtful, considerate, empathetic citizens. It isn’t easy to make quick decisions over and over again all day long about children’s behaviour. Our teachers and school personnel do an amazing job of making great decisions every day. Next time you see a teacher, educator, assistant, or noon hour supervisor in our school, let them know that our community appreciates them for doing a difficult job that benefits us all.

George Harding, Principal
Sally McLean, Vice Principal
Nakusp Elementary School

Let’s not lose rail trail tenure over motorized use issue

In recent conversations about the Regional District’s application to secure the Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail, some friends in the motorized-user camp have said they plan to oppose the OCP committee’s recommendation, which will be restricted on motorized use.

The word “park” in the application seems to raise red flags. The application is for a “regional park” not for a “regional parklands and trails commission.” The application states that rail trail development must include motorized use. I know, with some education and tolerance, a multi-use trail can be successful. We have three examples of this all over Canada.

Tim Fox
Summit Lake

Richard Allin in the January 27 issue of the Valley Voice, I would like to clarify some of the facts pertaining to the recent public input on motorized access at Rosebery. It would appear that the majority of residents are opposed to a motorized / multi-use trail when in fact, of the 78 respondents who replied to questionnaire (45 are in favour of multi-use (58%) and 32 are opposed (41%). In the survey, the majority supports the continuation of the existing non-motorized multi-use trail. It was held back while the public trail decision is in process, but if the Regional District’s initiative fails and such a commercial application is approved, it could easily lead to a situation that very few trail users would want.

The reality is that the vast majority of current use on the Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail is non-motorized. This winter, for example, there have been people cross-country skiing or snowshoeing on the Bonanza section virtually every day since mid-December. The ski tracks are only one of the ways that the snowmobile trip is used. The recent High Hills Community Recreation Survey indicates that 90% of Hill households use the rail trail in winter. Of those who do, at least 80% of that use is non-motorized.

As well, only a very few of the 78 households in the Hills survey (82% response rate) voiced opposition to the Regional District’s application in their comments. Over 80% support development that maintains or improves the trail of our choosing. The Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail will be restricted on motorized use.

We now have an opportunity to secure this world-class rail trail and wildlife corridor for future generations. Let’s hang in there and work out a broadly supported management plan for the trail. We have commitments from Arca H Director Walter Popoff that management will be based on public input. For now, let’s take the first step to secure it by supporting the Regional District’s application.

I urge all residents to read the Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail to see page 2 in the last two issues of the Valley Voice for directions on how to submit comments by email or regular mail.

Richard Allin
Hills

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Richard Allin
Hills

G. DePretto
Hills
Friends of the LAURDEAU RIVER Submission to West Kootenay Mine Development Review Committee

Support the LAurdeau River

Contact us at Box 1088 Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0. Friendsoflardeauriver@canada.com

Re: Roca Mines amendment application for MAX Moly mine, Trout Lake

Preamble: Friends of the LAurdeau River / trout spawning protection

The Friends of the LAurdeau River is a citizen-based group that provides advocacy and support for the protection of the LAurdeau River environments and specifically the Gardenaud Rainbow Trout spawning grounds. The LAurdeau River is the only remaining major free-flowing river system entering Kootenay Lake. The river supports a wealth of fish and wildlife species, especially trout, from its origins at Trout Lake to its confluence with the Duncan River near Meadow Creek, BC. From it there is only a short migration to the north end of Kootenay Lake. The LAurdeau River supports the largest natural spawning population of Kokanee Salmon in the entire Columbia Basin. Kokanee are a considered a keystone species in the Kootenay Lake ecosystem because they are an important prey source for a number of different fish and the Gardenaud Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout thrive there because of the Kokanee bounty.

The LAurdeau River provides critical spawning and nursery habitat for the unique Gardenaud Rainbow Trout, a genetically and morphologically distinct species. Gardenaud Trout spawn annually in the spring with the vast majority rearing within a small tributary of Trout Lake, the Gardenaud. The LAurdeau River also provides essential habitat for Kootenay Lake Bull Trout, the only subspecies of Bull Trout found in the Kootenay basin.

Roca Mines MAX Moly mine permit amendment application

M-226

The Friends of the LAurdeau River have some concerns with this application due partly to our role as advocates for the protection of this critical trout-spawning habitat. We note that when Roca Mines originally applied for a mine permit, they identified a small area dominated by a group of ‘small mines’ since the mine fell within the maximum annual outflow of 75,000 tonnes. However the current application proposed doubling capacity from 500 to 1,000 tonnes daily, which technically puts them above the small mines annual production limit. Under the mine Act, a mine that exceeds the small mine category would normally be subject to an environmental assessment at this volume of production. We acknowledge that Roca Mines has been required to submit a report to the West Kootenay Mine Development Review Committee with the various stakeholders, i.e. the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environmental Assessment Office, First Nations, Regional District of Columbia, Shuswap, Ministry of Environment and others. We also note that Roca Mines has not applied nor been required to apply for an amendment to its effluent discharge permit.

However, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has concluded that the application falls within their guidelines for water quality reports submitted with the amendment application: “High levels of nitorgen nutrients were observed in both the portal mine and the reduced area is due to the residues from explosives use, and is commonly observed at mine sites. Biological sampling in the receiving environment indicates that the lake water is currently degraded as a result of nutrient loading. Higher than background levels of periphyton are observed at sites located closest to the mine. Biological monitoring has no increase has yet been detected at such sites.

The Moly mine’s amendment application plans for its tailings pond to be increased in size from 17 metres / 110 feet (SE dam) and 30 metres / 90 feet (NW dam) to accommodate the increased waste material. With a dam height increase of 1.5 metres there is already a significant incursion to the landscape at this site even without the additional hectare represented by the dam expansion. If molybdenum share prices remain relatively, recovering in a market with a greater increase in production, will this facility still be adequate to contain the waste material from lower-grade ore? Or will it lead to increased precipitation events causing higher discharge into Trout Lake.

Roca Mines is using only dilution as a means to an end solution we see as less than ideal in such close proximity to critical trout spawning habitat. In the case of the Brenda Mines near Peshcan, BC, an open pit copper-molybdenum mine, after 20 years of operation, the reclamation plant utilized a sophisticated system of sand filtration, neutralization tanks, and polishing ponds. This ferric precipitation process utilizes two stages of pH adjustment and three levels of polishing for suspended solids. According to the paper published on the Brenda Mines reclamation plant, “prewater collected from sludge exposed to these conditions did not contain any measurable concentrations of Mo.” (Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage, 2000). Closure and reclamation expenditures were $38 million, which has been impressive for protecting both an environmental and economic standpoint that the projects like Roca Mines’ Moly mine is carefully monitored throughout its operational lifespan.

Nutrient loading concerns

Our concerns is that the potential increase in nitrates and phosphorus discharged from settling ponds could lead to eutrophication. Eutrophication refers to the nutrient enrichment of water bodies through additions of nutrient-rich water. Nutrient enrichment leads to a population growth of algae and other aquatic plants. This can lead to decreased oxygen levels, increased water temperatures, and reduced biodiversity. In the context of the LAurdeau River watershed, the introduction of additional nutrients could have significant impacts on the health of the trout population. Eutrophication of the LAurdeau River could also lead to the formation of algal blooms, which can consume oxygen and create anaerobic conditions. These conditions can be harmful or lethal to aquatic life, including fish species such as Rainbow Trout, which are already threatened by habitat loss and degradation.

Recent Changes to Environmental Regulation

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the case of Mining Watch v. Red Chris Development Company Ltd. and BC Metals Corporation, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fraser Valley Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Attorney General of Canada, it was determined that the Canadian government had erred in issuing permits to a number of mining companies, including the Red Chris Moly project. The Court concluded that the government’s approval of the project was “Greenwashing” as it failed to meet the established environmental standards and failed to properly assess the potential environmental impacts of the project. The ruling highlighted the need for more rigorous environmental assessment processes and the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems from pollution and habitat degradation.

Conclusion

The Friends of the LAurdeau River urge us to keep this pressing conservation opportunity to attract potential funding for the long-term management of a fish and wildlife habitat compensation plan to offset the losses of the trout-bear habitats and provide existing fish habitats for the local fish populations. It is crucial for the future of our watersheds and for the protection of the LAurdeau River ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Grant Trower for the Friends of the LAurdeau River
by Art Joyce

• A public hearing was held on bylaw 614-6, a bylaw to amend zoning bylaw 614.00 providing regulations for steel containers. One woman stood up to protest any regulation, adding “You wish to control it without researching it” CAO Lafleur explained that it’s basically the same bylaw as the one used in Kelowna. When she became argumentative Mayor Hamling called for order, explaining that council is not the forum for argument but for offering submissions for or against. The woman asked to be recorded as opposed to the bylaw. One resident asked if the bylaw was retroactive.

Nakusp council, January 26: Steel structures bylaw adopted

February 10, 2010 The Valley Voice

The Village of Nakusp is coming off a record year for infrastructure grants. Recently, the council is making an update on the progress of these projects.

• The Brouse water treatment plan, $886,000. The project is funded 100 percent by the gas tax. Surveying for the new treatment plant was completed in November. The treatment plant will be put on hold while sewer and arena projects proceed.

• Sewer upgrade, $971,000. Funded by the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MIRF) with the Village paying one-third. The pipe outfall to the lake was completed by Public Works and Crescent Bay Construction, saving about $210,000. Reclaimed water pipe has been ordered and shipped. Drawings are complete and have been sent to the Ministry of Transportation for approval of the bridge crossing and right of way requirements. The sewer treatment plant has been researched and the final design in progress. Irrigation holding ponds and liners are also being designed and have been approved by the Ministry of Environment. Delterra will be completing the water and sewer improvements and concentrating on the project.

• Water Well No. 2, $521,830. Thomason Drilling has completed the well drilling and has completed the well test. Volume of water is greater than expected. Backup generators have been quoted for the wells. Well connections to the pumphouse will be done this spring.

• Arena upgrade, total $1.53 million. Paid for by a Towns for Tomorrow grant of $300,000 plus Village share of $200,000. Reclaimed water pipe has been ordered and shipped. Drawings are complete and have been sent to the Ministry of Transportation for approval of the bridge crossing and right of way requirements. The sewer treatment plant has been researched and the final design in progress. Irrigation holding ponds and liners are also being designed and have been approved by the Ministry of Environment. Delterra will be completing the water and sewer improvements and concentrating on the project.

The score, but the Ice Devils took control of the rest of the game. Scoring in the second period was Bateman, unassisted, Wyatt Peterson assisted by Bateman, Volansky unassisted and Timothy Barisoff assisted by Madison McCrory. Third period goals were scored by Barisoff (2) to give him a natural hat trick with the assists going to Kimberly Roberts, Ledger Coates and Noah Fizzard. With two minutes left in the third period, the Winterhawks managed to squeak just one goal past outstanding goaltender, Brayden Reardon. Reardon saved many goals throughout the game giving the Ice Devils the 9-3 win over the Winterhawks.

A public works report from manager Mike Pedersen regarding garage problem was discussed. Pedersen is seeking a change from alley to curbside pickup in the area of Nelson Avenue and 8th Avenue between 1st Street NW and 4th Street NW due to obstructions from snow and blind spots in traffic. Councilor Mueller was in favour of the request but wants businesses affected to have a meeting with public works to establish the best arrangement for them. The motion to go with curbside pickup was passed with this amendment.

• Bylaw 623, the anti-idling and smoking in public places bylaw, was given third reading and adoption.

• Bylaw 463, a bylaw to amend Village water rates, was given third reading and adoption.

• Bylaw 625, to establish a heritage commission, was tabled until the February 18 meeting with the commission at the Nakusp Courthouse. Mayor Hamling asked all of council to attend if possible.

A public hearing was held on bylaw 614-6, a bylaw to amend zoning bylaw 614.00 providing regulations for steel containers. One woman stood up to protest any regulation, adding “You wish to control it without researching it” CAO Lafleur explained that it’s basically the same bylaw as the one used in Kelowna. When she became argumentative Mayor Hamling called for order, explaining that council is not the forum for argument but for offering submissions for or against. The woman asked to be recorded as opposed to the bylaw. One resident asked if the bylaw was retroactive.

Nakusp Ice Devils victorious over Kaslo Winterhawks

submitted

On Saturday, January 30, the Nakusp Ice Devils, Senior Novice, played host to the Kaslo Winterhawks.

Five minutes into the first period, Reid Bateman opened up the scoring with the assist going to Eric Vieira. Less than four minutes later, Bateman got his second of the game with the assist going to strong defenseman Adam Volansky. Eric Vieira made the game 9-0 over a tape pass that came from Bateman. Kaslo did manage to slide one past the Nakusp goaltender to finish the first period 3-1 for the Devils.

Kaslo started the scoring off in the second period to slightly narrow the score, but the Ice Devils took control of the rest of the game. Scoring in the second period was Bateman, unassisted, Wyatt Peterson assisted by Bateman, Volansky unassisted and Timothy Barisoff assisted by Madison McCrory. Third period goals were scored by Barisoff (2) to give him a natural hat trick with the assists going to Kimberly Roberts, Ledger Coates and Noah Fizzard. With two minutes left in the third period, the Winterhawks managed to squeak just one goal past outstanding goaltender, Brayden Reardon. Reardon saved many goals throughout the game giving the Ice Devils the 9-3 win over the Winterhawks.

The Nakusp Courthouse is one of the candidate sites for the Nakusp Heritage Registry. An information session will be held on February 18 at the Courthouse, from 5 to 7 pm.

The Valley Voice

ULRIKE ZOBEL, LAWYER 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE FAMILY, CUSTODY, SUPPORT CRIMINAL, DRUGS, DRIVING Nakusp, Kaslo, Nelson, New Denver Silverton, Castlegar, Rossland Trail 250-265-4372 1-877-265-4372

Nakusp Secondary School
Room 20 • 7:00 pm • New members welcome •

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

Annual General Meeting
Feb 18, 2010

WANTED TO BUY:
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John Shantz  • 250-308-7941 (cell)
Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.
250-547-9296

Industry & trades training
Carpentry Training - 24 weeks

This program consists of a classroom-based technical component and a shop-based practical component. Graduates of the program earn up to 500 hours of practical workplace credit and the Level One technical training component of the Carpentry apprenticeship.

Nakusp Centre - March 1, 2010
Silver King Campus, Nelson - July 5, 2010

REGISTER TODAY!
For details call 250-265-4077 (Nakusp) or 1-866-316-6611 (Nelson or visit website)

Applications may qualify for SEDT or LMA Funding.

Public Information Session
18 Nakusp properties will be presented as candidate sites for the Nakusp Heritage Registry.

5 to 7 PM
Thursday, February 18th
Nakusp Provincial Courthouse
415 Broadway Street, Nakusp BC

Heritage expert Robert Hobson will explain the purpose of a Heritage Registry, provide information and images for the 18 sites, and invite comments and questions.

The Courthouse is one of the candidate sites. Completed in 1910, it has reached its 100th successful and continuous service to our community. Come see it to celebrate Heritage Week.

The Nakusp Courthouse is one of the candidate sites for the Nakusp Heritage Registry. An information session will be held on February 18 at the Courthouse, from 5 to 7 pm.

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New Denver council, January 26: Community garden proposal received

by Michael Dorsey

• Council received a petition/proposal letter from 12 property owners and residents in proximity to the S-curve in New Denver. They request that council approach the Village for the sole use as a community garden and public space, maintained by local volunteers. Council passed a motion asking staff to make enquiries into the legal status and potential availability of the lots. Mayor Wright and Councillor Greensword noted that one of the lots listed was designated as a potential back-up site for the affordable housing project, and may need to be held in reserve.

• A meeting will be set up with Garlic Pest Co-ordinator Ellen Kinsell to discuss electrical and water upgrades to the park. The festival organizers would like to make power and water available at the new washroom building so that food vendors can be placed in that area of the park, “to alleviate the congestion and competition for resources that have arisen in the past.” The cost of the upgrades would be borne by the festival (Hills Recreation Society).

Village staff has recommended that the power connection be installed, so that a temporary panel can be attached for the festival every year. Regarding water, staff is recommending that the society save on expenses by attaching hoses to the standpipe near the south end of the new washrooms.

• Council approved some requests from the Village of Silverton regarding the fire department. One request was to use the Silverton Fire Hall meeting room for two regular Silverton council meetings. The other was to remove the yellow fire truck and small red truck from the New Denver and Area Fire Department’s inventory. Both these trucks are obsolete and not needed by the department. The Village of Silverton has been making the lease payments on the yellow truck, and Area K (Arrow Lakes) Director Paul Peterson is interested in purchasing it for $6,000 for Burton. Silverton would also like to use the small red truck for ceremonial purposes. Council agreed to amend the Fire Service Contract to reflect the approval of these requests.

• Public Works reported on the breakdown of the Village backhoe while working on two fall burials. The borrowed Silverton’s machine to complete the work. They also reported that the generator set will be in soon, and that the new water reservoir is 85% full, and has been bacteria tested with results pending. The system is being disinfected with chlorine. Once the chlorine residual amount falls to the permitted level, the system will be activated. The water will not be chlorinated.

Sand & Gravel Pit Application - Mines Act

A public information meeting will be held on Friday, February 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Krestova Hall regarding a proposed Sand & Gravel Pit located at Lot 68 DL 7362, 7369 District Plan 5921.

For further information, please contact JNP Contracting Ltd.

250-359-8039

Anyone interested in this application is invited to attend.

The Valley Voice February 10, 2010

New Denver Donation Store hosts grand reopening submitted by Carol Bell

The public is invited to a grand reopening of the Donation Store on Saturday, February 13. Coincidentally, it is also the beginning of the Year of the Dragon. We will have tea/coffee/soft drinks and snacks available during the hours 10 am to 2 pm. During January we sorted and tossed, painted and restructured and are now open for business.

We would like to clear up confusion about the Donation store. We are not a free store; the RDCK provides that service at the transfer station for a drop-off fee. We accept clean, reusable goods. In return, we donate cash. During our opening, we will accept donations. During January we sorted and tossed, painted and restructured and are now open for business.

For those who would like to know where the money generated at the Donation store goes, please come to the annual general meeting at the Bosun Hall on March 4 at 7 pm. We will be making decisions about the stage and looking at the future direction of the hall. All are welcome.
Slocan residents support sustainable community planning
by Art Joyce

The Village of Slocan has decided it’s time to start planning for a sustainable future. On February 4 about 30 residents packed the WE Graham School library for the first in a series of discussion forums designed to help build on community strengths for a more diversified local economy.

The Village has hired Sustainability Solutions Group, a worker cooperative that does planning for communities and projects across Canada, with members and projects across Canada.

“Ultimately we’ll come out of it with a community sustainability and economic development plan,” said consultant Jeremy Murphy. “Really it’s your input that’s going to determine what that looks like. We want to see what’s here, not what’s missing, what skills and assets you have. And then we want to build on that. It’s a very powerful, empowering process.”

Concern was expressed by some of the 30-somethings that there are too few in their age group left in the community to provide a strong core of young families. The information boards prepared by Sustainability Solutions show 265 people in Slocan over age 15, with a majority over age 50. One young woman said she’s noticed huge changes in just the past four years, with the loss of many businesses since the shutdown of the mill.

The consultants posed a series of questions for residents to ponder. The first question asked was “When was a time when you were most proud of Slocan? Why?” Residents answered that they were proud of the wellness centre, the school programs, recreational opportunities, world-class skate park, Valhalla Wilderness Program, campground and RV park.

The willingness of people to help each other in times of need and the safety of the community for children were cited as major reasons for pride. “If you’re down on your luck here you’re not looked down upon, people pull together,” said one man.

The second question asked, “What assets does Slocan have that can be built upon? How?” Residents cited the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, Ecory (the new business building eco-homes), summer skate park, Japanese-Canadian and mining history that could be better developed, high speed internet, recreational assets such as the ice rink, library, the beach potential, Sunday market, public service clubs such as the Legion and Women’s Institute, the only all-woman council in BC and a skill base of woodworkers, artists, musicians, tradespeople, quilters, and others. Natural assets include the Slocan River and Lake, the Village’s location as the centre or ‘hub’ of the valley, and creeks for microhydro use.

The third question, “What is your vision for Slocan in the future? Hopes and goals?” generated an impressively diverse range of ideas. They included a theatre on the lake for film and plays, building on arts and culture programs and facilities at the school such as the woodworking shop currently not in use, a 100 Mile Diet program, eco-tours that include Smitx pit house locations, a festival unique to the community, and restoring fish population in the river. Infrastructure ideas included a viewpoint created at the highway summit that would entice visitors to stop in the community, and finding a way to direct traffic flow to the town centre, including clear markers such as signs and planter boxes along the route. Industry ideas included boundary expansion to create more land for light industrial, a hydro plant, waterfront recreational development that would include all ages and use of the mill site for cold storage or conversion to greenhouses.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the next round of discussion and planning, with dates to be announced. For more information contact Sustainability Solutions Group associates Kim Hardy, Nicole Chaland and Jeremy Murphy at kim@sustainabilitysolutions.ca and jeremy@sustainabilitysolutions.ca or visit their website at www.sustainabilitysolutions.ca. A website for the Slocan project will be up soon at www.sustainableslocan.ca

AN INVITATION
The Village of Silverton Council invites the local community to view the 2010 OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY
Date: Friday, February 12, 2010
Time: Doors open at 5:00 PM
Place: Silverton Memorial Hall

Please join us as we U-Tube the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics!

We will be opening the curtains at 5:00 PM to reveal the Opening Ceremony in all its glory! Everyone Welcome!

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
New Denver Sustainable Community Plan update

submitted by Craig Stowell and Fraser Blyth

The phase one report of the New Denver Sustainable Community Plan has been completed by consultants Craig Stowell and Fraser Blyth and was submitted to the Village office on January 11. Phase two of the project entails gathering public input at a workshop, being held on Thursday, February 11 at 7 pm in Knox Hall in New Denver.

The workshop on Thursday will include a short presentation on the work and the approach of the consultants so far, followed by an engaging discussion on sustainability in New Denver.

This workshop is being organized to encourage the residents of New Denver to provide input which will guide the development of New Denver’s Sustainable Community Plan.

The following is the executive summary of the phase one report, to give the public an idea of what has been found ahead of the public meeting.

“This Executive Summary report comprises Phase One of the development of an Integrated Community Sustainable Plan (ICSP) for the Village of New Denver, which is a requirement of transfers for Federal Gas Tax Revenue. The goal of this report is to provide a holistic and resilient systems evaluation of what the village is saying and doing to build community sustainability.

“This evaluation was done based on the premise that peak oil and climate change are two of the most serious threats to the Village of New Denver in meeting its most basic needs. Evaluating how we will meet those needs (i.e. clean air, water, food, shelter, warmth) with the threat of climate change and without the abundance of fossil fuels is one of the most typical business-as-usual practices. Furthermore, ensuring that our higher level needs are also satisfied so that we can continue to live and find meaning in life will force the community to become more resilient in adapting to these future threats.

“Our review of Village documents and bylaws found many interesting and innovative ideas that are being done by the Village to adapt to this future. The New Denver Community Heritage Values workshop done in 2008 illustrates the bones’ of the community and a future town bylaw system with food and energy bylaws as priorities with all other bylaws being informed by them.”

Anyone interested in filling out a questionnaire on community sustainability can contact the Village at 358-2316 or newdenver@netidea.com.

Top four projects chosen for a healthy economy in the North Slocan Valley by Jan McMurray

A community greenhouse, a grocery co-op, an educational centre, and seniors’ services were chosen as the top four project ideas at the February 4 public meeting of the North Slocan Valley project, initiated by the Healthy Housing Society.

Consultant Mike Stolte of Nelson gathered hundreds of project ideas by Jan McMurray that community members and a review of past studies.

“Any of those hundreds of ideas are viable business opportunities that entrepreneurs can run with – and they’ll all be in my report that will be in by March 31,” said Stolte at the beginning of the meeting. “But tonight, we are focusing on those that are community oriented, that will foster a healthy, resilient economy in the North Slocan Valley.”

After summarizing the results of his research, Stolte presented a list of 16 projects that he and the project’s advisory committee had short-listed. The approximately 60 people at the meeting voted on the 16 projects and narrowed the list down to eight: educational centre, grocery co-op, community greenhouse, value-added uses for wood, forest interface thinning, community power project, targeted recruitment of young families and foreign students, and seniors’ services.

These eight projects were then discussed in small groups, with a report out to the whole meeting. Then another vote followed to identify the top four. Anyone interested in getting involved with the community greenhouse can contact Mike Wilson at 358-2899; for the grocery co-op, Heather Fox at 358-2680; for the educational centre, Leah Main at leah.main@gmail.com; for seniors’ services, Kevin Murphy at 358-7143.

Throughout the meeting, Stolte stressed that it was up to the community to take these projects forward and make sure they happen on the ground.

The high level of public participation in this project was noted by both Stolte and Jan McMurray, two representatives on the project’s advisory committee. They thanked community members for their participation and encouraged them to get involved with moving forward on any of the hundreds of ideas that will be published in Stolte’s report.

Annie Collins to represent Kootenays in Winter Games by Art Joyce

Hills resident Annie Collins has come first in the midget girls cross-country category for zone one, the Kootenays, qualifying her to represent both East and West Kootenays at the BC Winter Games March 4-7 in Terrace, BC. The qualifying races were held in Kimberley for the Kootenay Cup.

“It’s very exciting to be able to go to the Winter Games and experience that,” says Collins. “It was my first race of the season so it was really cool to win.”

There were four competitors to travel with them, be competitive, race and accommodations for the Winter Games are covered; competitors pay only a $150 registration fee.

“If definitely would like to go as far as I can ski,” she says. “It’s really cool to go to an event with other athletes, to travel with them, be competitive, race and have fun.”

Collins is also helping organize this year’s UN Children’s Conference on the Environment in Japan this year, and was a delegate to last year’s conference in Korea.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is accepting project proposals for funding consideration from Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs. Project proposals must benefit one or more of the following areas:

- Economic Initiatives
- Environmental Initiatives
- Community Initiatives
- Affected Areas Programs

Project evaluation criteria and application forms are available via:

- RCTC website: www.rctc.ca
- CBT website at www.cbt.org

For more information about preparing your project proposal contact Karen Armstrong at 250.522.2470, 1.888.346.3218 or karm@rctc.ca

Deadline for project submissions is 4:30 Pacific Time, March 18, 2010. Late applications are not eligible.
Nakusp Rotary presents Annual Dinner Theatre

This Friday & Saturday evening at 5:30 pm
Tickets available till 5 pm Friday at Barton’s Insurance

Only three days left to buy your tickets
$35 each, reserved seating
Rotary has been presenting a play for Dinner Theatre for the last 12 years. This is done with volunteers to raise funds for our community. Last year the BC government came up with a program to attract more people to volunteer and reward the communities that did so.

The BC government asked service clubs to pick a project and track the hours volunteers put into the project. Rotary chose Dinner Theatre. And it really shows all the work volunteers contribute to make Dinner Theatre a success. The work goes far beyond Rotarians. There were students manning the coat check and serving the meal. We had a broad range of individuals helping in the kitchen. The Village staff go beyond their job descriptions to make the community hall ready for us. Let’s not forget the Rotarians, their families and friends, filling in to man the bar and do all the odd jobs. Barton Insurance sold all the tickets. Our local businesses supplied materials to the event. The school let us use their ovens. And of course the cast, all local talent willing to practice and stand up to entertain us.

Dinner Theatre

Tracking the actual hours volunteers put into last year’s event brought in an additional $3,100 of provincial funding. Money Nakusp would not have seen without the government initiative and without the volunteer who recorded the hours and submitted the application.

This year once again those volunteers and a few more local businesses are involved to present Kiss or Make Up, a romantic comedy of local actors standing up to entertain you, the audience.

Come out for an evening of fine dining and entertainment and help support all those things we love about Nakusp.

Don’t miss the Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre this year, February 12 and 13, featuring Kiss or Make Up, directed by Christina Nolan, and a sure-to-be-fabulous dinner catered by the one-and-only Deb Guest. There are only three days left to buy your tickets, so hurry on down to Barton’s Insurance.
Lardeau Valley Seed Savers joined by seed company founder

submitted by Jade Summer

The newly formed Lardeau Valley Seed Savers is up and running. Over 20 local people attended the first public meeting, including Mary Ballon, the former owner and founder of West Coast Seeds. The next meeting will be on February 21 at Lynx Farm in Johnson’s Landing and will include a seed exchange and a potluck lunch.

Ballon is looking forward to working with the group and will be starting seed trials this year in several locations. The group focused its first meeting on defining goals. The most important goals included producing seeds, having educational presentations at each meeting, obtaining a seed cleaning machine, and learning to work together as agricultural stewards.

There are many reasons for starting this group. One of them, in the words of Sorento seed company Stellar Seeds, is that “it is critical to ensure farmers have access to traditional and heritage seed varieties and that these seeds are being actively adapted to changing environmental conditions.”

Very few seeds are produced in BC, the vast majority arriving from locations scattered around the planet. These seeds are coming more and more under the control of corporations that reduce the available varieties and push governments to enact laws that criminalize farmers for saving their own seeds. The seed savers group recognizes the obvious importance of seeds in maintaining local food security, and the advantage of having locally adapted seeds.

For more information phone Kate at 250-366-4452.

Full Signal movie comes to New Denver

submitted

The award-winning documentary, Full Signal, is showing at the Bosun Hall in New Denver on Friday, February 19 at 7:30 pm. This is a sneak preview of the film before its general release in Canada.

Full Signal, directed by Palestinian/American filmmaker and journalist Talal Jabari, is about the proliferation of cellular technology across the globe. As his website points out, this technology has spread, unabated, like wildfire. More than half the world’s population owns a cell phone. And nearly everybody lives within the range of a cell tower. Yet nobody truly knows to what extent this technology has an impact on the human population.

Full Signal talks to scientists around the world who are researching the health effects related to cellular technology; to activists who are fighting to regulate the placement of antennas; and to lawyers and law makers who represent the people wanting those antennas regulated.

Filmed in ten countries and six US states, Full Signal examines the contradiction between health and finance, one of the many ironies of the fight to regulate antenna placement.

The film first premiered in December 2009 in New York and won Best Documentary at the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival. This year it has already been awarded Merit at the Accolade Competition and is an Official Selection at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and also at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC.

As the filmmaker puts it, “There are 3.5 billion cell phone users in this world. So the chances are, if you turn on your cell phone, you are being touched by cell phone frequencies.”

“Dr. Louis Slesin inspires me to ask the question: if you own and use a cell phone, do you have the right to protest against the placement of an antenna in your neighborhood?”

To answer this question and many more, come out and catch this sneak preview, showing the night before the North Valley Mountain Film Festival in New Denver.

For more information see: www.fullsignalmovie.com

Folkwood Players present Squabbles comedy in Edgewood and Fauquier

submitted

What do you get when a couple of headstrong argumentative in-laws descend on the home of their married offspring and it looks like it might be for good? You can find out on Friday, February 12 at the Edgewood Legion Hall when Folkwood Players present Laurel Karp’s hilarious and touching comedy Squabbles.

After raising the roof for two weekends: Saturday February 20 and Saturday February 27. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Performances begin at 7 pm. The bar will open at 5 pm and during the intermission. Adults only at this performance.

The whole family can enjoy Squabbles at the Fauquier Community Hall the following two weekends: Saturday February 20 and Saturday February 27. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Performances begin at 7 pm. Concessions will be provided by the Needles-Fauquier Women’s Institute.

Tickets, available at the door, are $10 for adults and $5 for minors.
Word of Mouth storytelling event returns to Slocan Valley

submitted

A big bug on a boat, how a UFO can change your day, life during wartime in the Slocan Valley, traplines and twists, growing up in South Africa, and finding trouble like you wouldn't believe. These are the themes to be found at Word of Mouth 9. Storytelling in the Slocan Valley. This year the event takes place on Sunday, February 21 at the Passmore Lodge from 1-4 pm and is hosted by Slocan Valley Recreation.

Storytelling has become a part of the fabric of the West Kootenays in recent years and this mid-winter escape promises to continue the adventure. ‘Everywhere and Here’ is the theme of this year’s event and the stories promise to make the world a little smaller before the afternoon is done.

Barry Gray’s tale will be The Spider on the Harrop Ferry: Who knows what grows under the railing of this old boat? One of the founding storytellers of the Procter Storytelling Festival returns to tell us about it.

Anne De Grace will read an excerpt from her new novel Sounding Line. Follow the life of Pocket and friends when someone/something drops unannounced into this small Maritime bay.

Jack Cowley’s Valley Life tells the story of how the family farm became an internment camp. And then there were the locals who started burning down each others houses. During his 85 years, Jack’s had a pretty unique view of the Slocan Valley.

Ray Stothér tells the tale of The Horse of Power. Join the co-founder of the Vancouver Storytelling Festival to find out just how much trouble you can get into.

Jane Sinclair’s New Shoes and Sammy Loves Bread explores what happens when mama puts you on a diet, or when your shoes are too small. These stories grew out of Jane’s experiences growing up in South Africa.

Susan Hulland tells Tales From the Trapline, about the trappers of a century ago. Kootenay Lake historian Hulland shares the misadventures of these hard-working, resourceful and tough as nails trailblazers.

Admission to Word of Mouth is $10 in advance and $12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Slocan Valley Recreation office and at the Silver King Campus of Selkirk College. Seating is limited so get your tickets early. The Passmore Lodge is located on the Old Passmore Road, which parallels Hwy 6 in Passmore. It is approximately 15 kilometers north of the Hwy 3A junction and two kilometers north of Slocan Park. Watch for signs.

This event is supported by the Slocan Valley Arts Council, Selkirk College and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

For more information phone 226-0008.

Local film festival explores mountain culture across the Kootenays

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival will bring the community together again this winter to explore our local mountain culture. A stimulating evening of film and photography, the Mountain Film Festival will take place on February 20 at Bosun Hall in New Denver.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7 pm sharp.

Each year the festival collects films and slideshows by media artists from around the Kootenays to celebrate our natural landscapes, wildlife, and outdoor adventures.

“The films in this year’s festival drew almost entirely on local talented artists and adventurers eager to share their perspectives and experiences,” says Myles Berney, one of the festival organizers. “We have a wonderful line-up, with a diversity of high quality short films and slideshows about environment and culture.”

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival will feature films about kayaking, mountain biking, and skiing, such as Lucky 13 by Castlegar’s Dainty Deathy Productions, What’s Next? by Fruitvale’s Aaron Lallouque, and Up Down by Rossland’s Brian Coulter. Striking photography by Jim Lawrence will give an up-close look at our local wildlife and landscapes, and we will follow New Denver youth as they canoe Slocan Lake. The festival is sure to inspire a love of wildness and adventure in everyone.

Tickets for the North Valley Mountain Film Festival can be purchased at Silvertown Building Supply and Ann’s Natural Foods in New Denver. The event typically sells out, so get your tickets in advance (adults $5 and youth $2). Chilla Zoll will be selling her famous shortbread and other goodies throughout the evening.

For more information contact Myles Berney at 250-358-2200 or Nadine Raynolds at 250-358-2164.

Kaslo featured at Slocan Bakery Café

submitted

New artwork by Kaslo artist Suzanne McLean is on display at the Kootenay Bakery Café Co-op on Baker Street in downtown Nelson for the month of February.

Original acrylic paintings in varying sizes will be available for viewing or for purchase for reasonable prices. Paintings focus mainly on treed landscapes with a few panoramic views of the Purcell Mountain Range as seen from Kaslo. Come down and take a peak if you’re in the area.

McLean is an emerging artist who paints surreal, expressionist, and impressionist inspired landscapes. “Painting is something I wanted to do for a long time before I started doing it: yet I never thought of myself as an artist. I just wanted to play with colour. Only a few years into this journey, painting has become an exploration in emotion the deeper I get into this love affair I’m having with colour. I paint mostly landscapes, or at least my own dreamlike interpretation of them, because that’s what moves me.”

McLean’s paintings can also be viewed online by at http://onlingalleries.com.au/users/DreamGallery.
Locavore Feast and Six Slocan Valley Minutes a wonderful community event

submitted by Marcia Braundy

2010’s January Locavore Feast, the 100 Mile Potluck at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, was a spectacular success! The tables were laden with locally grown food delights, made at home by most everyone who came. Of course, there were grand varieties of potatoes, each uniquely made at home by most everyone who submitted by Marcia Braundy 14 COMMUNITY

Locavore Feast at the Vallican Whole.

The tables were growing efforts.

Crumples, all products of our own preserves, including huckleberry pies, a giant fruit salad, and many apple crumbles, all products of our own growing efforts. It was a time to just sit and visit with neighbours, and meet new people who have recently moved to our Valley.

After dinner, Clare Kelly and her daughter started off a roasting Six Slocan Valley Minutes by telling us how she and her partner Paul (new owners of the Cedar Creek Café in Winlaw) negotiated with the Nelson Brewing Company (NBC) to get the spent grain from their beer making process, to use it to make the bread they serve at the restaurant. Now that’s a great 100 Mile story.

Will Parker, chair of the RARTS Board, got up next to tell us about the organization, its goals and hopes for the future, and encouraged people to get involved. Jennifer Yeow sang us a song she wrote about the Slocan River to the tune of 'The Mighty Columbia.' Ed Varney shared a letter he had received from the government, telling him that to keep his farm status, a new ruling was being brought in that would require him to sell $10,000 worth of farm products, rather than the current $2,500. Val Mayes and Bonnie Baker each kept humour running through the night, one with a commentary on Lost Socks and their uses, and the other with sheep. Brian Roelofs opened the evening with a mini-benefit to support Haiti, entertained with his song, 'Keep Our Rivers Wild.'

Moe Lyons, MC for the event, sang her new roasting song, ‘Kootenay Rednecks from Canada,’ and finished her set with ‘The Loggers Song,’ which reminds us that loggers are our neighbours, and can have interests in sustainable forest practices as well. Vera Mahina refused to be hooked off the stage when she went overtime talking about the current devastation to the Palestinians in Gaza, and Sandra Hartline reminded us that the West Kootenay Women's Association (WKWA) was hosting Five Feminine Minutes (yup folks, that’s where the original idea came from, when Moe Lyons was chair of WKWA back in the 1990s) in early February. The Slocan River Valley Farmers Society (SRVFS – pronounced ‘serfs’) let us know how to recognize if we were farmers. Did we: build a greenhouse bigger than our farmhouse? Read seed catalogues instead of books? Put our animals to bed at night? Pay more in taxes than we make? Dustin Demontigny (226-7139) said the SRVS’s next meeting will be February 6, and welcomes new members.

Marcia Braundy described the 'Digital History of West Kootenay Feminism' project she is working on for WKWA, to be launched on March 7 at the Touchstone Museum in Nelson and March 13 at the Kootenay Gallery and Culture Centre in Kaslo. The explorer Margo Talbot shared some of her excitement and set us up for the slide show she was to present through the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission. Her slides were superb. Frank Nixon recited a poem, and one of the best parts of the evening was an aerial acrobatic performance by the Evolutionaries: Freyja and Saffire Shye, who are teaching a course on this on Sundays at the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

All in all, a wonderful community event with a broad cross-section of the cultural pockets, age ranges and political leanings of our Slocan Valley residents.
Nakusp’s NaCoMo Wellness Centre offers open house event

by Art Joyce

Our 21st century digital lifestyle is taking its toll on health, with more people finding themselves working indoors at sedentary occupations. The NaCoMo Wellness Centre, managed by the Nakusp Collective for Movement and Wellness, offers a wide range of programs to get people moving and having fun doing it. An open house will be held February 13 from 10 am to 1 pm with demonstrations from instructors.

There are classes available to suit just about every conceivable interest, from specialized forms of yoga to dance instruction to therapeutic movement and even belly dancing. “A major part of wellness is movement; without that wellness doesn’t happen,” says NaCoMo board member Stacia, a body/mind/speech therapist and biogenesis practitioner. “We hope we can bring the whole community to access wellness together so that’s the way of the 21st century,” adds instructor Tyson Bartel.

The collective’s board is composed of Dagmar Meyer, Mary Freebairn, Brendalee Morgan, Stacia, Tyson Bartel, and Jodee Zinselmayer, all of whom have been involved in health practitioners of some kind. Bartel is a movement specialist who learned yoga and meditation in Asia while studying with the Dalai Lama to become a Buddhist monk.

He teaches Awareness Through Movement classes based on the Feldenkrais method. Bartel spent four years acquiring certification in Feldenkrais and is a certified yoga instructor. Moshe Feldenkrais, a physicist, taught himself to walk again without pain after a tragic injuries. Feldenkrais is based on the idea of accessing and using brain function. Stacia says she has been told three times in her life she’d never walk again due to injuries but has regained movement through Feldenkrais.

“I’m walking in a way I haven’t been able to for 30 years. I have the look of legs and ask me how I walked into their office.”

Brendalee Morgan is a holistic practitioner who specializes in indology and has been a master herbalist since 2000. She is also a belly dancing teacher who has performed hundreds of shows over the past 11 years, including one at the Kelkin Centre in Banff. “To awaken the goddess within and stress. Redwood integrates the brain, left, right and ‘back’ brain, dance employs all three parts of the brain, left, right and ‘back’ brain.”

The NaCoMo studio was renovated from the original print shop by Marie Brown, a dance teacher and after she moved out the studio was expanded by Jodee Zinselmayer, a recent arrival from Calgary. She ran it for a year and realized it was too much for one person to operate. The public was invited to meetings to form a collective.

The centre recently received a CRT grant that helped them purchase a digital projector. Regular movie nights known as Philosopher’s Corner will be held, with discussions after the screenings.

The open house will feature performances by Aboriginal and African drummers. There will also be a meeting of those interested in the Nakusp Community Gardens project. The event is an opportunity to explore new classes that could be integrated into the centre, says Bartel. “Ideally what we want is for more teachers to come and teach here,” adds Morgan.

To view class schedules, go to www.nacomo.ca. Call 250-265-9948 for general information or 250-265-4123 for bookings.

Free help available for preparing tax returns

submitted

Starting in late February, low income residents in the Silverton/ New Denver area will have a wide range of free tax preparation services. This program is available under the sponsorship of Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA) Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). Under this program, trained volunteers will prepare income tax returns for free for residents of the Slocan Valley, including dynamic; how entry level home inventory dropped by 22% (90 units) between 2001 and 2006.

The Slocan Valley has a very dramatic loss of affordable housing in both rental and home ownership. There are over 600 people in the Slocan Valley, including the best locations and a rough basic income tax returns, and in some cases, electronically file them on your behalf.

There are some specific criteria under the CVITP that are established by the government in order to qualify. For a single person the qualification is an annual income of no more than $25,000, or $30,000 and for a family income of no more than $40,000. A household with complex deductions for pensions, RRRSP, or employment expenses. Volunteers will discuss with you the forms you qualify for.

Volunteers are asked not to prepare returns for those with the following deductions: investment income over $1,000, partnership interests, capital gains income, capital gains, commissions income, farming or fishing income, final returns for a deceased person, any changes in your financial position, and any tax credits.

Volunteers will discuss with you the forms you qualify for. They will also ask you if you have any credits or tax credits.

Volunteers will discuss with you the forms you qualify for.

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Volunteers will discuss with you the forms you qualify for.
HERITAGE WEEK
The SS Columbia - the CPR tug for the Lower Arrow Lake

submitted by the Arrow Lakes Historical Society

The Columbia was the first boat specially designed for the Lower Arrow Lake winter service. It was mostly a utility boat but had more passenger accommodation than other tugs used in this service. Construction started in September of 1920 and it was launched at the Nakusp shipyard on November 4. The boat was finished just enough to get it through the Burton narrows under its own steam before the water dropped too low to catch it. She had her finishing touches added at West Robson, which were completed January of 1921.

Because the 1921 winter season was mild, the Columbia didn’t operate until January of 1922, doing two round trips per week between West Robson and Needles: Tuesday and Friday, northbound, and Wednesday and Saturday, southbound. There were complaints during her first few months of operation. She was not able to break the ice with her ice breaker and one time, the Edgewood had to help the Columbia to the Edgewood wharf.

The CPR built a smaller combined baggage and freight tug, the Elco, launched at the Nakusp shipyard in January of 1922, which was built and operated by the Columbia for the remainder of her career. The winters of 1929 and 1930 were the ultimate test for the Columbia. In February of 1929, she broke her prop in heavy ice. A week later, service was suspended for nine days when her prop and grate were damaged by ice. Residents complained about the poor mail service due to the unreliability of the boat. They said the powerful tug Whisthutan, in 1916, had worse conditions but by pushing a barge in front of it it was able to manage. When they tried to tow the ice through it, the ice would break off and jam on the grate. The boat did not have the power that the Columbia had not have.

The 1929 season was even harsher. The prop broke again at Robson, and at Syringa Creek a crew of eight men from Fairview Shipyard in Nelson came with two trucks and trailers with big timbers to the scene. In order to get her to shore and jacked up to change her prop, dynamite was used to clear a channel through the ice to the shore. This took four days. Upon being released, she got stuck in the ice channel again not 200 feet from where she originally was stopped.

A letter written to the Nelson Daily News tells the story, “This breakdown of the CPR service leaves the winter trader in a dilemma. Some of my neighbours are without feed for their livestock, while a carload of hay ordered and paid for, lies at Edgewood.” The repairs in the pottery business cannot get their eggs to market. Last winter proved that the Columbia cannot be relied upon because she doesn’t have the power needed. When we were served with another more powerful tug, the Whisthutan, she kept the passage broken through the ice and was on time with freight and mail. The CPR were ‘penny wise and pound foolish’ when they built the Columbia. They have been gambling with the interests of dependent lake settlers. Yours truly, Fred Nash, Renata, February 3rd, 1930.”

“Big Bill” Fraser ran the Columbia most during the 1920s and retired in 1930. Because of seniority, Kootenay Lake captains such as Angus McLeod and Malcolm McLeod came over to run the Columbia for its closing season. This route was considered by employees as sort of an outpost, probably the least desirable of all the routes. The winters were less harsh than the 1929 and 1930 season and only caused minor delays.

In her summer lay-up at Nakusp shipyard in August of 1937, the Columbia needed extensive repairs including a new boiler, but because they had not had enough time to prepare parts for the boiler and steam pipe, it wasn’t until 1938 that she was able to work again. On the trial run to Broadwater, she had a hard time to keep up steam. Art Kocz of Renata was on this trip and stated that it took 12 hours – they had to pull into shore several times to build up steam again. Also, the smoke stack was too short and they couldn’t get enough draft, so had to install a taller one.

Starting in May of 1938, the Columbia was towed on the Minto and Britton routes while those boats were laid up for repairs and refitting each year. However, there were no sleeping accommodations, no room for autos or freight, and had wharf landings only, whereas the Minto was able to land on the shores when summoned all year.

1947 was the year the Columbia would run. The Farmers Institute of Edgewood welcomed a delegation of CPR officials at the launch.

The SS Columbia II was the second of three tugs that operated on the Arrow Lakes. Servicing the Lower Arrow Lakes for the most part, her smaller hull and deep draught did little to make the run adequate for settlers’ needs.

HERITAGE WEEK
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
submitted by Webb Cummings, President

The SS Columbia II was a heritage site built as the Bank of Montreal in 1897 at the peak of the silver mining activity in Sandon. It has been restored in recent years to its original appearance and the structure improved with funding from the Province of BC, Bank of Montreal and others.

Recently the museum and annex has been re-roofed with traditional cedar shingles. The Lancer, the boat built by Mr. House before World War I, has been restored and is in the shelter beside the museum. The building will be repainted where necessary this year.

The Village of New Denver owns the property and has always supported the Silvers Slocan Historical Society in developing and maintaining the building. Funding comes from the Village-sponsored trust fund.

Residents and visitors are urged to visit the museum and join the Silvers Slocan Historical Society. The AGM will be held in March.
Kaslo celebrates Heritage Week with a display, tours, social.

The SS Moyie – Sweetheart of the Lake

Anchors aweigh! The Sweetheart of the Lake is embarking on a journey through history and you are invited.

For nearly 60 years, sternwheelers provided a transportation lifeline to the many isolated communities on Kootenay Lake. The SS Moyie and her sister ships literally opened the Kootenay region to miners, businesses, farmers and pioneer families. When she was launched on February 10, 1910, there were no roads, no trains, and of course no air travel – Sweetheart of the Lake provided a transportation lifeline to businesses, farmers and pioneer families.

The Moyie was the only means of transportation for all of the Lake region. She was purchased by the Canadian Pacific Railway for $1. The company saw the potential of the Moyie to life. Storyboards at street level describe the scope and scale of the restoration that are still ongoing today.

SS Moyie, National Historic Site, is open daily for tours from Mother’s Day through to Thanksgiving weekend. Each year women visitors receive a rose on Mother’s Day.

Heritage Week 2010: the heritage of sports and recreation submitted by the Nakusp Museum Society

The Heritage of Sports and Recreation is the 2010 Heritage Week theme in honour of the Olympics. The Nakusp Museum has a whole area dedicated to sports and recreation because in the early days that was the only entertainment folks! Pioneers worked long, hard hours to settle this valley and sports was a natural activity in this four season playground.

Skis and poles were mostly homemade, as were snowshoes, wooden curling rocks, hockey sticks and goalie nets, fishing poles, skate blades that fastened on to shoes, bob sleighs with metal runners holding eight passengers, and long wooden toboggans.

July 1st was a sport extravaganza! There were rival baseball tournaments all day between Nakusp, Burton, Arrow Park, Arrowhead, Trout Lake, Ferguson, New Denver and Slocan City. Chuck wagon races went flying around the Oval at the ‘rec grounds’ and horse racing was held on Broadway St. (side bets were plentiful!).

Jack Bailey’s Bugle Band performed at the band stand and in the parade, led by baton-twirling majorettes. Bagpipes were also a familiar sound in the parade – usually from Nelson. The parade was a huge success, with lots of individual float entries. Almost every child in town, in costume, was in the parade. Decorated bikes and wagons were included, and even the family pet.

The July 1st dance at the Legion was always sold out; in earlier times they danced the night away in the opera house.

The local Recreation Commission was responsible for organizing the events of the day, and volunteering was championed throughout the village.

Sports have been a big part of western lifestyle since the Greek Olympics, and today it is a huge part of our local culture with organized hockey, soccer, softball, skiing and snowboarding, and squash or tennis for individuals.

The Village of Kaslo hereby proclaims the week of February 15th to 21st, 2010 as HERITAGE WEEK within the municipality.

Thanks to the Lardeau Valley Historical Society

Thank you for all of your volunteer hours and for keeping us aware of our history.

Mayor and Council Village of Kaslo

THE VILLAGE OF KASLO, 1898

ON GREAT VISION

KASLO CELEBRATES HERITAGE WEEK

February 15-21

HERITAGE TEA & PIE SOCIAL

sponsored by CBT

1:00-3:00 pm Saturday, February 20

Legion Hall

FREE GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Come have a look in Kaslo’s nooks and crannies

Monday, February 15 and Thursday, February 18

Meet at 1:00 pm at the City Hall Building

Share Our Heritage

Kaslo City Hall – 1898

The SS Moyie, Sweetheart of the Lake

The Kootenay region is embarking on a journey through history and you are invited.

The ships were the only means of service. And so they came – the rich, mass transportation, freight and mail. The ships were the only means of transportation for all of the Lake region. They were purchased by the Canadian Pacific Railway for $1. The company saw the potential of the Moyie to life. Storyboards at street level describe the scope and scale of the restoration that are still ongoing today.

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We appreciate the hard work of our local historical societies in preserving our heritage

Kaslo Building Supply

6521-Hwy 31, Kaslo • 250-353-7028

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Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

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Cornucopia

Getting better all the time!

Come visit us at Cornucopia

422 Front Street • Kaslo, BC

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422 Front Street • Kaslo, BC
KASLO & DISTRICT

Arena retrofit in planning stage

Council agreed to ask staff to use the chart, and also referred it to Municipal Services for review.

The Village will be directed to remove car parts in the back of the library, as they did not dry properly after flooding occurred.

The Village’s Chief Larry Badry wrote to council to request that the Village rectify the long-standing issue of an inadequate water supply at the fire hall. Public works will be directed to look into temporary water service to the hall until there is a new fire hall facility.

The Village will ask Kootenay Rockies Telco to remove the satellite dish behind the deadline on the photo project. Councillor Corns will contact the photographer hired for the job, Sara Rainford, and report back to council on the status of the project.

A grant application for a cultural tourism strategy for the Kootenay Lake communities of Kaslo, Nelson, and Arden, in E. F. is in the works, with the City of Nelson taking the lead. The Village of Kaslo will provide a letter of support and will contribute $500 from management reserves.

Aimee Watson of the Community Garden Society of Kaslo wrote to request a letter of permission for the society’s project to build a raised bed garden and landscape fabric and bark mulch in an effort to impede the growth of invasive species and weeds. The group is applying for funds through the Walmart Evergreen program. Council will provide the letter, assuming that the society is successful in acquiring the lease for the community garden.

The draft service agreements with the Chamber of Commerce was accepted, with the inclusion of responsibility for Selkirx Loop advertising and a total annual fee of $7500.

• The Kaslo Golf Club will be requested to provide council with its lawyer’s written opinion regarding the lease for the Golf course.

• School District No. 8 will have to make an appeal to the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel if they want lower taxes to be re-applied.

• There will be a meeting with the auditor at 4 pm on Wednesday, February 10.

FLIKS/Langham film series continues with The Big Animal

FLIKS/Langham co-presentations in Kaslo will screen their second film in the series after January’s sell-out of The Horse Boy. The next feature film, The Big Animal, will be presented Friday, February 12.

In this charming Polish fable a middle-aged couple adopt an escaped camel, and are shunned by the townsfolk because they dared to be different. A film about the price of individuality and the value of dignity, The Big Animal will screen in Kaslo with a heart. It’s worth the price of admission for the unique story alone.

The FLIKS/Langham film series runs one film a month until April. Three-quarters of the seats are already sold to season pass holders. So it’s best to buy advance tickets at the Langham between Thursday-Sunday from 1-4 pm to avoid disappointment at the door.

For more information about the films, go to www.FLIKSc.ca or call 1-866-FLIKSca.
Parents network successfully in the Slocan Valley

by Kate Guthrie

When I walk into Passmore Hall for the monthly Network for New Parents luncheon, two young boys run by me, pushing a plastic truck. They’re laughing loudly as they race between a dozen tables covered in neatly arranged children’s jackets, shirts, pants and shoes. Three or four women are seated on the floor against one wall, talking with each other and watching their babies watch each other. Across the room other parents get soup and bread and sit together for lunch.

Network for New Parents is the brainchild of the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council (SVECCAC) and one of the most successful family groups in the area. “People come all the way from Castlegar to attend,” said Dorothy Kaytor from the Kootenay Family Place. Kaytor attended January’s Network gathering as a representative of the Community Action Program for Children. She was available to answer parents’ questions about early childhood development and toddlers in particular. “I provide one-on-one support for families,” she said. “Most parents here feel pretty confident in their parenting style but they are interested in what services are available.”

Besides hosting the Network for New Parents event, the council sends out a regular bulletin via email, the “Slocan Valley Family Connection.” Rachelle Marsden, mother of two and former member of the council, started the email list nearly two years ago. “We needed a hub,” she said. “We have a long valley here and we needed a way to find and support each other better. I created the email list and it’s worked really well.” The bulletin informs families about monthly events, family-centered workshops and classes and, often, recipes from the previous month’s Network for New Parents luncheon. SVECCAC Coordinator Penny Tees now manages the bulletin. “Anything I hear about Mother Goose, baby massage, info about health and development – I put it in and it goes right into folks’ homes.”

Most Celeste Hugon is comes to the network event regularly in part, she admitted, for the food. “Gary’s great,” she said, referring to the chef. “He’s a really good cook. And it’s nice to have one meal that you don’t have to make.”

Gary Yakimchuk has been cooking for the monthly event since the Network began meeting in September 2009. “I like fulfilling a need,” he said as he dried dishes and put leftover soup in jars for parents to take home. He hopes to get together, have adult conversation, exchange clothesbooks and stories. “He knows it’s working, he added, because “it’s the only thing in the valley that people come to on time.”

Many communities have some sort of early childhood council. The Slocan Valley Family Connection is and is a voluntary group of service providers (such as Kootenay Kids and Public Health nurses), parents, daycare workers and local elementary schools. The council works to strengthen families, Coordinator Tees said, “because strong families give children their best start in life.” The council identifies issues that may exist for families and then tries to address them in the Slocan Valley, issues can include isolation and economics. “Families need support in getting together, that’s why we started the Network for New Parents event,” she said. The council has a “loose link” to economic development services, including transportation and housing. At the Network gatherings, parents exchange clothes books and supplies.

“I’ve clothed my daughter Jasmine entirely from this event,” Rachelle Marsden said, pointing out her 18-month-old the day. New mom Kan Bergerson attended the lunch for the first time this month. “It’s so expensive to clothe him,” she said, holding her five month old, Louka. “He grows out of things daily at this point. This is much less wasteful.” Bergerson was also pleased with the range in ages at the event, “Louka is just happy to watch the other kids.” Celeste explains that the council’s purpose being to help families on a one-on-one basis “is a real cook,” she said. “The kids play and independently and I can connect with other parents.”

The network event occasionally, Tees said. “It’s great to get them connected to the circle even before their babies come. We send them home with a package of newborn supplies. Then, they bring in their wee ones – it’s really delightful.”

For more information on the Network for New Parents, which meets the third Thursday of each month from 11-2 at the Passmore Hall, or to join the Slocan Valley Family Connection email list, write valleyconnection@gmail.com.

Japanese workers killed in 1910 avalanche to be commemorated

by Art Joyce

At dusk on March 4, 1910 an avalanche from Cheops Mountain in the Rogers Pass buried railway workers labouring through stormy conditions to clear the line. Of the 58 killed, 32 were Japanese-Canadians, with only four survivors. On the centennial of the disaster this year a ceremony will be held in Revelstoke to honour the victims and their families.

The 1910 disaster was just the latest in a string of deadly avalanches, finally convincing the CPR that a tunnel through the mountain was needed. The tragedy left a deep impact on the local community but even more so on the Japanese population, which places a high value on honouring the dead. The victims’ families, contact workers for the Canada Nippon Supply Company, were shipped to Vancouver for burial without their families’ knowledge. Revelstoke resident Tomo Fujimura formed a family, accompanied him on the tour. In October, 2009 he did an 11-city tour of Japan searching for victims’ families. Fujimura, who works for Canadian Alps ski touring, wanted to combine his research with awareness. To this end, he sold off at the ceremony.

There he discovered reports from March 7 through April 23, 1910 in Japanese-language newspaper The Continental News. Fujimura is working on translating these reports. Kathy English from the Revelstoke Museum is researching 26 families who are the last remaining so that all the victims’ names can be read out at the ceremony.

One thousand origami cranes were made in Japan to present at the ceremony on March 4. “We’re hoping that Canadian kids will make thousands more cranes, because we didn’t have funerals for the family funerals in Canada. Her wife Yuko will be working with Parks Canada to help promote this and visiting Revelstoke area schools to encourage the children to make cranes for the ceremony. A video showing how to fold the cranes is posted on YouTube under ‘1910 Avalanche Commemoration Crane Project.’

Two memorial ceremonies will be held – one on the centennial date Thursday, March 4 and another Sunday, August 15 at Rogers Pass. The Yamaji family and the Imamura family both plan on attending one of these ceremonies, and Fujimura is hoping other victims’ families will attend. Japanese TV broadcasting may also be present. The Friends of Revelstoke and Glacier National Park are coordinating the event, with the City of Revelstoke, Revelstoke Railway Museum, Parks Canada, Canadian Avalanche Centre, and the CPR. A memorial stone will be erected near the avalanche site.

Fujimura is seeking information from families whose ancestors worked with the CPR, and from the local Japanese-Canadian community who may have known the 1910 slide. “It would be nice to have a face to face meeting at some point,” he says. “Any information is important.” He can be contacted at 250-837-0412 or tomot@revolstopakealpina.ca.

For more information contact the Revelstoke Museum at 250-837-3007 or email celeste.hugon@revolstopakealpina.ca. The museum is open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 in the Revelstoke Glacier at 250-837-2010 or visit www.canadianalps.com.

Arrow Lakes Historical Society planning addition to museum

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society hopes to have a two-story addition built onto the back of the Centennial building and co-locate with the library and museum to establish a cultural learning centre. The addition would include a lift, allowing easy access to the library for people who cannot visit now because of the stairs.

The historical archives would occupy the top floor of the addition, while the lower floor would provide storage for the archives, museum and library. Up-to-date storage facilities will ensure that the community’s heritage information will not be damaged by damp or other factors. The plans call for a small workshop for the museum, and will increase meeting and display space for all organizations. A wheelchair accessible washroom will also be built.

The Historical Society has received promises of help towards the costs involved for the addition and is now working on obtaining a federal grant for the construction. A ‘feasibility study’ and business plan is now in process. Offers to help with the society’s goals are encouraged and new members are welcome.

While the office leased by the society now in a portion of the BC Hydro building is adequate, the society is thinking ahead – someday the lease may no longer be available or there may be no one to look after the extensive records of archival information. The society would also like to make the society’s collection more accessible to the community.

For further information contact Rosemarie Parent at 250-265-3323.

Correction

In our January 27 issue, in the Silverton council notes, we incorrectly reported that Monty Smutny had resigned from his position as executive director of the Village office. In fact, Smutny’s position from which he resigned was Interim Hall Manager, not administrative assistant.

The Best Lumberyard in the Kootenays We deliver!
Thanks to everybody who supplied prizes and donated to the Convergent Management Group Ltd Holiday Charity Event. Convergent Management Group Ltd is a local consortium of logging, road and forest service companies who work together on local and regional forestry, road construction and support services. We employ approximately 150 local people.


Together this year, despite the economic downturn, we raised almost $2700 for the Children’s Hospital Foundation, and a good time was had by all.


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Lake Lore Gallery hosts The Love Show for Valentine’s Day

submitted

The Love Show is being featured at Lake Lore Gallery for Valentine’s Day. The event is open to the public with admission by donation. The gallery will be open for the evening with a performance by indie folk band the Savages, who perform at 8 pm, are a new valley-based band whose style is neo-expressionist paintings by Peter Velisek, hanging sculptures by Giosi Lamminatto, and figurative drawings by Cindy Moore. A call to artists is invited to submit work for the show has a deadline of February 3, and all work will be juried by the gallery. The theme is “art in the raw,” or studies of the human figure. Gallery director Cindy Moore says “art outside the box” is another acceptable theme. The Savages are described by band leader Dan Swearingen as “high energy music — a mix of rock, country, funk and punk.” The songs are driven by “searing vocals with precision guitar and saxophone leads over chunky rhythms, riding on a highway of rock-solid bass and drums.”

COMMUNITY

Based in Windaw, the band was established during the past year and performs all-original songs written by Swearingen. The band consists of Swearingen on guitar and lead vocals, Barry Jones on bass and vocals, Kevin Welch on lead guitar, Krispen Elder on saxophone, Shuggy Milligan on drums.

Kaslo wins major funding for local food systems development

submitted

The staff and directors of North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS) are thrilled to have been chosen as one of ten sites for Interior Health’s Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI). The CFAI is a collaboration between communities and the health authority and provides single and multi-year grants to support the development of local food systems.

This funding of $12,000 per year for the next three years will help build a solid program by concentrating food related activities in a central location in Kaslo. Farmers and those needing food and resources from adjacent rural areas will benefit too,” said NKLCSS Executive Director Ramona Faust.

Located in the basement of St. Andrews Church in Kaslo, the Good Food Hub is the product of five years of community outreach, input and planning. With funding through the CFAI, the Good Food Hub will offer a food club, a Food to Families program, space for community food storage (shelves, freezer, root cellar), a food education centre and an emergency baby needs depot. With funding through the CFAI, the Good Food Hub will offer a food club, a Food to Families program, space for community food storage (shelves, freezer, root cellar), a food education centre and an emergency baby needs depot.

“Having the space to distribute farm fresh produce to bulk food club members will help expand the very popular program,” said Betty Gutierrez, Good Food Hub coordinator.

Columbia Basin Trust is also providing $15,000 toward this project, enabling staff to update the Farmer and Farmland Directory and the Local Food Directory found on the agency’s website (www.nklcss.org). In addition, community members will be able to rent a rototiller and canning equipment. The funding from CFAI will build a solid long-term foundation for food security in the North Kootenay Lake area. Though pleased with this grant from Interior Health, Coordinators Betty Gutierrez and Aimee Watson still have lots of fundraising on their plates. Donations are always needed to help keep the Food to Families Program stocked with food for those instances when community members face difficult times.

For more information contact Betty Gutierrez at 250-353-7091.

Stu Hamm performs in Nelson

Stuart Hamm, who has been recognized by Bass Player and Guitar Player magazines as one of the leading contemporary bassists of our time, and who has recorded, played and toured with such inventive and inspiring musicians as Eric Johnson, Joe Satriani, and Steve Vai, will be gracing the stage of Selkirk College’s Studio 80 for a one-time performance Tuesday, February 23.

This world-class and intimate performance is presented by the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society and Selkirk College. Purchase your tickets at the door at Studio 80 on the Selkirk College 10th Street Campus for only $20/$15. Show starts at 8 p.m. but get there early. Hamm sold out the last time he performed in Nelson. Check out Stu’s website www.stuhammm.net

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STU HAMM PERFORMS IN NELSON

The Nakup & District Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Business Excellence Awards on January 25. There were over 100 nominations, and winners in each of the six categories were selected based on number of votes received. Pictured here are the winners of the Home Based Business Excellence Award – Stephen and Jennifer of On the Marks Graphic Solutions. Other winners were: Chumley’s Restaurant (Food Service Excellence); Advantage Travel World (Tourism & Hospitality Excellence); Nakup Home Hardware (Retail Excellence); Kristine Reimer of Touch of Fashion (Employee Excellence Award – Stephen and Jennifer of On the Marks Graphic Solutions).

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Stu Hamm plays Studio 80 in Nelson, Feb 23.

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Alcoholic beverages until 11:00 pm

The Nakup & District Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Business Excellence Awards on January 25. There were over 100 nominations, and winners in each of the six categories were selected based on number of votes received. Pictured here are the winners of the Home Based Business Excellence Award – Stephen and Jennifer of On the Marks Graphic Solutions. Other winners were: Chumley’s Restaurant (Food Service Excellence); Advantage Travel World (Tourism & Hospitality Excellence); Nakup Home Hardware (Retail Excellence); Kristine Reimer of Touch of Fashion (Employee Excellence); Box Lake Lumber (Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year).
Community

People’s Winter Games at the Vallican Whole

submitted by Moe Lyons

Sick of the Olympics? You’re not alone.

On Saturday, February 20, come to the Vallican Whole Community Centre between 1 and 5 pm and let your frustration out while having a great time for a great cause. The People’s Winter Games is a creative opportunity to express everything you think and feel about what the Olympics have become. All proceeds from the day’s festivities will go to the Slocan Food Bank. Admission to the Games is six billion dollars or whatever you can afford. Join the farmers in jumping over hurdles. See Gordon Campbell and Stephen Harper skate around the issues. “By a perverse sort of alchemy, we the people with the positive outlook are portrayed as the nay-sayers,” Lyons says. “Meanwhile the powers that be are spending six billion dollars on a giant corporate circus while BC has the highest rate of child poverty in the country and the lowest minimum wage. Schools are closing, arts and library funding is cut, the Women’s Centre has a raffle to stay open, hospitals are dreadfully understaffed, and Baby Boomers are wondering how we will survive our sunset years. If you think it’s hard to be homeless when you’re 20 or 40, imagine what it will be like when we are 70 and 80.”

Everyone is encouraged to create placards expressing your issues and concerns, and to invent a thematic winter game so everyone can join in. Bring your cross-country skis, your musical instruments, some firewood, your energy and your ideas. This unique celebration of hope in the face of adversity relies upon the caring, humour and creativity of our community.

If you would like to volunteer to make this event the best it can be, call 250-226-7730 or email meadow@netidea.com.

JHV lists Hope for Haiti fundraiser submitted

The JV Humphries Social Action Club is having a fundraising event, Hope for Haiti, in the Lighthouse Theatre at JV Humphries School on February 18. Food will be served at 6 pm, and there will be a guest speaker and a video clip. At 6:30, there will be local talent.

Hope for Haiti is an “un-dinner” consisting of one bowl of rice or beans, to open peoples’ eyes to the fact that Haitians and others often only have that to eat, or not even that.

The money raised will go towards Pure Water for the World, a relief group working in Haiti to build bio-sand filters. “It’s＄48 to provide safe drinking water to one person,” says Alannah James, the local representative for the group, and there are three Nelson residents working with the organization in the Port-au-Prince area. The small NGO has brought clean water to 205,000 children in the last 18 months, setting up 5,000 water units.

Every 10 dollars will provide one person with safe drinking water. The JHV fundraiser has a suggested minimum donation of $55 per person, with tax receipts available for larger donations.

For more information, contact Dan Miles at 250-353-2227. Want a bigger Voice?

Advertise! That’s right, use the Valley Voice to spread the word about your event, your business, or your campaign all over the three valleys that we serve. We distribute to every household in the Arrow, Slocan and North Kootenay Lake Valleys. That’s over 6,000 mailboxes. Over 1,200 copies to local businesses.

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Lucky

He didn’t get his Xmas wish for a new home, so he’s keeping his hat on for a while. Lucky is a great boy, abandoned by his family, but willing to move on with his life. Call KAAP at 250-581-1083 for more information or to volunteer.

www.homes4animals.com

Silverton Historical Society works to promote rich history of area

The local area has a very rich mining history, which has its roots in a silver boom beginning in the early 1890s. At the turn of the century, the Slocan was one of most promising silver prospects in the world. This boom resulted in the staking of hundreds of mining claims, which in turn gave rise to the construction of numerous trails, roads, buildings, tram lines and ore processing mills. Many of these structures have disappeared and exist only in old photographs and the memories of our “old timers.” The Silverton Historical Society was formed in 1981 with a mandate to collect and document this rich history of Silverton and the surrounding area for current and future generations.

The Silverton Historical Society holds its AGM each March, and is tentatively set for March 17 this year. 

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Silverton Historical Society works to promote rich history of area

Working with the Community Club and the Village of Silverton to enhance the Fingland Cabin display area through increased signage, more artifact displays and a walking trail through the area.

The SHS is a non-profit organization. Grants, donations and membership fees help us to continue preserving the historical legacy of the area. We welcome any and all new members.

The Silverton Historical Society works to promote rich history of area.

Volunteers from the Silverton Historical Society attached an ore bucket to the replica Tram Tower at the outdoor museum.
Hyundai Tucson 2010

The last six years of this column have been devoted to adventures, reminiscences, maintenance tips and motoring lore according to Doc Spanner. While I have enjoyed these ramblings, I have always thought it would be worthwhile to venture into the field of vehicle evaluation. I’ve been a mechanic for most of my life. I make my living as an auto mechanic instructor and am a confirmed motorhead. I think I am well positioned to evaluate both the intrinsic qualities of a vehicle, but more importantly, give you the low down on how the vehicle has been engineered for maintenance and the quality of service available for the vehicle in the local area. To this end, I approached the new Hyundai dealership in Castlegar to initiate the new format to Doc Spanner’s Mototalk.

Before I even started, I gave a lot of thought to how I could express in 1,000 words or less, what was good and bad about the vehicle as well as what was valuable and lacking with the service department. I came up with four categories that I thought worthwhile to explore – the drivability of the vehicle, the utility, concerns with maintenance and the experiences you can expect in the service department. I knew I would have to be honest in my appraisal, fair to the dealership, but more importantly, fair to my readers that are looking for unbiased, informative reporting – here goes!

Castlegar Hyundai kindly lent me one of their brand new Tucson models. I chose the mid-level range – the GLS, four-wheel drive. The same unit comes in a two-wheel, front drive model, but I thought my readers would be more interested in the better tractioned version.

The first question I had was price – $22.9K for the base model and about $68K more for the 4WD and fancier trim model that I was driving. I hope you understand that this price is open to negotiation.

This model has been around since 2005, but this is the first year of a major re-engineering. The new is nothing like the old. For one thing, the engine is no longer a V6, but a 2.4-litre 4-cylinder producing a staggering 175 horsepower. I love this engine! It is as peppy as you will ever need. It gets as much as 40 MPG or 7.1L/100km and it seems insanely easy to maintain. I drove it up the Blueberry Provincial road and was able to fly past any other traffic on the road – all on a steep uphill.

The seats in this model are equally spectacular. A wonderful combination of leather on the outside of bolts where you want the wearability and cloth on the seating areas where comfort was a concern. Did I mention they were heated? Both front seats fully recline and the driver’s has a wonderfully simple, elegant, yet functional armrest that you can get to in any way you want it – all with no electrics.

The steering wheel cleverly incorporates the radio, climate and cruise control as well as all the controls for your cell phone – even playing telephone conversations over the car’s audio system. It also houses the cruise control, which works flawlessly.

The transmission on this model was a smooth 6-speed automatic with lots of manual override, but a 6-speed manual is also available.

To put the car through its paces, I headed for the high country on a steep, snow-packed logging road. Traction control is standard and it is virtually impossible to spin the wheels even when things are really slippery. While this may be a wonderful safety feature, I looked in vain for a way to turn it off so I could get more feel to the driving experience. This, coupled with the standard traction control gives lots of increased traction, and although the car was only equipped with mud and snow tires, it has great traction.

The same is true for the ABS feature. On the very steep downhill, I accelerated to a robust speed, jammed on the brakes before a steep switchback, kept the brakes to the floor and simply steered around the corner. This is one of the safest cars I can imagine if you are in a skid on an icy road.

While on the subject of drivability, I should mention that the controls all seem to be where they should be and can include all the bells and whistles you care for, including Sat-Nav. My biggest gripe was the huge blind spot that is on the rear quarter view making it difficult to see close in cars when you are changing lanes.

As far as utility is concerned, the Tucson easily seats 5 people. The hatchback and rear full-folding seats leave lots of cargo space and the safety features include 6 airbags and active head restraints. There are side and front glove boxes for all the detritus that accumulates as well as two lighted vanity mirrors. A tow package is available as an option.

If I was looking for a sure-footed commuter vehicle that gets great fuel economy, lots of flexibility in the cargo department and thought safely feature important, I would take a close look at this vehicle.

In terms of maintenance, my first look was favourable. There is lots of space in the engine compartment to get to all the components. The 4-wheel drive system is both elegant and incredibly simple – nothing more than a single U-joint off the front transaxle to a fluid drive in the rear differential. In fact it is this simple drive system coupled with the 6-speed transmission that gives this vehicle its wonderful fuel efficiency.

Hyundai has one of the best warranty schemes available – 5 year or 100,000Km full vehicle. The spark plug changes are scheduled at an incredible 156,000 km. There are no timing belts to periodically change, as the motor uses a timing chain and my reference flat rate change starter change is under one hour. The flat rate at the dealership is $95/ hour, which is quite comparable to most garages and my experience flat rate change was under one hour. Though I bought the car in Vernon, I offered a courtesy vehicle and a free car wash was included. I also took the wheel bearing problem within 5 minutes and was right on the money.

I got a chance to look at the vehicle on the hoist and was impressed with the thick anti-rust coating on all the brake lines. Rust on these lines can be a big problem in the valley and this will protect them. I also liked the generous body undercoating, and plastic gas tank but was not nearly as impressed with the front splash apron covering the bottom of the engine and transaxle.

This should be made of thick-gauge steel to protect the delicate parts here while using the vehicle off road. All in all though, I would still give it high marks for the elegance of simplicity and function.

I did like the car? You bet I did. Would I recommend it? You bet, especially to those that are looking for a high-quality vehicle that gets great fuel economy, bristles with safety features and seems to have a competent local dealership behind it. Go down and try one out.