Slocan Valley unifies in response to threat of school closures

by Jan McMurray

At a very well attended meeting February 16 in the WE Graham School gym, it was the parents’ and community members’ turn to respond to the school board’s proposal to either close Winlaw School, close WE Graham School, or re-configure Winlaw to a K-3 and WEG to a 4-6. The enrolments are 7/8 outdoor program and the grades 9/10 Valhalla Wilderness Program.

The board heard that none of these options are particularly palatable. The entire Slocan Valley and its four schools (Brent Kennedy, Mt. Sentinel, Winlaw and WEG) would like to work together on a solution. The community would like more time and more information, particularly accurate enrolment figures. Several people referred to the very small savings the school district would achieve by any of the options.

It is expected that a motion on this issue will be made at the February 23 school board meeting. Trustee Lenora Trenaman said the board could decide to extend the deadline for one year, to consider closure, or to do further consultation. In a telephone interview with Slocan Valley trustee Barbara Lindsay after the meeting, she said she intended to put forward a motion requesting more time and more information, and that the carbon cost of increased busing and parent driving would possibly negate the savings.

“The community is willing to collaborate to achieve common educational goals, to overcome diverse opinions and large geographic distances, but we need a task force consisting of PAC members, board members and community members,” she said.

Jessica Lunn from the WEG PAC got a round of applause when she said, “Our current situation could be divisive, but we’re more alike than we think.” She asked the board to recognize that widespread disregard of catchment areas in combination with multiple re-configurations at WEG in the recent future accounted for the decline in enrolment at WEG and the increase in enrolment at Winlaw. “Bringing between the two schools has to happen. There are many pros to keeping them both and the increase in enrolment at Winlaw was not worth the disruption, and that the carbon cost of increased busing and parent driving would possibly negate the savings.”

“The community is willing to collaborate to achieve common educational goals, to overcome diverse opinions and large geographic distances, but we need a task force consisting of PAC members, board members and community members,” she said.

Angela Peebles, Winlaw PAC member, asked the board to consider the trickle-down effects. “Are your meager savings worth what you’d do to our struggling economy? Let’s figure out how to keep both schools alive and thriving.”

Corky Evans was very happy to hear that people in the Slocan Valley wanted to work together on this issue. “If you’ve created a crisis to bring us together, thanks for that!” he told the board. “There was another moment years ago when WEG and Winlaw were pitied against one another…You’ve played upon historical divisions…I don’t think you meant to divide us. It’s a mistake, but it might turn out if it brings us together.” Evans said he realized the board needed to save some money, and asked them to name the number. “Name the number, hire someone to facilitate, and we’ll come up with a plan to save that money.”

Walter Popoff offered his support as Area H Director. He suggested that an advisory committee be set up with school board, parent, staff and local government representatives to come up with a viable solution.

Joanne Ellis, Winlaw resident and WE Graham Community Service Society coordinator, said she spoke to the public health nurse and found out that both communities would likely have two kindergarten classes within two years. “Educationally, remove either of these schools and you will ultimately remove any choice for people at the north end. Brent Kennedy and Mt. Sentinel cannot fit all these kids,” she said.

To cut costs, Ellis suggested that one administrative position at the board office be axed or that early retirement be offered. “School districts have become the experts on closing schools and that’s wrong. Can’t we take on the provincial government and not each other?”

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This year’s Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre play, Kiss or Make Up, was an absolute hoot. Here, two first-time actors, Ron Ibbetson (as Franklin McHugh) and Martin Gibbons (as the policeman), have the audience in gales of laughter. As you can see, the costumes people did an expert job fitting the two in flatteringly rocks. Actors in the background on the couch are Chelsie Pave (as Kirsten Charlotte Deierman), Hans Sparrowood (as Hanley Swapo), Ani Jones (as Morgana Kendrick) and Hilary Bitten (as Barney Berries, hidden behind Ron). Missing is Misty Crosby-Bone playing the part of Eloise Fizpatrick McHugh. The dinner theatre happens every year near Valentine’s Day. See story, p. 10.
Award-winning documentary on cell phones screens in New Denver

by Art Joyce

With nearly 3.5 billion cell phone users worldwide and hundreds of thousands of cell towers, it’s amazing that so few stop to ask what effect this technology might have on health. This question was examined at length in the screening of the documentary Full Signal at New Denver’s Bosun Hall Friday, September 19.

More than 70 people turned up for the ‘sneak preview’ screening, the first time the film has been shown in Canada since its release late last year. Among those interviewed in the film are Olle Johannson, the world-renowned electromagnetic radiation (EMR) expert from Sweden’s Karolinska Institute. He cites a European study about seven years ago on background radiation levels that found an increase of 3,000 percent over a decade earlier. Johannson says there are now one million billion times ambient levels found in the atmosphere. He adds that second generation GSM technology in 1997, there has been a clear correlation of a public health decline in technology use and brain tumours as well as other cancers. Levitt points out that for the first time in history, brain tumours are the number one killer of children in North America. Arecnt Scandinavian study indicated that for those who use cell phones under age 18, while brains and immune systems are still developing, there is a five times greater risk than average of getting a tumour compared with those who start using the phones at age 30. Johannson says only one minute of exposure is enough to change the brain’s electromagnetic frequency in a child. The latency period for brain tumours is 10 years, and as with a host of other chronic diseases, people’s resistance to disease varies with the individual.

The film profiles communities in Israel and America that have learned of the exposure hazard and are taking action to prevent or remove cell phone towers. One Palestinian community found that when they examined a map of local towers and overlaid recent cancer cases in the village, the locations matched perfectly. His council has since passed a bylaw refusing cell phone companies permission to install cell towers. As the mayor says, “milk for babies is a necessity; cell phones are not.”

Dr. David Carpenter of the University of Albany, New York, says the assumptions behind government exposure standards are not set by physicians or scientists but by engineers who are not qualified to assess the biological implications. “As we get more information,” says Carpenter, “we find that our expectations are being exceeded. Some of these concerns are supported by the peer-reviewed scientific literature.”

Carpenter believes technicians can find safer ways of using the technology but there is nowhere for the cell phone companies to do so due to the current weak regulatory environment. The Telecommunications Act of 1996, which was heavily influenced by the cell phone industry, does not allow a challenge to cell towers based on health grounds. Canada’s Radiation and Communications Act has a similar clause. Johannson says the cell phone companies are “telling us it’s safe, but apparently it’s not safe to study it, because there’s no money available for studies.”

Scientist Leif Salford describes cell phone technology as “the world’s largest biological experiment ever.” Some wonder writer Blake Levin states that 13 studies have shown double strand DNA breaks from cell phone exposure. Single strand breaks can be repaired, double-strand breaks cannot. They are believed to cause genetic mutations that are passed to the next generation. Even the US FDA has identified EMR as a “potential human carcinogen.”

“People are assuming that someone somewhere has determined that this technology is safe,” says Levitt. “And that is simply not the case.”

However, three weeks later, he got up early in the morning as usual and became overwhelmed with the feeling of enjoyment he had had with his grandchildren in Edmonton over Christmas. “It suddenly struck me – how many events like that have I missed because of my work schedule. I pondered that for about a half hour and it wouldn’t go away. So I went up and told my wife I had decided to retire, and she said, ‘great.’”

Abbott said that although he suspected that would be her reaction, she has been nothing but a constant support to him throughout his political career. “She’s been such a brick, and she’s always let me do my thing without grubbing. But a politician’s family pays a price – I call it the ‘tyranny of the urgent.’ For example, a public official could be in a toy store with his grandchildren, who should be playing and having fun. A stranger could come up to the politician with an issue, and the stranger ends up taking priority over the grandchildren – because of the ‘tyranny of the urgent,’” said Abbott.

He admits that he is conflicted on the decision, as he believes he and his office have been able to help a lot of his constituents over the years. In the past year, the riding has been “particularly interesting,” he said, “I’ve been able to help a lot of NGOs over in Asia, and I intend to continue with that.”

Abbott has an impressive career path, as once the candidate is selected, “I’ll do everything I can to make sure my successor is successful in the next election,” he said.

Abbott has an avid interest in Asian, having held his seat since 1993 in a total of six elections. He currently serves as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Cooperation, and formerly served as Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. He has sat on many parliamentary committees over the years.

Asian Pacific issues are of particular interest to him. Abbott organizes delegations to Asia, helping NGOs with their political contacts “so they can get things done – and that has made a difference,” said Abbott. He has a passion for Asia, and other executive capacities in Asia Pacific parliamentary organizations.

Abbott is married to his wife, Jeannette. Nakusp, the Arrow Lakes and most of the Larder Lake area are in Abbott’s constituency.
**Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan to use wolf cull**

by Art Joyce

The BC government has announced it will use wolf culls in areas where mountain caribou herds are less than 50 animals, using sharpshooters from helicopters. The strategy is part of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan in development since 2002, when the caribou were ‘red-listed’ as an endangered species. Environmental groups are divided on the wolf cull tactic, however.

That report noted that mountain caribou have been extirpated from 43% of their former range in BC. B.C. has an estimated 1,900 caribou in 13 local populations. Although some gains have been made in individual packs, caribou numbers have continued to decline.

In 2007, the BC government announced the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan, which committed government to various management actions, with the goal to halt the decline of mountain caribou within seven years and recover the population to levels of 500 animals within 20 years. The aerial removal of wolves to protect mountain caribou is one of the recommendations in a report prepared by 14 experts on the Province’s mountain caribou science team. The government strategy has also included herd augmentation by bringing in pregnant caribou to critically endangered populations. Gradual reduction of more than 1,000 mountain caribou populations throughout the mountain caribou range through adjustments to hunting regulations is another tactic proposed.

Valthalla Wilderness Society (VWS)/Director Craig Pettitt says of the wolf cull, “The proposed escalation by employing helicopters is an admission that the current wolf kill programs have been a failure. Many scientific studies have shown that when wolves are killed, packs disperse and wolves spread over a larger area, resulting in more packs, more breeding pairs and higher birth rates.”

According to VWS, since the province started its wolf eradication plan in the Revelstoke area, wolf sightings and evidence of packs have increased dramatically in areas to the south of Revelstoke, such as the Slocan Valley and Landavele. Researchers in Revelstoke have found that there was significant dispersal of the pack due to the hunting pressure.

Lawrence Redfern, Outreach Director for the Mountain Caribou Project, is cautiously optimistic. Still, he admits that for the environmental groups his coalition represents, predator culls are always distasteful, a strategy of last resort. Redfern says the studies he has examined overwhelmingly indicate that caribou populations will recover where wolf predation has been a problem. However, many of the studies have been done in northern Canada where there’s a much simpler predator-prey relationship in a different ecosystem.

In the Kootenays there are more potential predators, including grizzly bears and cougars. The most recent major drop in caribou populations in the East and West Kootenays were due to predation. A high whistler deer population sustains the cougar population but one winter with high mortality for deer puts pressure on caribou from cougar predation as well.

Redfern says Ministry of Environment data shows that the cougar population isn’t anywhere near what it was in the mid-’90s. However, in January this year one cougar in the Slocan Valley Gospel Group (a coalition of wolf advocate Conservation Officer Arnold Deboon said the cougar population is higher than normal.

Although Redfern supports the government science team’s conclusions, he says the current situation is a legacy of bad decisions made by government over the past two decades or so. The original Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan report admits that the primary reason for the decline in caribou population is habitat loss. “Today, the primary threat to mountain caribou appears to be fragmentation of their habitat….forest practices are currently considered to be the greatest habitat management concern.”

“We’re not talking about getting rid of all the wolves, it’s about ratcheting down the numbers,” says Redfern. “It’s also important to remember when we kill wolves that we may not get the result we want, but if we don’t we will see the extirpation of mountain caribou. And that’s that makes us uncomfortable, it’s an unpleasant action to have to take. My impression is that everyone’s interested in the same result: wolf and caribou out there in the landscape but in a healthy balance.”

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Interview with Gordon

“Hi. I’m here in the Slocan Valley to interview Gale on her reopening. Hi Gale.”

“Hi Gordon.”

“Gale, you’ve done what I do and I’m very excited with what you have done. Tell me, Why the change?”

“Well Gordon, it was time. We always believed that Slocan Park needed a small café after the Bistro left. We’re looking to fill a void, so people can get freshly prepared foods.”

“Gale, I understand you changed the name, and I’ve got to be honest, ‘Nothing Fancy’ is an interesting choice. What’s with that?”

“When we decided to renovate, customers asked, ‘What will be new?’ I said, ‘subs, pizza, and lasagna. Nothing Fancy, just great food’. That was how the name was born.”

“Wow! Great love! I am really excited about the menu and the take out Pizza and Lasagna. When is opening day?”

“We’re looking at February 1. All the equipment is here and we have some detail work to finish. We’re pretty firm on February 1.”

“Thank you Gale! There you have it. Nothing Fancy opening February 1 in Slocan Park. See you there!”

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Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is offering up to 45 Basin students $2,000 each.

The award is based on community volunteer service, on academic achievement, and is designed to assist students in post-secondary education or training. All Basins students who will graduate from a Basin high school, alternate school, school district, or other institution that generates Ministry of Education recognition, are eligible for the award.

Applications can be picked up at local public libraries or downloaded from CBT’s website.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 16, 2010, to be considered.

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Motorized or non-motorized misses the point

There's been a lot of ink spilled on these pages over the last couple of editions debating the merits of motorized and non-motorized use of the old rail grade between Summit Lake and Rosebery. For me, the important question is whether the trail is wheelchair-accessible.

There's very few places in the interior of this province where persons with a physical disability can get out and enjoy nature. Our old rail grades represent an enormous opportunity for both residents and tourists with disabilities to do just that.

Let's not mow it by squabbling over motorized versus non-motorized. The trail's surface would need improvement and regular maintenance to be truly barrier-free, but it could be done if the community has the will.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Kaslo tire burnout contest

I would like to express my opposition to the tire burnout contest held the past few years in the park area at the Kaslo May Days celebration. In 2006 Interior Health issued a notice on this subject and the contest at the event. Interior Health Medical Officers advise that to reduce their negative impacts, tire burnout events should be held a distance of 300 metres from human dwellings and activities. With large crowds milling around in the park, and our senior's residential facility across the street, the location of the event does not satisfy the Public Health Officer's recommendation.

My opposition to the tire burnout is in no way reflective of support for the Kaslo Saw and Shine. The event held on Front St. has a tradition over many years as a high quality and successful part of the May Days weekend, was successful long before the initiation of the tire burn out contest. I encourage others to let our local leadership and the sponsors of this event to consider the health of our residents and visitors and to cancel the tire burnout contest for 2010 May Days and forever.

The information from the Interior Health is on their website located at http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-safety.aspx?id=558

SUSAN MULKEY

We need a non-motorized trail

The application from the RDKC to the ILMA (a government arm) to have a linear park from Summit Lake to Rosebery is the result of the desire by well over 200 signatures (collected according to legal guidelines) from local citizens over 7 years ago.

Now a lobby by the motorized recreational industry want to dominate that trail need to be determined actual use in each specific case. During a public meeting held to discuss the Draft OCP both the planner Meeri Durand as well as other OCP members clarified this to Tim, once again, when he requests the wording be changed from multi-use to motorized. The APC specifically avoided discussing or dictating motorized or non-motorized as it was beyond our mandate.

Regarding the petition from Summit Lake, presented to the OCP meeting on October 25, 2007: eight of the 15 signatories asked for their names be taken off the petition once they learned more about the potential for motorized use. The APC is only a guiding document and further public consultation would be needed to determine actual use in each specific case. During a public meeting held to discuss the Draft OCP both the planner Meeri Durand as well as other OCP members clarified this to Tim, once again, when he requests the wording be changed from multi-use to motorized. The APC specifically avoided discussing or dictating motorized or non-motorized as it was beyond our mandate.

John Cazurik

Kaslo, 4 LETTERS

For the Valley Voice

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

Opinions expressed in public letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
Most Hills residents support a motorized Rail Trail

Hats off to Gianni Depretto in his comprehensive presentation of the anti-Rail Trail scenario to the Hills Recreation Society Community Survey, last issue. Board member Depretto presents facts clearly and accurately. His presentation is based upon a rigorous survey this survey, the thoughts, preferences and voices of our community in Hills.

On the other hand, other submissions over the past two weeks scramble numbers, use creative journalism and misquote the survey (the actual wording and intents) thereby masking the results of the survey response. I would know this since I was hands-on in gathering and compiling the hard data.

In the last two issues of the Valley Voice, two letters state “a vast majority” of Hills residents support non-motorized use of this trail. This conclusion is erroneous. Nor is the majority of Hills residents as indicated by the Hills residents indicated support for multi-use only 99% of Hills residents indicated support for multi-use only the Rail Trail (YES). 41% stated they want it to be non-motorized (NO).

On the questionnaire Hills residents were asked to offer comments/suggestions to their Yes, No or Undecided views on the idea of a rail trail in an effort to solicit community input as to the future use of the rail trail. With a slight of hand, the two questions were presented with a total response down to 23%. This was accomplished by subtracting those who offered suggestions/conditions to their “YES” (35%). I was on the lookout for the logic, the YES/NO Conditions. It astounds me that because I offered some suggestions, my “YES, with Conditions” vote is lost. Nor is it lost that in fact a very few YES vote offering my ideas was a stronger YES vote. Throughout the questionnaire respondents were asked for an “Undecided” view on almost every question. Why would a person think this tone would be any different on the rail trail motorized use issue?

The Hills Recreation Society’s membership represents only 21% of people who live here. Compare this to the 82% response rate to this survey; the thoughts, preferences and voices of our community in Hills.

In the last issue of the Valley Voice, Richard Allen suggests “some friends in the motorized-users camp” are most concerned with the word “park” in the application. As a frequent motorized user, my big concern is with the supporting documentation RKDC included with their application. This documentation, with Richard Allen’s name on it, has phrases including “there has been no snowshoe use of the Stuckan Lakeshore Section,” “non-motorized recreational use of the Roseberry-Summit Lake rail bed was well-established long before removal of the railroad tracks allowed for motorized recreational use,” “non-motorized use days outnumber motorized use days by about 100-1,” “the present, occasional motorized recreational use has met with some complaints from the larger group of non-motorized users,” “These people believe that motorized group or club activity is incompatible with wildlife values and with non-motorized human uses of this trail section,” “There is an existing, alternative off-highway route from Rosebery to Nakusp for motorized recreational use,” “we support the present non-motorized use of this rail trail,” “we support the removal of the railroad tracks allowing for motorized use of the rail trail,” “We recommend strict limits on motorized activity along the Roseberry- Summit Lake trail” and “we support an alternative off-highway route from Rosebery to Nakusp for motorized recreational use.”

As someone who has used the trail and has seen the trail before the track removal continue to use it now for motorized recreation, I can guarantee the “trail” as shown on their map is used daily by members of the “motorized user camp.”

There was a great opportunity for a community trail to accommodate all user groups; sadly this can only happen if RKDC stops pandering to the minority special interest groups and starts being open and honest in this process.

Olympics swelled by corporate-profit agenda

In my youth I was an athlete, and since then have enthusiastically followed athletic events, especially the Olympics. No longer. Every 4 years I did expect that the heart and spirit of the Olympics would be so swelled by a monstrous corporate-profit agenda. (Winnipeg Salt Lake City and the gannet losses in Anchorage which now jeopardizes the stability of the money system of Europe.) The new Olympics is now being predicted by a Price Waterhouse Coopers study to become a financial failure.

People say to those who point out these facts “Stop whining and enjoy the games.” This says ignore $471 million a day to feel good, consequences be damned. But where are the taxpayers who are footing this preposterous cost have good reason to be frustrated and angry if not outright disgusted.

Robin Sherrod
New Denver

Winlaw

The main concerns...

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Robin Sherrod
New Denver

Modernizing the Water Act

The Ministry of Environment is “modernizing” the Water Act. They will be holding regional workshops for public consultation purposes this spring. The Nelson Workshop is currently scheduled for April 16 (this may change), but you need to register to attend by Friday, Feb. 26. To register go to: 250-387-9481 or email livingwatersmart.ca/water-act/ efficiency.html. As the Valley Voice states there: “British Columbia’s current water allocation system clearly defines access to water in an orderly and predictable way, which has facilitated settlement, agriculture, and economic development. However, it was designed for a time when water shortages were uncommon. …The system needs to be more efficient, flexible, and capable of adapting to changing conditions, particularly as pressures on water supplies intensify and supply patterns change.”

So what is the plan? More government and permitting allowing placing an expiry date on water allocation licences. And a group of environmental NGO’s has proposed a new concept, a “decoupling water rights from property rights.” Both proposals effectively remove our common law rights to water allocation licences and allow and give the government the right to not renew or curtail water use now under licence. They are also proposing licensing wells under the same conditions.

The kicker here is that 98% of current water allocations are for hydropower use. These licenses already carry a 40-year expiry date. Meanwhile, domestic use licences currently account for only 0.2% of the 2% of water allocations not bought or sold. That’s nearly $471 million a day to feel good, consequences be damned. But where are the taxpayers who are footing this preposterous cost have good reason to be frustrated and angry if not outright disgusted.

Nelle Maxey
Winlaw
SLOCAN VALLEY

Silverton council, February 16: Third boce pit approved

by Art Joyce

• Silverton Community Club members Gary Willman and Vern Hartman appeared as a delegation. The SCC requested that council endorse the plan to add a third boce pit near the curling rink. The club is willing to assume responsibility for the work and costs and wants to begin soon in order to complete it in time for July 1st celebrations. They are also willing to present a sign or plaque to a community member who has maintained the boce pits over the years. Mayor Everett said that for safety reasons the club will have to wait until the roof replacement on the rink is completed. Council passed a motion granting the SCC request.

The event was a tremendous success. Thanks to the Stage Band parents who provided decadent desserts and made this a grand finale of toe tapping musical fun.

Sentinel Junior and Senior Stage Bands who joined the Playmor Junction Big Band. 100 people enjoyed listening to the Mt. Revelstoke Hornpipe. Councillor Bell asked if it could include the wider community, including Kootenay Mountains and New Denver. Willman said, “I guess that’s up to you.” Nomination forms go into Silverton mailboxes, the mayor said, but conceivably residents could nominate someone outside the valley boundaries.

National volunteer week is April 18-24, when the presentation of the award occurs, Council passed a motion granting them the use of Memorial Hall for its graduation dinner and dance, and is willing to donate time to the Village in exchange for waiving rental fees. CAO Leanne suggested they could paint the gazebo; also raking and cleaning the campground would save the Village $500. A motion was passed to effect this, adding some construction cleanup at the curling rink.

Mayor Everett reported for Public Works that the fire department’s 1986 pumper truck has sold to the Barton Community Hall Association for $5,000. Removal of the vehicle from the fire department would involve getting the trailer, which is in storage, out of the ALR. The mayor said the village is considering a possible use of the truck for ceremonial purposes and thought of using it as a possible new tourist attraction.

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver invites interested parties to submit proposals for the creation of a plaque to commemorate the designation of the Nk’Mip Interment Memorial Centre as a National Historic Site. The plaque will include text in both English and Japanese.

The entire project must be completed by July 1, 2010.

Interested parties are requested to submit proposals by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2010, to: Mayor and Council 115 Silverton Avenue PO Box 40 New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

For further details, please contact the Village Office at 250-358-2316 or nnov@netidea.com

Regular Council meeting was held on Monday, February 15, 2010, with Mayor David Everett in the chair, and a full quorum of council was present.

The meeting was opened with an apology from Councillor Bell.

Councillor Bell reported attending a project meeting on the Slocan-Culver-Nez Perce Road.

The Mayor reported on participation in the Slocan Valley Community Stories Project celebrating Family Literacy Day. The project was a cooperative effort between the schools and CBAL (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy).

The project identifies the greatest opportunity as the availability of land in the valley, “which may be expensive for a single family home but is inexpensive for small home development.” Meeting participants agreed that acquiring a large piece of land and subdividing it into small (half-acre or one-third acre) lots for affordable housing was the way to go in the Silverton area. Participants disagreed with Murphy, however, when he said that prefabricated houses were the only affordable option, as building costs are so high. “We have to move beyond these figures and think about who we are and what we can do in this valley,” said one woman from Winlaw. “We can build houses for so much cheaper than on what we’re doing.”

The mayor said land can be taken out of the ALR, although it’s a long application process (about two years) and can result in disapproval. However, Murphy said, “We have reason to believe the Agricultural Land Commission would listen if you made a good argument.” That argument could be that the community wants to encourage development in these already developed areas, and protect the agricultural land further.

Murphy’s research shows a sharp reduction in the number of younger people in the valley, and the report suggests encouraging homeowners to build second homes on their properties to rent out. Two of the meeting participants shared their experiences with renting – neither of them are willing to do it again because of the hassles. The report recognizes the urgent need to have a brochure available on how to set up co-op housing, as this seems to be an interest of several people who live in the area.

Any interested in putting forward the recommendations in the report into action can contact Sally MacKenzie at 359-7984.
WHAT HAS ALARMED MANY RESIDENTS:
A large body of scientific reports show that cell phone tower transmission and usage affects the health of children and teenagers whose brains and immune systems are still in formation. That is why the Vancouver School Board has researched the establishment of towers within 300 metres of a school or playground.

The BC Confederation of Parents, which consists of 12,000 Parent Advisory Councils from every school district in BC, representing hundreds of thousands of children, resolved that all cell or mobile phone masts or antennae be prohibited near any area used by students.

New Denver’s Telus transmission antenna is to be located within 240 metres from the nearest residence, and 190 metres from Centennial Park, the beach, as well as the Park playground and tourist facilities where many children play. It will be transmitting 24 hours a day.

Thus using cell phones for convenience endangers others (as convincingly shown in the reports newly posted on the Internet). It is a last-ditch attempt to deny the fact that it represents actual dangers to children, teenagers and adults; something as disastrous as real brain tumours, leukaemia and a vast variety of serious physical ills.

Imagine someone you love beset by these diseases. It is not possible to make it anything but a personal and mental consideration which emerges from the weight of opinion. But these reports include actual facts drawn from suffering people and tragic, unnecessary deaths, and for that reason we and others feel as strongly as we do.

RESEARCH UPDATES

In a review of 14 studies collected from the Health Organization by Michael Kundi and Hans-Peter Hutter, 10 out of 14 peer-reviewed studies analyzed found significant increases in ill health effects from cell phone use.

The European Parliament voted 522 to 16 to recommend tighter safety standards for cell phones, saying “the limits on exposure to electromagnetic fields [EMFs] which have been set for the protection of breast and brain cancer have not been observed.” (ALBANY, NY: Marketwire - September 18, 2008)

Rural Cell Phone Transmitters

A study headed by Professor Lennart Hardell of the University Hospital in Orebro, Sweden, states “people who started mobile phone use before the age of 20 had more than five-fold (500%) increase in glioma” (in brain cancer). (Independent, U.K., September 21, 2008)

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Society (US) states: Brain tumors are now the leading cause of cancer death from childhood cancer... every day, nine children in the US are diagnosed with a brain tumor. (Science Daily, January 13, 2010).

“In Canada, 71% of youth between the ages of 12 and 19 have a cell phone, according to new data compiled by Toronto-based Solutions Research Group.” (Edmonton Journal, March 7, 2009).

It has been scientifically shown, using radio wave sensitive equipment, that children absorb significantly more radiation in their brains at several times the rate of adults (Dr. Om Gandhi, University of Utah, 1996).

The Question of Addiction

In a recent international poll (Vancouver Sun, September 5, 2009) 75% of the 8000 persons polled said they had their cell phone with them everywhere, more than a third said they couldn’t live without their phone; two thirds said they go to bed with their phones working and can’t switch them off even though they want to, because they’re afraid they’ll miss something. Finally, if given a choice, 25% said they would rather lose their wallets or their purse than their cell phone.

In a separate poll (Vancouver Sun, March 6, 2008) it was determined that respondents would find it most difficult to give up first their cell phones, followed by the Internet, then TV, then radio and only then cars. The 70% of 17 to 16 year olds said “they would not change the use of their phone even if advised to by the Government.” (U.K. Sunday Mirror, April 1, 2004).

The Valley Voice
February 24, 2010

END TELLER CELL PHONE CONTROVERSY

The distance between those opposing cell phone tower transmission and usage and those who want cell phones is large but not unbridgeable. What, however, is escalating the issue into a heated and sometimes bitter controversy is a basic misunderstanding of the facts. Those who want cell phones quite understandably say:

IF YOU DON’T WANT IT, DON’T USE IT.

If danger from cell phones were only to the user, that would not be an unreasonable view. What is centrally important is the existence of reports that indicate that transmission from the towers endangered persons in the surrounding area, especially those within a distance of 500 metres of the tower, and to those who are close bystanders to the user of the phone (much like second hand smoke).

THE REAL ESSENTIALS

At one time Canada required strenuous pre-market testing of any new product which emitted radiation. But when cell phones were introduced in the US, the mobile phone industry pressured the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to loosen cell phone testing pre-market testing. This was based on the fact that they were too low powered to cause any heating to human tissue. Canada adopted the U.S. policy.

As it turned out, the real hazards were not thermal. Human tissue was not heated, but human cells were affected adversely at a biological level. Health Canada stubbornly ignores this fact.

Those wanting cell phones claim the support of other reports; they ignore the danger. The result of this controversy, and that is the very subject that the highest court in Canada took up. In the case of Spratstech & Partners v. Justice of the Peace for the Municipal District of Cana (Andrea, approving the town’s bylaw based on health concerns about which there was disagreement, stated (on page 28):

“Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty is no reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

This crucial language, citing a lack of scientific certainty where there are threats of irreversible damage, is what applies to our situation. In the Hudson case, it was spraying with pesticides, but Supreme Court rulings have applications to all similar circumstances: the point being that the fact that the science is not settled is no reason to postpone preventative measures.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As neighbours we are all generally concerned with community welfare and wouldn’t want to undertake some thing, however convenient to one personally, that might actually endanger others. Those objecting to cell phone transmission believe the facts as to hazard are so substantial as to warrant the employment of the Precautionary Principle.

What the controversy must not do is degrade community relationships, divide into another us-against them that is so destructive elsewhere in the world. This is of course not the least of the arguments of proponents using slurs and insulting language. This is surely not the direction a division of belief should take.

Ignoring what one doesn’t want to know has led to the climate crises, it has led to many other ill and injustices, so let us do otherwise. It is possible to jointly study the actual reports, what gives them validity, and support understand concerned. The issue stands on legitimate grounds and well-meaning people stand on either side of a divide. The bridge between them is education.

CONSIDER THIS:

- The Village Administration, as our municipal representatives, would have the voting bylaw to vexing Telecommunication’s apparatus ignored.
- The rights to precautionary health measures, as supported by a majority of residents and forward looking organizations such as Healthy Housing, would be trampled.
- An important aspect of the Chamber of Commerce’s tour strategy would be destroyed by Telsa bringing in mobile phone transmitters.
- Recently, Telus received an award for its charitable work, having given away over $158 million to various community groups. Contrast this with the absurd statement that it could not afford to lose its investment in the installation cables and transmission apparatus already put on the CBC tower in Centennial Park (the transmission antennas, attached to the CBC tower can certainly be taken down thus those risks to Telus).
- There is a helpful step that Telus could take that would not be expensive (in view of the millions spent on advertising) and that is extending their fiber-optic cables in New Denver to include Silverton, Roseberry and Hills. Now that would be a neighbourly, helpful thing to do and would go far to dissolve their being considered as a bully.
- The end of controversy is in learning the actual facts. The Telecommunications Industry has launched a blizzard of biased pro-cell phone reports written by so-called experts actually funded by the industry, through often false–front corporations, using a façade of independence. See www.wvs.org for facts about this expose by B.C. investigators.
New Denver council, February 9: Kohan Garden annual report presented

by Michael Dorsey

• Council began business by welcoming Ray Nikkel, Barb Yeomans and Stan Wilson as a delegation from the Slocan Lake Garden Society, to present the annual report on the Kohan Garden. Nikkel spoke on a number of items, and thanked the Village for winterizing the irrigation system (which is proving to be very functional), and for cleaning up the trees downed by the wind storm last September. He noted an increase in community usage and support for the SLUGS fundraising events, with four events already booked in the garden. He complimented all who were involved with the successful anniversary event.

Yeomans and Nikkel requested that council address some ongoing issues, including purchasing signage to keep dogs on leashes and repairing the large pothole in the street near the entrance, as injuries have occurred when the puddle over Nikkel reported that he has met with resident Junko Ida to discuss possible options for the garden waste area, for which Mayor Wright thanked him. Council will study the requests and bring findings back at a later meeting.

Yeomans spoke on the potential restoration of the shoreline and reforestation involving trees and shrubs. Mayor Wright advised that a portion of the $13,000 available to the Village for reforestation could be applied for by the Slocan Community Health Centre. This confirms the IHA and Village plan to encourage development of the affordable housing project, and changes the property designation from Public and Institutional to Multi-Family Residential.

• Council voted to contact Nikkel to determine what trees and shrubs should be ordered.

The delegation thanked council for the donation, and presented to the Village a photograph of the lantern taken by Stan Wilson.

• Council moved, on recommendation from Administration, that the Village grant the IHA request for preliminary approval to subdivide Block L, DL 539 (adjacent to the Slocan Community Health Centre). This confirms the IHA and Village plan to encourage development of the affordable housing project, and changes the property designation from Public and Institutional to Multi-Family Residential.

• Council voted to contact the Village of Silverton to discuss the possibility of sharing a summer student employee under the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

• Authorization was given to the Hills Garlic Festival to install an additional electric panel at their cost, as per their previous request, near the washrooms in Centennial Park.

• Councillor Murphy and Campbell reported on the Healthy Housing Society’s “building a healthy economy” public meeting. Four major projects were identified: for an education centre; a grocery co-op; a community greenhouse; and seniors’ services help.

• Murphy will act as coordinator for the last project.

• Councillor Greensword reported on a number of items, and thanked the Village for winterizing the irrigation system, which is providing to be very functional. He also spoke of the Village of New Denver bonds, stating that New Denver’s information sheets were very effective. He also spoke of the showed that New Denver has very little bacteria to react with. Council was pleased with the high quality of the water. They expect the system to be operating soon.

• Mayor Wright spoke of meeting with the Village of Silverton, and noted that New Denver’s information sheets were very effective. He also spoke of the Village of New Denver bonds, stating that New Denver’s information sheets were very effective. He also spoke of the Village of New Denver bonds, stating that New Denver’s information sheets were very effective. He also spoke of the Village of New Denver bonds, stating that New Denver’s information sheets were very effective.

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New Denver residents provide input into Sustainable Community Plan

by Jan McMurray

About 30 New Denver residents rolled up their sleeves and provided input at a very participatory workshop for the Sustainable Community Plan on February 11. Catherine Millaway, staffperson at the Village office, explained that all local governments have been asked to produce a Sustainable Community Plan (ICSP) as part of the ICSP – a review of existing Village plans, and an analysis of how Village bylaws reflect the recommendations in the plans – has been completed. At the outset of the meeting, it was confirmed that this phase one report is very practical for council and will be useful when reviewing the OCP and zoning bylaws.

The second phase of the ICSP process is to get public input, and that is what the workshop was all about. Residents阆thed up participants for the workshop by presenting three key elements of the plan: peak oil, climate change and resilience. He said the team of consultants considered peak oil and climate change to be the most important global issues that could affect New Denver. Peak oil will likely affect transportation – from the price of gas, to the transport of goods, to road maintenance. Climate change could mean changing stream flow patterns, desertification, and could bring climate migrants.

Stowell said many people in New Denver and elsewhere were coming up with creative approaches to dealing with these problems, such as community greenhouses, gardens, grocery co-ops and affordable housing initiatives. He said the common theme in these creative solutions is resilience – the first full-length feature that the best definitions of “sustainability” will include an element of resilience,” said Stowell.

Following the presentation was the workshop component of the meeting. In small groups, everyone gave input into the four main aspects of the plan: social, environmental, economic and cultural. The result was a vision statement for each, with a focus on resilience. The consultants will now take the four vision statements (below) and create one vision statement to drive the rest of the plan.

“Cultural resilience will include a short film by
Are you thinking ahead to getting What's
• Curling
• Ice Hockey
• Closing Ceremonies

For more information on viewing days & times, contact the Village Office during regular business hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
250-358-2472
Come Share the Excitement in Silvertown!

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

The Council of the Village of Silvertown proposes to dispose of the following assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>1986 FORD F800 Superior Pumper truck</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchaser</td>
<td>Burton Community Hall Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 83, Burton, BC V0E 1E0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>1974 FORD Mini Pumper truck</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchaser</td>
<td>Silvertown Community Club (SCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box A16, Silvertown, BC V0G 2B0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information regarding the above disposition of assets; please contact the Village Office during regular business hours:

Tuesday through Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM

Village of Silvertown
Attracting newcomers to the area discussed in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A focus group session on attracting newcomers to the Nakusp area was held on February 17 at Nakusp’s Selkirk College. The session was held by Community Futures as part of a regional initiative throughout the Kootenay/Boundary. Community Futures Central Kootenay, Community Futures Boundary and the Greater Trail Community Skills Centre are working together “to build a welcoming and diverse region that will attract and retain skilled workers and their families who will contribute to the social and economic fabric of our area.”

Although some people will wonder why we’re trying to bring newcomers in when local people are struggling to find jobs, Paul Wiest of Community Futures said that pressures are coming and we will need newcomers to drive our economy. He handed out charts from BC Stats showing the projected decline in population and the corresponding projected increase in labour demand. He said the Kootenay population is older than the provincial average, and the recent and projected trend is more people leaving the Kootenays than coming in.

“We will need newcomers to fill jobs,” he said, adding that immigrants typically move into larger centres, so this project is also looking at bringing in people from other parts of Canada.

The information gathered at the seven focus group sessions conducted in the region and the results of a survey will inform the development of a resource package for immigrants and newcomers.

A dozen Nakusp and area community members from Village council, Selkirk College, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Outreach Employment Services, Arrow Lakes Arts Council, and CBST had a lively discussion about how Nakusp might attract newcomers.

Everyone agreed that cultural diversity brings many benefits, such as a global perspective, ethnic foods, new kinds of music and dance, new business ideas and sometimes investment dollars. People felt that it would be good, particularly for the children, to have some visible minorities in Nakusp.

The group identified many community assets that make Nakusp welcoming and inclusive: friendly people, beautiful scenery, outdoor recreation opportunities, great lifestyle, good schools (smaller class sizes), a public library, a hospital, a seniors centre, many arts activities, community potlucks, affordability and low taxes. The group was also quite clear on what the community needs to be more attractive to newcomers: transportation, housing and jobs.

It was mentioned a few times that people from other countries would likely have skills and knowledge that would be useful in this area – how to grow food and be more self-sufficient, how to use natural resources efficiently, and how to keep money in the community.

The Slocan Lake Arena Society raffle first prize ($5,000) winner was Mary Schuman. Second prize ($2,000) went to Wayne McCrory. Winners were announced at the Heritage Tea and Fashion Show put on by New Denver’s reigning royalty and this year’s royalty candidates on Valentine’s Day.

Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre extremely entertaining

by Jan McMurray

When Morgiana Kendrick (Anji Jones) invented an imaginary husband named Lester, she was trying to avoid the social stigma attached to being a single woman. She did not fathom at the time how this might come back to bite her.

Barney Benson (Hilary Bitten), Treasury Agent, comes to find the imaginary Lester, who has been evading taxes all these years. course, Barney is an old friend of Morgiana’s best friend Chelsea Pike (Kristen Charlotte Delevan), and sets up shop in her apartment. Chelsea’s apartment, located just down the hall from Morgiana’s, becomes a lair of lies to grow and grow until the audience is a never ending fit of laughter.

This year’s Rotary Dinner Theatre play, Kiss or Make Up, was truly a hoot. The acting talent was very impressive, especially considering this was the first performance for some of the actors. The cast of seven included Ron Isbell, Hans Sparrleboom, Martin Gibbons, Misty Crosby-Bone, Anji Jones, Hillary Bitten and Chelsea Pike. Kudos to director Christina Nolan, well known in the community for her expertise in theatre and music.

The roast beef dinner buffet by Deb Guest and crew was delectable, with an amazing array of salads. Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre is held close to Valentine’s Day every year at the arena auditorium – don’t miss it next year!
Valhalla Fine Arts Society announces exciting programs

Celebrating its 12th season, the Valhalla Fine Arts Society (VFAS) is proud to announce an exciting line-up of new programs as well as the return of diverse fine arts programs for 2010. Whether the form is music, film or theatre, VFAS aspires to nurture artistic ability in everyone and invites locals and visitors alike to participate in this vibrant new season.

This year, Valhalla Film School (VFS) and Festival will focus on documentary filmmaking. Award-winning cinematographer and director Moira Simpson returns to teach and mentor aspiring filmmakers. From March to May, Moira will work with aspiring filmmakers. From March to May, Moira will work with mentor aspiring filmmakers. From March to May, Moira will work with mentor aspiring filmmakers. From March to May, Moira will work with mentor aspiring filmmakers.

The Valhalla School of Theatre Arts (ViSTA) is a dynamic theatre arts program designed for children ages 8 to 13. ViSTA is offered in New Denver/Silverton from July 12-17 and in Nakusp from July 19-24. Once again, a fantastic line-up of faculty is planned for this year under the artistic direction of Jim Dugan, Professor Emeritus of Drama from the University of Calgary. Check the website for more information.

Now entering its sixth year, the highly regarded Suzuki Valhalla Institute (SVI) runs August 1-6. SVI provides instruction in violin, viola and cello, from a faculty of highly trained and skilled Suzuki teachers with experience teaching all levels. This year, SVI also offers an Advanced Chamber Music program for advanced students starting July 30. These students will continue throughout the week as part of the regular program. SVI typically fills to capacity before the June 1 registration deadline. Interested students are invited to register early as space is limited. See www.valhallafinearts.org/svi for registration information.

Summit Lake Racers are having a busy season

Despite the coastal conditions, the Summit Lake Racers are having a busy and successful race season. There have been three races in the past three months at Salmo, Revelstoke and Whitewater. Salmo’s race saw Kiley Waterfield bring home the gold for Angus Jackson! One of our top placers Taylor Aeschle says, “The course was pretty good but some turns were crazy tight! It was fast, a little too fast, but I liked it!”

Finals are slated for Red Mountain next month.
Council asked staff to contact the applicant, Ray Caroette of Slocan Holdings Ltd., and ask him to complete a Development Permit application; register a new legal parcel (Parcels A, B and landuse) and submit a new certificate of title; provide all required documentation to ensure that the existing and proposed development will meet the new multi-family bylaw regulations; and provide assurance that all on-site servicing will be approved.

Councillor Elliott commented that a lot of work has been put into this, and she thanked staff and commended them for their work.

Slocan has $3,768.05 in CBT Community Initiatives Program funding available to support local projects. Applications are available at the Village office. A public meeting was set for April 12 to hear from the applicants regarding their submissions.

Councillor Elliott reported that council and staff are working on finding a physician for the Wellness Centre. They are working with both the RDCK and the CAO of Creston. Creston’s CAO and a consultant will be invited to Slocan to develop a financial strategy.

Councillor approved the request, and will require the company to provide proof of liability insurance when they start up operation.

Two letters were received from the Legion, which is renovating the old Valhalla Unit. One said the Legion would like to discuss JNP’s proposed new gravel pit near homes in their community. The meeting, a government-mandated public consultation process, took place on Friday, February 19 at Krestova Hall. It highlighted some of the tensions and paradoxes in an area where environmental and economic issues frequently come head to head.

Krestova resident Geoff Gaudet triggered the process by circulating a petition that eventually found its way to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The ministry has to choose and okay the site and operations, as the proposed gravel pit is on Crown land.

“My comment is that it is not an industrial area,” said Gaudet. “It may have been, but it is now a residential area. You wouldn’t put a gravel pit in a residential Nelson.”

The meeting opened with JNP Contracting spokesperson and business owner Dan Spring, who has a long record of working on the Environmental Advisory Board for the Central Okanagan. He wants to use some of the gravel from the pit as backfill for a greener option to the standard septic tank, which he calls the “Turtle Tank.” “They use half the concrete as any other tank, are many times stronger and because they don’t use as much steel,” he said. “Their life expectancy is also twice as long.”

Ripley slightly addressed three main concerns of local residents, including noise, dust and increased big-truck traffic. According to Ripley, JNP’s licence would allow for no blasting, no crushing and no screening on the property. Dust would be controlled by a combination of calcium sprays on the roads and a dedicated 5,000-gallon water tank that would be kept on site. Furthermore, Ripley said, the total amount of gravel JNP would be allowed to remove is 1,700 metres, or 200 truck loads. The company also promised to do top-soil remediation at the end of their project, and are limited to a one-year “trial period.”

The maximum depth of the site would be limited to one-eighth of their current proposed gravel pit.

Ripley was doing a good job of presenting his case, but when he tried to minimize the impact of JNP’s operation by bringing up other industrial activities in the area, including a government gravel pit, the crowd showed little sympathy.

“You would just be making those problems worse,” said one resident.

Krestova local Cathie Droucher was first to take the floor. “My property is dropping into the gravel pit that’s already there,” she said. “I’ve lost ten feet of land.” Droucher also reported seeing threatened species living in the area.

Long-time Krestova resident Perry Salikin, who currently works for JNP, spoke against the proposed gravel pit near unanimous applause.

“I’m not saying JNP is a bad company or anything,” he explained. “But there’s a limit to what companies can do. They won’t come on a hot Sunday to spray down their pit. I’ve literally been outside my house when its windy and been sanded [by debris from the existing pit]. My mom has lung disease...and I’m tired of eating dust.”

Residents were also concerned about nearby children. One Krestova resident said local children who ride their bikes and walk to the bus on roads where gravel trucks would be driving.

Tensions mounted when Senior Inspector of Mines Bruce Milligan spoke about the possibility of an expanded operation. “[JNP] have to reapply,” he said. “But they can make it bigger and they can be there longer.”

According to Milligan, JNP’s original proposal was for several times more cubic metres of gravel and a larger pit. Unless he received valid complaints from local residents, said Milligan, the reapplication process would likely meet more of JNP’s needs.

One way to deal would be to cut 25 loads, or one-eighth of their current proposed production, said JNP Operator Nick Gaudet. “More people could oppose the proposed gravel pit to near unanimous applause.”

The second letter says that water passed through the windows at the Legion and the windows are not properly sealed.

Temperatures were raised amid otherwise neighbourly manners as it was explained that JNP’s proposed gravel pit is near homes in their community. The meeting, a government-mandated public consultation process, took place on Friday, February 19 at Krestova Hall. It highlighted some of the tensions and paradoxes in an area where environmental and economic issues frequently come head to head.

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by Art Joyce

Nakusp council, February 9: Wildfire interface funding application to proceed

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Nakusp Heritage Registry nomimates 18 buildings for heritage walk

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Nakusp Music Fest nominated for CBC Radio 3 top 40 festivals by Art Joyce

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Kasco Community Forest petitioned meeting: resolution fails

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) board held a special meeting on February 17 at the Kaslo Seniors Hall to debate the following resolution: “That the society could reallocate their reserve and funding of Standing Timber Inventory (STI) for the fiscal year 2010.”

The resolution failed — but not before about a half hour of discussion about the way the board is doing business.

This was a meeting the board was obligated to hold, as per its bylaws, after it received a petition from six KDCFS members, which it first received on December 1, 2009, and then refiled on December 8, 2009. The board is required to hold a meeting within 30 days of receiving a petition, which includes the right to present objections to the meeting, which the board has no legal ability to do.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Rob Mitchell, the board chairman, and adjourned to 8:30 p.m. after about a half hour of discussion about the way the board is doing business.

Chair Rob Mitchell. “The management team agreed that by the end of 2010, the board and membership will be ready and waiting to be logged, board members explained that the board’s goal is to always have two years’ worth, or 50,000 cubic metres. At the end of 2009, there were 16,000 cubic metres laid out. The board has approved another 10,000 cubic metres in 2010, and the managers owe the society 12,000 cubic metres, which will bring the total to 38,000 by the end of 2010. So, the board and management team agreed that by the end of the contract, the managers will have replaced the 20,000 cubic metres.

“We struggled with that,” said Board Chair Rob Mitchell. “The management team and the board agreed that the (management team) would have to come up with another, another of the petitioners, asked if the board’s long-term planning process included setting aside funds for future development. He said the managers had laid out all the easily accessible wood between Mirror Lake and Shusky Bench, and that future boards would be left with blocks located up valleys such as Redstreak, Davis Creek and Lost Ledge that would involve road building. “You need money for future development,” he said. Pat Mutch, board member, brought up an operational issue that the board considers on a monthly basis. Fawcett added that the management team had asked the board to do some long-term planning, so the point of the long-term planning project is to give the managers some ideas about future operations.

Andrew said the board had many concerns about the land use designations in the plan area. “The road is closed due to instability and sloughs, blocking access to 35% of KDCFS forest land. The road is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation, which does not want to take on the expense of repairing it. “We have been setting to ministers, district managers, Parks, Ministry of Forests, etc...we haven’t rushed in there to spend your money” Fawcett added that there is a degree of prudence about the money, and we’re thinking about where we’re going and how we’re going to get there,” assured Anderson.

Andrew asked if the long-term planning process included looking at the age of the trees, the cost of road building, and how to get into these valleys. This is his concern, said Anderson, as we are laying it out. “The long-term planning process currently underway seemed “silly” from what he had read on the KDCFS website.

Bill Wells, who is on the planning committee, said that the things Muckle wanted to see the board looking into was that point of the long-term planning process, which is to look at a set of possible future scenarios. “I think you would have to have ‘no’ Pat’s question, but we’re working on it in ways I think he would be happy with,” said Erika Bird said she had two main issues with the board’s way of doing business. One is that money is flowing out of the community. The other is that they didn’t spend the operating account and took $40,000 out of the silviculture account. “$40,000 had to be taken out of funding for future forest to pay people who don’t live here. How long are you going to keep spending money from the trees from my backyard, mill them elsewhere, and keep the money flowing out?” she asked.

Bird said that the board’s judgement, although not unanimous, is to take money out of the silviculture account if need be. “You can’t cut wood if you don’t lay it out first,” he said. “If we don’t spend it today we will have to spend it in the future.” He said the board wants to be two years ahead to be flexible as market changes. “If the markets don’t improve much by the end of 2010, we will stop building STI. If we have to shut down operations, we will.”

Bird said she felt there was a lack of precaution in the way the board was operating. “When times are tough, you work on a cash flow basis. You get money, you lay it out; this is the way the big companies operate,” she said.

Area D OCP public hearings see several submissions

by Jan McMurray

The public hearing for the Area D OCP was held on February 16 and 17 at the KDCFS building. Director Andy Shadrack, in his opening remarks, in Kaslo, said that the was the 89th meeting in this OCP process.

Ramona Mattix, Manager of Development and Planning, presented the DRCDC, told the 30 or so people in attendance in Kaslo that this was the ninth version of the document, and had been posted to the website about three months ago. She explained that the first 17 sections of the OCP covered what is required by the Province, followed by community specific policies for Ainsworth, Woodbury, Fletcher Creek, Mirror Lake, Pineledge and 0 Avenue, Highway Frontage, Back Road, Allen Division, Zwicky Road, South Fork, Retallack, Shusky Bench, Schroeder Creek, Harriell Creek, Argenta, Johnson’s Landing, and Birchdale and Murphy Creek. Communities that opted out of the plan include Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek, Lardeau, Hower, Poplar Creek and Duncan Island Estates.

At the Kaslo meeting, Mattix read out all the community submissions from the Argenta meeting two nights before, as well as the submissions they had received for the Kaslo meeting. She then answered questions before opening the floor to the several people who made verbal submissions.

One resident asked about the “zone” on the map, Mattix is clarified that they are “land use designations,” not zonings, and they do not have any regulatory effect. They would serve to guide the DRCDC board in the development of a zoning bylaw if that were to come to pass. She added that people are tax on the land, not the zoning or the land use designations.

There were three written submissions requesting that the land use designations “C1,” “C2,” and “M1” be defined, as they are not clear to some of the property owners in the plan area.

Two people spoke to references to hydro-electric developments in the plan. James Mutch took exception to the terms “residence generated power production” (p. 27, #8) and “micro-hydro” (p. 32, #2), and asked that they be rewritten to use the more generic terms “independent power production” and “independent power production.” She feels that “residence generated power production” is too restrictive, as there are many IPPs in the area supporting home businesses, B&Bs, agricultural development and tourist accommodation. As for “micro-hydro,” she did not agree that “IPP” should always be used. He said “IPP” was intended to refer to larger projects like Glacier! However, and suggested that the term “micro-hydro” be used and defined as projects up to 100 kW, and “IPP” be used for anything over 100 kW. He said any development would likely be 100 kW or less, and gave examples of existing small systems smaller than 100 kW.

Senior advisor to the DRCDC, said that they are referred to “supporting... generation of electricity from Dunkan Dam” deleted from the plan. Power generation from Dunkan Dam would require new and upgraded power lines, which they do not believe would be widely supported.

Written submissions from the Area A and Area C OCPs include the following new policies people would like to see added.

“Supports the conservation of a dark sky area”

“In combination with Areas A, E, F and Area D will develop a Kootenay Lake Stewardship Plan, including rules, regulations, permits and riparian area regulation in order to protect area critical habitat.”

“Encourages, as a first preference, manual and biological methods of weed control as a means towards elimination of the use of chemical pesticides; with full consideration to the communities concerned before using they spray growing growth regulators/inhibitors and/ or chemical pesticides.”

“Supports the conservation of a dark night sky area”

“The next step is for Director Shadrack, with RDCCK staff, to consider the submissions. Shadrack says he intends to provide the RDCCK board with a list of recommended changes to the OCP at the February 25 board meeting. If the board approves the changes, the revised document will likely go through second and third readings. It will then be sent to the ministry for approval, which can take as long as two months, and then return to the board table for final adoption.

Thank you Valley Voice

The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo Valley. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge. In Voices from the Valleys. Paid advertisement by Julie Lynch in support of the Valley Voice

Kasco is JV Humphries School community raised over $1800 for Pure Water in Haiti. All corners were treated to a bowl of rice or beans, as a form of empathy for what is happening in Haiti, and were treated to student performances from ‘slam poetry’ to music. Pure Water is a relief group that has three Nelsonites in Haiti. All comers were treated to a bowl of rice or beans, as a form of empathy for what is happening in Haiti, and were treated to student performances from ‘slam poetry’ to music. Pure Water is a relief group that has three Nelsonites in Haiti.

The Valley Community Trust (CBT) is supporting the Lardeau Valley Community Club (LVCC) to corral facilities at the Meadow Creek Recreation Site. CBT Community Liaison Lynda Lafleur recently toured the recreation site and presented the group with $75,000.

“We are very happy to support communities that have come up with their own solutions for issues like job creation and sustainable and innovative ways, that will also leave the whole community with a lasting resource,” said Lafleur.

The Meadow Creek Recreation Site project will create a dozen local jobs for displaced forest workers with the construction of a shower house with sinks, toilets, showers and laundry facilities. With the upgraded facilities, LVC’s increased use of the recreation area, which will help sustain the revenue base for the recreational site. It will also allow the LVC, who are facing displaced forest workers, to continue providing programs for local residents.

The Valley Voice started out of Meadow Creek Recreation Site. Lto R: Don Edwards (LVCV), Sylvia Hamilton (LVCV), Lynda Lafleur (CBT Community Liaison) and Len Trembillo (LVCV).
LIVING

Get Outta Town
with Peter Roulston

Riding already!

Usually I figure that the bicycle season starts around Valentine’s Day for keeners and soon after for all others, but this winter’s cut mild winter has allowed more free time for people and far better road conditions than in normal years. I spent two weeks in Victoria at the start of February and I’m glad I took a bike ‘cause I rode it nearly every day. Vancouver and the Lower Mainland really do have it good for cycling what with year-round riding weather, numerous bike lanes and trails, and the general acceptance there of bicycles as part of traffic and the daily routine. Victoria is a relatively mild-mannered community, but this year I found the traffic flow to be very conducive to cycling and much less scary than Vancouver or even Kelowna. I plan to head down there again next spring for a longer visit. All that great bicycling got me in gear for the season and even though things are cooler here and the roads still pretty wet some time we’ll dig out the bike, check over your gear and accessories, and bring your bike back into your daily routines. Every year about this time, I hear about neglected bikes that have spent the winter unhappyly corroding and fading against a fence or back wall so hopefully you were able to stanch the cycle in a dry shaded location out of harm’s way.

Probably your bicycle tires will be soft or even pretty flat, but this likely means that the pressure as shipments of emergency supplies. Rotarians on the ground are on the互助 with the immediate relief efforts. When disasters strike, especially at the beginning of the Haitian earthquake, it is our first instinct to want to help those in need. However, when asked if we could do something, most organizations and businesses and go to Haiti to work on the relief effort for the next 30 days, we sadly reply, “no.” The reason is that the Rotary Club is not equipped to be a first responder organization. Rotary does not have thousands of employees and volunteers, but as soon as a moment’s notice to a disaster site nor does it have the warehouses or transport vehicles needed to store critical supplies and deliver them to the disaster site. Thus, while the first responders who do it best: the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Mercy Corps, World Relief, and sundry other organizations like ShelterBox. They have the infrastructure to help immediately.

However, the Rotary Club has something special that most first responders don’t have – Rotarians. While the first responders are busy providing disaster relief assistance in the short-term, Rotarians across the world and in Haiti’s District 7020 are already assessing ways to help the Haitian people in the long-term disaster recovery process. Rotarians and their disaster recovery efforts are sure to help survivors get their lives back on track by drilling clean water wells, rebuilding sanitation systems, providing medical clinics, developing vital food sources, restoring economic development, and more, all that Rotarians do best and will continue to do long after the other organizations have left Haiti.

It is of great advantage to have felons and ex-convicts working amongst the ruins of Haiti who can best identify the areas of greatest need and tell the rest of us how we can be the most effective in the assistance we provide. These local Rotarians will be there to receive our grant monies, our supplies, and will make sure that our contributions are used for the purpose and projects for which they were intended. Let us not forget the Haitian people will continue to need us most through the next 10 years and beyond.

To find out more about Rotary Club relief efforts and to contribute, go to www.rotern.org or contact your local Rotarians.

Second or Third Marriages?
Issues to Hash Out

Estate law is changing and many of us may be surprised to learn we don’t always have the last word when it comes to decisions about heirs. These changes are mostly being driven by judges and this emerging trend in case law is creating greater rights for family members, such as adult children, who have been cut out of a will. Where courts uphold the moral claims of independent adult beneficiaries, a lot of expensive pre-planning can go to waste.

Second marriages are often a source of the conflicts that result in these types of court battles. There may be a situation where a deceased person who had remarried may favour the second family and ignore the rights of the first family. Similarly, in blended marriages, there may be a situation where one of any obligation to provide an inheritance for younger children, as opposed to older, more established children.

Courts do remain sensitive to the wishes of the deceased and will often leave the substance of the will intact while making provisions for disinherited family members.

There was a recent BC court ruling that varied the will of a man who had remarried in his 70’s and established a new family. His will left the bulk of his estate to the second wife and the two dependent children who were from the first marriage. The court, however, acknowledged that there was a moral obligation to the two children from the first marriage and awarded each $25,000 each (out of a $1.8 million estate). The rationale for the reduced amount was that one daughter was a married teacher living retirement and the other had failed to show significant financial need.

So we need to understand that estates don’t just belong to someone of age. It’s important to deal with our estates in a just and equitable manner. If you think that there could be potentially contentious issues, please be sure to document the reasons for your decisions. This at least gives the courts some idea of what your intentions were and the courts will take that into consideration.

In today’s world, it is becoming very common for second (or third) marriages. These late-in-life marital unions will make financial and estate planning more important than ever. Most couples will have children from their prior marriages and most couples want to protect their assets so that they can provide for their respective children and grandchildren.

Yes, there is that song about Love is a Many Splendored Thing but when it comes to the practical and emotional feelings about money, homes etc. it’s just a whole lot more comforting knowing you’ve taken measures to deal with things in advance. As they say 99% of all your adult children may be genuinely happy that you have found true love again, but in the back of their minds they are naturally suspicious. The word ‘gold-digger’ has been used time and time again. No doubt, there is a feeling of wrong especially with a little oil on the bike. Washing takes three minutes and may reveal any loose, busted or missing parts and will make the bike look nearly as good as you. Avoid using those raggedy t-shirts and towels because there are too many ways to blast lubricants out of your bike’s inner works.

Spraying or dripping a little oil on the bike is better than none at all and it’s unlikely that you’ll do wrong especially with a little oil on the chain. Then, if all seems fine so far, check on and take a ride. Work through the brakes and gears before you enter traffic and realize that drivers may have forgotten to watch for bicycles since last fall. Even if you think that black is cool and very stylish, the idea of wearing colourful clothing will help drivers see you out there on the road. There are a couple of local ladies in the Silverton area who wear reflective gear when they walk down the highway and boy, does it ever make good sense. Is your bike comfortable?

February 24, 2010  The Valley Voice

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In the Kuskanax Lodge. All members are encouraged to attend as well as anyone interested in furthering their hiking and biking trails in the Nakusp area. Any questions please call Alex or Amber at 265-9205.

ST. PADDY’S ANNUAL CASINO Night Saturday, March 13, at the Slocan Valley Legion in Slocan City. 5 pm Cocktails, 6 pm Casino, 7 pm Buffet - cost $15, followed by more Country Entertainment. Tickets at Mountain Valley Station & Slocan Village Market. Everyone Welcome! No minors allowed.

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Advertise your business event in the Valley Voice with a classified ad!
History of West Kootenay feminism website to be launched

VIVENDI: ISLA of Trail passed away at Columbia View Lodge on February 11, 2010 with family by her side. She was born September 3, 1920 in Barons, Alberta. Isla was the youngest of three daughters. She was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion – Branch No. 11 for many years. Isla enjoyed gardening and bowling in her younger years, but especially enjoyed spending time with her granddaughter Cahie.

Isla leaves behind her daughter Janette (John) of Stucan Park and their daughter Cathie of Trail; as well as her sister Myra of Vancouver. She was preceded by her parents, Jesse and Charles Crowe; her sister Katie; and her husband John.

A memorial service will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion - Branch No. 11 on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Meridyth Robertson officiating.

If you need to find domestic wells, irrigation wells, subdivision wells, call Vito Nevoral at 353-2608.

As an expression of sympathy, donations in Isla’s memory may be made to the Food Bank, c/o Salvation Army, 2030 Second Avenue, Trail BC, V1R 1I3. You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence at the family’s online Memorial Registry at: personalalternative.com.

Thru TANK CLEANING: “Servicing the Valley” 7 days/wk, 24 hours. All-Around Septic Services, Don Brown (250) 254-9791, emergency 252-6628.

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Eight-year-old storyteller, Brooklyn Jerg, kicks off Slocan seniors lunch program submitted

It was a special moment at the February 5 seniors’ lunch held in the WE Graham Community School library. From a lively storytelling workshop, eight-year-old Brooklyn Jerg demonstrated her public speaking skills with her story about going fishing with her grandpa. With four generations in the room, big smiles were on the faces of all. But none bigger were those on the faces of Brooklyn’s grandparents, Dad and great-grandmother Peggy. The lunch was prepared in the school’s Home Economics room and served by a group of 10 volunteers.

“We started out with the idea that we wanted to bring seniors into the school,” said Joanne Ellis, Executive Director of WEC Community Services. “When IHA Community Nurse Ann Weir suggested having a seniors’ lunch our board leapt at the idea. We were already working to bring up the numbers at the school, and Ann suggested the lunch idea. We all felt that this would be a fun and rewarding thing for the school. So we decided to give it a try.”

Hope has become reality as the February 5 seniors’ lunch held in the school library was a big hit with students, and such a rewarding experience for the students, and such a rewarding experience for the staff, with the school aware that once the funds had been depleted, the program may be in jeopardy. However, one year later, the breakfast program, now called Food for Thought, has taken off on its own.

The monthly breakfasts were a big hit with students, and such a rewarding and meaningful experience for the seniors from the school to take part in the program. The schedule of speakers and events.

Food for Thought meals served at Lucerne School submitted

Last January the New Denver branch of Kootenay Savings Credit Union began cooking and serving a monthly, environmentally friendly and healthy breakfast at Lucerne School in New Denver.

The breakfast program was originally funded through the branch’s staff fund, with the school aware that once the funds had been depleted, the program may be in jeopardy. However, one year later, the breakfast program, now called Food for Thought, has taken off on its own.

The monthly breakfasts were a big hit with students, and such a rewarding and meaningful experience for the New Denver branch staff, that a group of students from the school took the initiative to apply for grant funding so the program could continue and flourish.

Not only was a grant awarded that will fund Food for Thought through the end of the school year, but the breakfasts are now biweekly, with students from grades 6-12 helping the branch staff with preparation and cooking.

“Food for Thought meals served at Lucerne School”

We just received the news and I’m so excited,” says Ellis. “We don’t know the exact date of our first lunch yet, but we are all leaning forward to having a series of speakers and events.

As soon as the arrangements are made, we’ll let folks know.”

WeGCGS would like all seniors in Slocan and the surrounding area to come out for the lunches. If you know of any senior that didn’t get invited to the February 5 lunch, please call 250-355-2484.

For more information or to participate contact the New Denver Credit Union at 250-358-2217.

The Valley Voice February 24, 2010
**COMMUNITY**

RDCK board, January 28: Economic Development to be explored with RDKB and RDEK

by Jan McMurray

- Staff was directed to initiate discussion with the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay regarding a potential partnership for a Kaslo-Kootenay Economic Development Initiative.

- The board adopted a policy to support and administer Infrastructure Grants Program. The policy is based on the existing criteria, systems prioritized on the following basis: existing RDCK water systems receive first priority; water systems applying to become an RDCK water system receive second priority; independent community water systems receive third priority.

- The board voted to support a Zero Waste Program specifically for waste reduction activities and directed staff to establish an Environmental Stewardship Program for other environmental initiatives. A minimum of $15,000 will be allocated annually to the Zero Waste Program, and a minimum of $35,000 will be allocated to the Environmental Stewardship Program.

Under the Zero Waste program in 2010, $10,000 has been proposed for advertising and promotion and $5,000 for a ready Gosling education program. The Environmental Stewardship Program, $20,000 has been proposed for an environmental education program, and $15,000 for the Bear Aware program.

- The board approved up to $15,000 for the 2010 Olympics ‘BC Street’ promotional booth project. This was amended from an earlier resolution to allocate $7,000 to the project.

- Staff was instructed to prepare a Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival submission.

If you’ve ever gone to the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival during the August long weekend, then you know the power of performance and music isn’t just jazz music. The festival boasts performance line-ups that cover genres such as Latin, blues, soul, funk, and of course jazz.

This year’s festival is no exception. The weekend July 30-August 1 will feature over 30 bands, many through foreign water systems, including: Bella Coola, Canada, and the United States. The festival prides itself on exploring traditional rhythms into one energetic and culturally enriched performance line-ups that cover genres such as Latin, blues, soul, funk, and of course jazz.

**Notice to residents**

**Village of New Denver**

Construction of the Village of New Denver’s new water reservoir is complete. The new reservoir has been successfully disinfected and connected to the existing water system. The new primary water line will be brought online after the first week of March 1, 2010.

Residents are advised that, as a result of the required disinfection process, there will be residual amounts of chlorine in the Village water supply for at least two weeks. A hydrant flushing program will be in effect, which may cause temporary fluctuations in water pressure. Residents may be able to turn off the water tap at the source to reduce or eliminate the chlorine in their water. A daily water testing program has been implemented to ensure that the level of chlorine is well within the allowable limits for drinking water.

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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.

Because we’re not junk mail, your message goes home and gets read. We’re good at getting your message out, because we’re good at delivering the news. Unique stories and opinion that you’ll read nowhere else. And the more you advertise, the more news we can publish. valleyvoice@netidea.com • 250-358-7218

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**Requirements**

- Hold a provincially recognized trade’s ticket.
- Perform maintenance interval services for passenger and light truck vehicles.
- Perform tire alignments and light under-truck repairs for a variety of passenger, commercial and HD vehicles
- Promote a team spirit

Interested applicants should be motivated, have strong interpersonal skills, and want to provide excellent customer service. Contributions to a safe and environmentally responsible workplace.

**Extra Information**

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Interested applicants please contact

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Committee on February 11.

motion, which passed, that the Village Services Committee.

e-mails were referred to the Development for the proposed new floating stage. The Kaslo council, February 9: Council supports providing storage for Jazz Fest stage

Councillor Frary then made a motion, which passed, that the Village Services Committee.

Councillor Cormie said she did not

disagree with having a project manager, and said “We need the building permit, and then we can discuss the project manager.” Councillor Frary agreed that council should “actively pursue a project manager.”

A memo from Carol Hughes, Deputy Clerk, outlines costs for the first two phases of the City Hall Conservation project, set at $2,000 to develop the heat loss calculation for geothermal installation at the hall. Councillor Cormie explained that this was the next important step towards getting the building permit and satisfying the building inspector. Mayor Lay continues to have concerns about the building permit process for the project, and said he was also very concerned that there was no project manager. Councillor Cormie said she did not

Slocan Valley residents, want high-speed Internet?

Best time ever to consider satellite!

Free equipment on 3 year contract

* Mileage fee: $1/km from Kaslo

The 2008 Annual Report was received and presented by auditor Am Naqi at a meeting February 10. Naqi said, “We have had some problems with record keeping and timeliness but the results are good. Your administrator has the ability to balance the budget and pay the bill in a very timely fashion but not too much and not too little.” Revenue in 2008 was $1,505,958 and expenditures were $1,396,509. The balance of the operating fund at the end of the year was $545,602, not too much and not too little.

Nakusp Library continues successful poetry evening event submitted

The Nakusp Public Library, always a friendly venue for writers and poets, is hosting another For the Love of Poetry evening event Tuesday, March 9, at 7 pm. Last year it was the three-year round event at the library, with standing room only. Using the same format as last time, the evening will consist of three poetry readings from many different periods and places in the world. Some will be familiar to readers, such as Dafyddis by William Wordsworth, while some may be new to them, such as The End and the Beginning by Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska.

Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music for the evening and a delicious array of refreshments will be on hand. The public is encouraged to come and enjoy a rich feast of food, music, and an eclectic range of enjoyable poetry. Be sure to check out the library’s great selection of poetry books the next time you’re in, too.

Kaslo council, February 9: Council supports providing storage for Jazz Fest stage

by Jan McDermott

• Council received ten emails in support of the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society’s request for a permanent storage space for the proposed new floating stage. The emails were referred to the Development Services Committee.

Councillor Frary then made a motion, which passed, that the Village support providing the society with permanent storage for its new stage facility.

Society representatives were to meet with the Development Services Committee on February 11.

• Information regarding the City Hall Conservation project was referred to the Municipal Services Committee for study and recommendation to council. Also, after much discussion, council agreed to hire a mechanical engineer for $2,000 to develop the heat loss calculation for geothermal installation at the hall. Councillor Cormie explained that this was the next important step towards getting the building permit and satisfying the building inspector. Mayor Lay continues to have concerns about the building permit process for the project, and said he was also very concerned that there was no project manager. Councillor Cormie said she did not

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The 2008 Annual Report was received and presented by auditor Am Naqi at a meeting February 10. Naqi said, “We have had some problems with record keeping and timeliness but the results are good. Your administrator has the ability to balance the budget and pay the bill in a very timely fashion but not too much and not too little.” Revenue in 2008 was $1,505,958 and expenditures were $1,396,509. The balance of the operating fund at the end of the year was $545,602, not too much and not too little.

Nakusp Library continues successful poetry evening event submitted

The Nakusp Public Library, always a friendly venue for writers and poets, is hosting another For the Love of Poetry evening event Tuesday, March 9, at 7 pm. Last year it was the three-year round event at the library, with standing room only. Using the same format as last time, the evening will consist of three poetry readings from many different periods and places in the world. Some will be familiar to readers, such as Dafyddis by William Wordsworth, while some may be new to them, such as The End and the Beginning by Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska.

Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music for the evening and a delicious array of refreshments will be on hand. The public is encouraged to come and enjoy a rich feast of food, music, and an eclectic range of enjoyable poetry. Be sure to check out the library’s great selection of poetry books the next time you’re in, too.