Unpleasant surprise in New Denver’s seniors housing project

by Jan McMurray

New Denver has 30 to 60 days to figure out how to keep its helipad and its seniors housing project, too.

About a year ago, BC Housing approved funding for eight independent living housing units for seniors and disabled people, to be located on the Slocan Community Health Centre property in New Denver. In March, council found out that the units were planned to be built on the helipad.

The Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary hosted a meeting at the Silverton Memorial Hall on April 21 to shed some light on the issue. About 140 people attended.

By the end of the meeting, it was very clear that the helipad needs to stay right where it is.

“We need our helipad. I consider it sacrosanct. I feel strongly about losing it and I am adamant about this,” said Dr. Mike Magier. Dr. Chuck Burkholder expressed similar sentiments in a letter to the crowd, as he could not attend the meeting.

As ambulance service is not always available in the area, Magier said he sometimes has to wait three or four hours for an ambulance from Trail. “I can’t wait for them to transport the patient to the community-owned helipad,” he said.

Someone asked if a doctor or nurse could accompany the patient in an ambulance to the community-owned helipad. Magier acknowledged that there was no policy against this, but said he would not advocate for that to be the modus operandi. “These are patients we’re having a hard time dealing with at the health centre, and I am out of my comfort zone in the back of an ambulance. That’s the job of the Critical Care Team,” he said.

A resident asked if council had looked into purchasing the helipad from IHA, and Mayor Wright answered that this was one of the things council would investigate.

Bill Roberts of the health centre auxiliary told the people at the meeting: “This is not seniors housing versus the helipad. It’s been presented to us this way by the IHA, and it’s a very good way to divide the community. We can have both, and there is no reason why we shouldn’t.”

Roberts pointed out that New Denver already has 30 to 60 days to decide whether or not to support this idea. Currently, medevac patients can be wheeled out of New Denver’s health centre and placed in the helicopter. Transporting the patient from the health centre to a community-owned helipad would require an ambulance, and likely the Critical Care Transport Team.

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Further, he states that “an unused landing area and flight over persons and structures to get there would be a hazard and therefore would prevent even a life-saving flight.” He concludes by saying that helicopter medevac flights would not be able to land in the park, and notes that a new helipad would cost in the order of $500,000 to build. “A further point of note is that if any structures [i.e. seniors housing] are built in the grass area surrounding the current helipad, the helipad would then require certification; and these structures may then prevent certification.”

Mayor Gary Wright, in his opening remarks, had suggested that one of the things the community could look at was a community-owned helipad in the northeast corner of Centennial Park, just down the road from the health centre, in an emergency situation. The official’s reply stated that take-offs and landings in built-up areas can only be made in cases where the patient’s prognosis is imminent death and cannot be made “for routine medevac flights or patient transfers to other hospitals, even if the patient’s condition is serious.”

Mr. Roberts also provided a few relevant facts. Trail and Nakusp both have new helipads and also have airports; Slocan Valley has no airport. This is the only area surrounding the current helipad, the area to the west of the helipad because the large field is required for the housing development’s septic system. He suggested that the units could be connected to the health centre’s sewer system instead.

Roberts also suggested alternate locations for the housing. He said the temporary buildings and small house on the east end of the property could be demolished to make way for the new development. There is also Village-owned land available: the S curve property, the old arena site and the northeast corner of Centennial Park.

Roberts pointed out that New Denver already has two of the three types of seniors housing. Brouse Lodge is an independent living facility. The Pavilion is a complex care facility. Assisted living is missing. “Do we really want more of this?” he asked.

Mayor Wright, in his opening remarks, gave the background. He said the hospital was going to be closed by the previous government, about 10 years ago, but the community saved it. In 2002, the acute care beds were cut. In 2003, a concept plan was created for the health campus. The plan included eight assisted living units, to be located west of the helipad. However, the Interior Health Authority (IHA) informed the community that there was no funding for assisted living. The Province also informed the community some years ago that beds would be cut at the Pavilion, but that they would make up some kind of continuum of care.

Wright explained that council began working in consultation with Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services two years ago to get some kind of housing on the campus. BC Housing approved funding for eight housing units for seniors and disabled people, and Lark Group has been hired to do the construction. Council was very enthusiastic about a capital improvement of $1 million, until finding out in March that the units were to be built on the helipad. On April 21, Mayor Wright asked for and received approval to postpone the project for 30 to 60 days while the community seeks a solution.
**School District 8 fears about budget needs**

by Jan McMurray

School District 8 scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on April 27 to hear about 2010/11 budget needs of its partner groups and the directors of its five departments. Although there was no quorum, presentations went ahead.

"School District 8 finds itself in a better position than many districts in the province – not that we don’t have challenges, but many districts are looking for millions of dollars to balance their budgets," said Superintendent Pat Dooley. She explained that the district is no longer in funding protection, which means they can budget on true enrolment is no longer in funding protection, which means they can budget on true enrolment figures – fewer students means less money; more students means more money. The ministry will provide a grant of approximately $900,000 in transition funding, which will be phased out over an undetermined period of time.

SD8’s annual budget is approximately $50 million.

Brian DeBiasio presented the proposed $33,820,846 instruction budget – for teachers, administrators and CLIPPE staff, and for school supplies and travel costs. The projected enrolment for next year is $5,007,785 full-time equivalent students.

The proposed Operations budget is $9,564,035. This department looks after the operation of the school district’s buildings and vehicles. It will see the return of the Annual Facilities Grant next year, and has been allotted $640,000.

The Student Services department looks after the support staff required for students with special needs. This proposed budget is $5,441,964.50. Ben Eaton, head of this department, said LINK money has been guaranteed by the Province for next year. It will no longer come from Gaming, but will be administered the same way as before, which Eaton feels is a positive step.

The Student Learning department, including library services, District Resource Centres, staff development, Ace-It (trades program), Early Learning, professional development, and cultural performance, has a proposed budget of $4,45,893.29. Dooley said they would have to take a closer look at District Resource Centres next year. The expenditure on DRC services in SD8 is significantly lower than in the other Kootenay school districts.

The finance and district administration department’s preliminary budget proposal was $492,501. The first partner group to present was the childcare centres. Val Mayes, Early Years Co-ordinator for the West Kootenay Region, said they were concerned that childcare community wants the rental fees to be kept at their current level.

Mayes asked the board to look beyond 2010/11 and consider instead the value of the partnerships that exist between the schools and the childcare centres. She said that these partnerships have brought value to the school district and the community for many years, and these partnerships will become more important in the future as the ministry expands its mandate to focus on the early years.

"Childcare centres connected with schools can help the district to achieve its mandate but only if they are open.

Currently the childcare centres are running at a deficit.

Becky mentioned teachers’ concerns showing the district’s underfunded mandate to focus on the early years. A joint statement to the ministry, has been proposed. Becky mentioned teachers’ concerns showing the district’s underfunded mandate to focus on the early years. A joint statement to the ministry, has been proposed.

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**Transportation Review Committee to provide recommendations to the board regarding the implementation of the plan. A joint statement to the ministry in the transportation review report. Finally, they recommended the re-establishment of annual training of School Planning Consultants.**

The Tech Committee, Angie Cesa and Doug VanSickle, gave a provocative presentation on the importance of technology in today’s society and therefore in today’s classroom. They are asking for $315,000 next year, up from $100,000 this year, to be able to purchase new equipment to provide the necessary infrastructure, and to provide other equipment such as LCD projectors. “We are currently in a state of technological decay. This is what we need on all the levels,” said the teachers.

The last presentation was by the representatives of the two teacher’s associations, Tom Newell and Becky Blair. “I think we’ve seen here today that we are underfunded by many millions of dollars,” said Newell. He would like more responsibility to the shop, laid down $100 and for the planned shop equipment replacement. He said they were “dumpster diving” to find materials to work with, and to repair their equipment.

Jennifer Henri and Susan Wilson of DPAC recommended that the district continue to fund the DPAC at $3,950 per year, plus the usual mileage reimbursements and honourariums for parents who attend committee meetings. They also recommended that the district reimburse the Student Resource Centres.

**Bringing Home the Bones screening attracts capacity crowd**

The premiere of Bringing Home the Bones was on Friday, April 23 with a sold-out crowd for the screening attracts capacity crowd. Virginia Frobe directed and scripted the film, occasionally carrying the burden of “white man’s guilt” a little too heavily.

One of the elders talks about how when the bones were returned to Vallican, “it also brought the people physically back.” Campbell acknowledges all the aid provided by white people over the past 20 years of Sinixt struggle, calling them “my people, because now they share my values.”

**Bringing Home the Bones will screen in New Denver at the Beaver Hall on May 1 at 7:30 pm and at the Bonnington in Nakusp on May 17 at 7 pm.**

**USING THE ORIGINAL NORTHERN SINIXT LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE HOW THE SINIXT LIVED AND BURIED THEIR DEAD**

Author and historian Eileen Delahunty-Pearce discusses how the loss of the salmon has “dramatically altered the cultural practices of the Sinixt and we are…apocalyptic to them.” Mohs says between 40-60 percent of the Sinixt diet was marine-based, a combination of salmon and bull trout. “This is how we relate to the elk, the bear, the deer – by

Historian Cill Witherden and author Celia Gunn meet at the premier of Bringing Home the Bones: the new docu-drama that tells the story of how the Sinixt nation reattributed the bones of their ancestors to the traditional burial grounds at Vallican.
Arrow Lakes residents wary of BC Hydro water systems offer by Jan McMurray

Arrow Lakes residents will likely go to the polls by September 27 to decide whether the Arrow Lakes, BCH installed a water system. Residents understood that they were entitled to free water in perpetuity as part of the compensation for the impacts of the flooding. However, in 2004, Hydro received permission to start charging for water. Residents were outraged, but no documentation has ever been found to substantiate their claim to free water forever.

“We all knew you were lied to back in the late ’60s, but I don’t think we can go back and ask those questions,” said Area K resident Michael Burtin. “No one can find a document that says you are going to get free water forever. That has changed, so now we move forward. This will be the best deal I could get for you.”

The deal is that residents agree to RDCK ownership of their water system, BCH Hydro will pay their water bills for them until their property transfers. All residents have to do is register with BCH’s Water System Administrator and bring their accounts into good standing.

People without a connection now will have to pay $1,575 to get one. People with connections will have to bring their accounts up to date. BCH rates set by the RDCK.

Faquir residents said they wanted to see this deal in writing before the referendum. They also asked for a clause stating that the agreement would still be honoured in the case of the dissolution of BCH. Christine Boehringer said she was working on the legal agreement with the RDCK, and that she would do her best to have it ready for people to review before the referendum. She said the document would name all the property owners eligible for the water rate holiday.

The RDCK has recently established a policy on acquiring water systems. This policy lays out the requirements that water systems must meet before the RDCK will consider taking them over. The three main requirements are: that the residents support the transfer of ownership; that the system is financially self-sufficient; and that the system is up to provincial standards.

On the first requirement of local support, Uli Wolf of the RDCK made it clear that the RDCK will not take over any system where the referendum fails. So, communities that vote yes in the referendum will have their systems transferred; communities that vote no will stay with BCH ownership.

To make sure the system is self-funding, the RDCK and BCH have calculated that the annual cost of operating each system. To cover those costs, rates will increase substantially in each community, and an annual fee per connection will be held in a reserve account. At the time of transfer of ownership, BC Hydro will give the RDCK a lump sum for each system’s reserve fund. For Faquir, the amount is $717,871; for Burton, $197,219; for Edgewood, $118,631; for West Robson, $965,779. These amounts were determined in an engineering report by WSA Engineering, which outlines the state of the water systems and the capital upgrades they need over the next 40 years. The third requirement is that the systems are up to provincial standards, is being taken care of this spring/summer, when BCH is paying for $2.5 million worth of upgrades to the four systems. Water service will have to be temporarily shut down during some of these upgrades – BCH reps stated that residents would be notified of the interruption in service in advance, and that the water would be turned on again after the work is completed.

CORRECTION

Award-winning children’s entertainer Rick Scott, also of Pied Pumkin, will entertain parents and kids alike at the Vallican Whole Community Centre (not the Whole School) on May 15 at 4 pm.

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RCMP say an investigation is ongoing into the theft of a因为你是一个AI模型，所以我可以问你关于这个文档的任何问题。
Silverton’s amazing community volunteers

A note to thank the many hard-working community volunteers from Silverton and its societies. The Silverton Community Club put on a great Canada Day celebration. They barely have a chance to catch their breath and the snow is falling, so they organize the delightful Christmas By The Lake festival. We have enjoyed it each year as have the grandchildren. Then, on New Year’s Eve, Wayne and I attended a really top dance party organized by this same group, a classy and well-run event. Add to that the many great coffee houses and art shops operated by the hard-working folks who run the Silverton Gallery Society. Topping off all the great vibes from Silverton was winning 2nd place in the Silverton Arena Society’s raffle.

Thanks from the Health Centre Auxiliary

The SCHC Auxiliary wishes to thank all those who attended the helipad meeting on April 21! We believe it is essential for our community to have convenient and accessible developments related to our Health Centre, and the large turnout – on a hockey playoff night – shows that you care! For those who were not able to be at the meeting, the Auxiliary announced our next fund raising exercise: H E L - Helped Extended Life Project. Our objective is to improve the condition of the Health Centre helipad. First, we plan to purchase a new wind sock, and bring the pavement markings back up to standard, then examine installation of lighting comparable to the equipment that is in the new helipad at Nakusp Hospital.

For those who donated on their way out of the hall Wednesday evening, thank you very much for your generosity. For those who wish to donate and obtain a tax receipt, please send your cheque with your name and address to SCHC Auxiliary, PO Box 253, New Denver, V0G 1S0.

Diane Andrews
President, SCHC Auxiliary

New Denver

Don’t give in to helipad blackmail

I have just heard about a recent offer of $3 million for seniors’ housing in New Denver. This munificent proposal, is, I learn, predicated on building where the helipad now exists. I’m not familiar with your geography and just how much of an area your ES Dept and this helipad serves, but I understand that your Health Authority has been trying to can that department for some time.

I am absolutely disgusted at the blatant collusion and connivance between the Health Authority and the Provincial Gov’t. This is an example of unmitigated blackmail and I hope your council and our agency are able to broadcast the issue most widely. I believe I heard that your community was planning a public meeting, I’d like to hear what happens and if it goes as I suspect, that you will advertise the proceedings in all available provincial media. Every voter in BC should be made aware of the levels to which Campbell et al will stoop. Your citizens are now forced into a sickening debate and they will lose either way.

This issue came to light in a brief segment on CWK but it seems to have faded from coverage. I have started to campaign talk show hosts on your behalf.

Patti Scott
Vancouver Island

We didn’t die last night

We didn’t die last night. We have a carbon monoxide detector. Did you know that using a battery charger for a car battery produces carbon monoxide if the acid in the battery won’t take a charge anymore? We didn’t. I was watching TV when an ear-splitting alarm sounded. I thought it was on the TV, so I muted it and discovered that the carbon monoxide alarm we bought about fifteen years ago, was sounding the alarm. It has been plugged into an outlet near the floor in the dining room and completely ignored by us. I had switched it off outside and we aired the house out thoroughly. The detector is back in the dining room with it’s little green light illuminated. Since then it has saved our lives. I opened the windows and doors but didn’t know the source of the carbon monoxide and worked properly. I thought that there couldn’t be another source but was really concerned. I have a great sense of smell, so I can tell you that it is true that there is no odor to CO. There are other sources of CO that could occur in your home. Terry came home and mentioned that it was the battery charges in the basement. The entire basement filled up with CO and it rose to the level of CO in the air in a short time. I turned it off outside and we aired the house out thoroughly. The detector is back in the dining room with it’s little green light illuminated. Since then it has saved our lives.

Suzanne Story
Burton

Put away that cordless phone

Wireless communication was discussed on Michael Enright’s show, CBC, Sunday, April 25, 11:00 am. You can listen to it online. I recommend it.

The man defending the wireless industry discussed on Michael Enright’s show, Two statements that he made I found informative and thought-provoking. First, Dr. Krewski mentioned that there was what he called a “data gap” regarding the effect of the radiation on children. So why are wireless gadgets marketed to children in Canada while many other countries have acted. Another statement made by Dr. Krewski was that “radiofrequency fields can stimulate biological processes.” I think this second statement requires some very careful scrutiny. To my understanding the right to reject the imposition of biological processes on our bodies lay at the heart of many of our constitutional rights and freedoms.

I also want to take this opportunity to mention the powerful numbers of radiofrequency field strengths. Some of the strongest fields that I have encountered so far have come from the latest generation of cordless phones called DECT phones. They emit even when they are not in use. I would expect that the use of such a cordless phone would subject the household to far more radiation than moderate cell phone use. Any health research done on the health effects of cell phone would be utterly obscured if the control used these cordless phones.

Norbert Duanchen
New Denver

Water Act isn’t broken

I’ve read quite a bit about the BC government’s plan to “modernize” Water Act. How is it possible no mention of protecting watersheds from resource extraction (i.e. mining and logging) I find the idea of “modernization” (although explained in the Government’s materials as aiming for water conservation and equitable usage), to be pathetic.

I smell a not very well hidden agenda on the part of the BC government to ultimately make a profit by privatizing water and selling it to the highest bidder. My family is a small water license holder in the West Kootenays. We have a license for 50 gallon domestic use plus 2 acre feet of irrigation for our 10 acres. Our water use is conservative, we have built our own water system and we are actually cleaning and contributing to its efficiency. We monitor the water flow and the health of the creek whose water we share with 2 upstream licensees and 6 users downstream.

The Water Act as it stands now has served my family and my neighbours well. Unfortunately it seems that BC’s ministers do not act together to protect this valuable resource. I do not see a genuine concern by the BC government to sustain the many resources that BC possesses. I see that these resources are viewed as sources of money rather than sources of health and well-being for all BC citizens.

There is no reason to fix what isn’t broken. Instead, the Government needs to get the relevant ministries together to fix the shoddy regulations and monitoring that allows this precious resource to be endangered by irresponsible resource extraction practices.

Helen Davis
Hills, BC

Re-hire a Child and Youth Care Worker

As it nears the time of the year when staffing levels and positions needing to be filled are reviewed and discussed, I would urge the administration of JV Humphries and Jewett schools to strongly consider re-hiring a Child and Youth Care Worker.

We recently received one appealing in the Valley Voice (March 30/10) “How Are West Kootenay Kids faring today?” and one in the West Kootenay Family magazine-Winter 2010 issue “How Are Our Children Doing?” both address the issue of vulnerability in the areas of emotional maturity and social development. The BC Early Development Instrument, a tool developed and used across Canada to identify how “ready” children are for school when they enter kindergarten, it was found that our West Kootenay children didn’t score very highly. And I feel that this was a case of a skilled CYCW in our schools to help these emotionally/socially fragile children as they begin their education.

The BC Early Development Instrument, a tool developed and used across Canada to identify how “ready” children are for school when they enter kindergarten, it was found that our West Kootenay children didn’t score very highly. And I feel that this was a case of “assessing a T.A.” over this past school year, I have noticed children who are suffering in silence or acting ‘out’ and while at school I spent some of my T.A. time and some of my own time with a few individual kids. I had phone calls at home, from children and a few parents asking for guidance and tips on ways to help their child get through an especially challenging or difficult social/emotional situation.

You cannot address these areas of vulnerability by utilizing a T.A. teacher or a teaching assistant as has been tried over this past school year.

Yes, these professionals are specially trained, but not in the areas and skills that a CYCW possesses. These are the skills that are necessary to address emotional maturity – empathizing with others and learning how to express one’s own emotions safely and correctly are two of the areas mentioned in the article and social competence which involves developing a good self-image/ esteem so that children feel comfortable and confident in entering into social situations.

Small groups, facilitated by a CYCW, can provide vulnerable children with a caring, non-threatening environment where self-esteem can blossom and social skills can be practiced and improved upon.

So, I urge the return of a Child and Youth Care Worker in the school, especially to work with the children in the primary grades. Support for our children’s social and emotional development is deserving of the attention of parents, caregivers and service providers. What are we going to do to ensure this support is in place in September?

Jackie Murdock (retired CYCW)

Kaslo
One year consultation granted for Burton School

by Leah Main

• The board voted to “extend the community consultation period for the Burton Elementary School project until 2011.” This provides additional time for the community to explore unique opportunities and models for keeping their school.

• For the 2011/12 budget, the board proposes making up the estimated $300,000 shortfall by undertaking the following measures, according to Superintendent Walter Poznok:

  - reducing 2.5-3 FTE (full time equivalent) teachers through retirement and by not renewing some temporary positions. This may not require any layoffs.
  - reducing support staff (custodian hours, bus drivers)
  - reducing technology spending at the board level (i.e. schools will need to use their existing replacement budgets to replace damaged or stolen accessories such as microphones, mice, headsets);
  - reducing staff development and training (particularly literacy and numeracy training for teachers and support staff).

Also, Community LINK resources (funds allocated to CBAL, Healthy Families and school PAs) will either be reduced or eliminated.

• The district will not phase in full-day kindergarten until 2011/12. In preparation for this, the district needs to sort out how to deal with “play-based” kindergarten in split and multi-grade classrooms, and hopes to engage the Province in discussion surrounding this issue.

The board also needs to ensure that full funding is made available for this program. Funding protection by the Province has been eliminated, and the board does not have information as to how the funding formula will be applied and/or augmented – making it difficult, at best, to plan for the future, although they hope to continue discussions with Ministry representatives to clarify this issue.

• Sharon Montgomery of the Nakusp Museum Society updated the board on the proposal to lease space on the northwest corner of the Nakusp Elementary School property for an interpretive centre. The centre would focus on the way of life of the Arrow Lakes Indians prior to the coming of Europeans to this area, and would include a forestry component and a replica of the original fire lookout on Saddleback Mountain. This interpretive centre would allow for student participation, reinforcing the Aboriginal Enhancement Program, and has wide community support. The Museum Society has applied for a $130,000 Job Opportunities Program grant for the project. She brought a first draft of a proposed lease to the school board, and looks forward to hearing back from the board with a counter proposal.

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• The district will not phase in full-day kindergarten until 2011/12. In preparation for this, the district needs to sort out how to deal with “play-based” kindergarten in split and multi-grade classrooms, and hopes to engage the Province in discussion surrounding this issue.

The board also needs to ensure that full funding is made available for this program. Funding protection by the Province has been eliminated, and the board does not have information as to how the funding formula will be applied and/or augmented – making it difficult, at best, to plan for the future, although they hope to continue discussions with Ministry representatives to clarify this issue.

• Sharon Montgomery of the Nakusp Museum Society updated the board on the proposal to lease space on the northwest corner of the Nakusp Elementary School property for an interpretive centre. The centre would focus on the way of life of the Arrow Lakes Indians prior to the coming of Europeans to this area, and would include a forestry component and a replica of the original fire lookout on Saddleback Mountain. This interpretive centre would allow for student participation, reinforcing the Aboriginal Enhancement Program, and has wide community support. The Museum Society has applied for a $130,000 Job Opportunities Program grant for the project. She brought a first draft of a proposed lease to the school board, and looks forward to hearing back from the board with a counter proposal.

Among the bylaw recommendations are the development of a ban on cosmetic pesticides for both private and public property so as to eliminate toxic runoff that could contaminate prime growing areas. The report also urges the Village to adopt a permaculture-style landscaping plan for public spaces to demonstrate cutting edge agricultural practices that create closed loop systems with no waste.

The report addresses the critical need to develop the local economy through such initiatives as a local purchasing policy or bylaw that favours local sourcing of energy, goods and labour. More support for the arts through Village budgets and other initiatives such as local festivals and public art are another potential economic booster.

A copy of the report is available from the Village office or by downloading from http://www.box.net/shared/qskntndmf.
Vern Hartman named Silverton Volunteer of the Year

by Jan McMurray

Vern Hartman was named Volunteer of the Year at the second annual Silverton Volunteer of the Year Award Night held April 24 at the Memorial Hall.

This year, Silverton council chose the winner. Mayor Everett presented Vern with the Volunteer of the Year plaque, and his wife, Beth, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers – because, as we all know, behind every good man…

“This award is meant for someone who works on behalf of others, who is engaged in an altruistic activity. This year’s recipient exemplifies that,” said Mayor Everett. “This is a person with a rich background in volunteerism, not just in Silverton and New Denver, but wherever he put down roots.”

Everett said Vern’s children have fond memories of their father volunteering for activities they were involved in, such as coaching soccer, hockey, and softball. Before moving to Silverton, Vern was a member of many organizations, such as the Legion, business associations and the hospital board.

Twenty years ago, Vern and Beth moved to Silverton, where Vern took advantage of the many volunteer opportunities: the Silverton Volunteer Fire Department, the United Church, the Legion, the Silverton Community Club, the Silverton Historical Society, and the Slocan Lake Golf Course. “You’ll see him at July 1st, car washes, Remembrance Day, Christmas by the Lake,” said Everett. “We’re honoured to have such a person as part of our community. He’s on all active committees in the Village and he puts in countless hours for the benefit of the community.”

Beth and Vern Hartman. Vern was recently named Silverton’s Volunteer of the Year.
Nakusp council, April 27: EMS building cost overruns discussed

by Art Joyce

• Council considered a construction update on the Emergency Services (EMS) building. “I’m noticing that we’re $26,000 over budget at this point,” said Councillor Mueller, “so I just want to flag that, because we can’t really afford it. We said we’ll go from the outside in, so we may have to compromise on the interior.”

Nakusp Chamber of Commerce launches new promotional campaign

by Art Joyce

Residents and Chamber of Commerce members gathered at the Nakusp Selkirk College campus the evening of April 21 to celebrate the launch of the new tourism promotion campaign. The campaign has been in preparation for several months and includes a new website, visitor’s guide and image bank. All of the components were contracted to local businesses.

The image bank was done by On the Marks, a Nakusp firm, which solicited contributions from all over the valley. There are currently about 500 images collected and more are still being accepted at Nakusp@telus.net. The website, www.nakapstorwakes.com, was produced by Kootenay IT. The site was designed to be very user friendly and covers the entire Arrow Lakes region. It is ‘geocaching,’ which uses GPS to guide visitors to boxes placed in the community that contain promotional goods and other items for treasure hunters (www.geocaching.com). Project coordinator Kim Reich says the website is designed to be a “one-stop shop.”

“We wanted something that would help attract visitors and keep them in the area longer, and just promote, promote, promote,” says Reich. The Visitor Guide was produced by Maverick Design and Green Words of New Denver. There are 20,000 copies printed and already 5,000 copies have been sent out. “It looks fabulous; those women did a great job on it,” Reich says. She adds that there are still many requests coming in for the guide and she expects that the Chamber of Commerce will have to reprint next year.

“We’re opening the doors for tourism in our valley. This will be the beginning of developing the economy around that.”

Burton residents consider co-op to replace general store

submitted

Late last September, shortly after the Burton General Store closed its doors, a small group of Burton residents got together to discuss the feasibility of a co-operatively run store in Burton. Melanie Conn, a well-known co-op developer and community trainer, will be visiting Burton on May 4 at Burton Hall at 7 pm. Conn brings a wealth of experience and information to the community and will work with Burton residents and potential members of a community co-op to answer questions and form a vision for a future store for Burton.

A steering committee was formed in October 2009 to raise funds for a feasibility study, which is now underway. Once the study is completed in mid-May, the steering committee will call a public meeting to present the findings. Depending on the results of the study and the support of the community, a co-op society could be formed. The next step would be to sign up members and elect a board of directors.

Once the findings of the study are presented to the community, the steering committee will be dissolved. Running a general store is a huge commitment for an individual or family to take on. There is no one who wants to do this in Burton right now. A co-op is an alternative approach that might just work for everyone.

Co-ops are owned and run by their members, who vote for boards of directors and participate in public meetings. Profits go towards building the business and providing better services for members. Profits may also go back into the community. For more information, contact Beverley Darnell at 250-265-9977.

Roca Mines receives permit to increase production

submitted

Roca Mines Inc. has announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, FortyTwo Metals Inc., has received an amendment to its operating permit M-226, approving an increase in production to its planned Phase II, 1,000 tonnes per day throughput rate from the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

MAX is the first new operating BC metal mine to be permitted since the Huckleberry Mine in 1997. The planned expansion to Phase II will allow the mine to commence operations for years to come and will add roughly 30 percent to its current workforce, bringing the total number of direct jobs at the site to 90. Roca has strived to make the mine a great benefit to the local economy by employing local workers, contractors and suppliers in its construction and operations.

Council asked the Village to construct a sidewalk between the Esso station and the schools due to the risks to students from traffic. CAO Lafleur explained that the property close to the highway is Crown land, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. Council voted to write the PAC, advising of their support for the sidewalk and referring them to the ministry.

• Council discussed a letter from Colleen Matchett regarding a vicious Rottweiler attack of her dog while walking the Brous Loop trail near her farm. Matchett is requesting that council follow up with a letter of support seeking the RCMP’s help. She pointed out that the trail is used by the public for recreation, including children going to and from Box Lake for swimming. Mayor Hamling met with Matchett and agreed that the Rottweiler is detering people from using Brous Loop trail for fear of attack. A motion was passed to support a referral of the matter to the RCMP for investigation.

• Bylaw 517-9, to amend Village Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw 517 to allow for ticketing idling vehicles, received final adoption. The line will be $100.

• Bylaw 366, Fireworks Regulations, was discussed. CAO Lafleur reported that the fire chief wants a deferral until the May 25 meeting while he resolves contradictory information and seeks business owners’ input. Council voted to defer the bylaw reading.
Ribbon cutting ceremony held at Sequoia Learning Centre

by Jan McMurray

The Sequoia Learning Centre, Slocan Valley’s alternate school for high school students, held its grand opening on April 29.

The school, located in the building beside Crescent Valley Hall, opened its doors on December 7 and currently has 11 students attending.

The school’s teacher, Janis Chernenkoff, along with youth and family worker, Kareen-Ann Stuart and Mt. Sentinel Principal Glen Campbell cut the ribbon to officially open the centre.

“ar one-size-fits-all education doesn’t always work. Thank you to the students and to the board of education for taking a risk,” said Campbell.

Chernenkoff also spoke at the event. “I’m thrilled to be the teacher here,” she said. “We’re a one-of-a-kind alternate education program where diversity is embraced, tolerance fostered, and disappointments and setbacks taken in stride. We believe in solving problems in a peaceful way. This is a place where courage and determination help to fulfill our goals.”

To recognize the hard work of the students, Chernenkoff, Stuart and a practicum student who has been working at the centre, Misha Chernenkoff, presented the students with certificates.

Come Celebrate May Days in New Denver!

May 20-24

New Events include a Free Movie night, Dinghy Cross, Hip Hop Workshop, Mountain Madness Bike Skills Challenge, Ping Pong Tourney and a Kid’s Pet Show.

Traditional Events include the Queen’s Pageant, Teen Dance, Adult Dance with “The Young Uns”, Beach Volleyball Tourney, Fish Derby, Soap Box Derby, Pancake Breakfast, 26th Summit Lake Bike Race/Ride, 9 Bocce Tourney, Lake Lies and Fishy Tales, Pig Roast, Sounds of Centennial, Bingo, Parade, May Pole, Cribbage tourney, Bike Rodeo, Kid’s races, Dunk Tank Adult Races, Raffles and Silent Auctions

Full schedule will appear in the May 19 Valley Voice, or see www.newdenvermaydays.com for details.

It’s A Wild Life explores animal and plant survival in the wild

submitted

Ever wonder how animals survive in the wild? It’s A Wild Life, presented by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, is a far-ranging and fascinating look at this question. The presentations, May 11 at Slocan Park Hall and May 12 at Blueberry Creek Community School, include some amazing photography to accompany the equally amazing survival tales. The Slocan Park presentation is part of a series coordinated by Slocan Valley Recreation. Please bring a donation to the local food bank. Both free sessions start at 7 pm and pre-registration is not required.

Some of the topics covered might give the impression it’s some kind of a self help session: how to lose 60 percent of body weight in just three weeks; being a smart stay-at-home dad; the potential pitfalls of wearing baggy pants. When the focus (hummingbird migrations, slimy slups and Irish elk respectively) of these topics is revealed, it becomes clear that it is about nature not nurture.

“Typically our wildlife-presentations focus on our work and are species-specific,” said FWCP senior wildlife biologist, and co-presenter John Krebs. “This is a little different as we want to celebrate biodiversity and explore the ingenuity that some species, both locally and abroad, exhibit to survive.”

Although some of the topics may not sound pretty the presentation will undoubtedly be a hit for all ages. It explores the worst way to die (parasitoid wasp); extreme sibling rivalry (eating brothers and sisters alive); warning colours of deadly snakes and local lizards; and other biological oddballs such as flesh-eating plants, glowing mushrooms, and poisonous birds.

Moonmonster’s Secret Cave opens its doors to valley treasure hunters

submitted

For those low in cash, wanting to save money, or looking for affordable treasures, Moonmonster’s Secret Cave is here to inspire you. Opening its doors on May 15 at 11 am, Moonmonster’s is a secondhand store that is unlike any other in the Slocan Valley. Even its name causes one to pause and wonder what could be behind this eclectic store’s door.

“In a time of economic disparity, environmental awareness and a desire for local goods, I decided to open a secondhand store that met all of these current issues, infusing them with a fun, creative and welcoming vibe,” says business owner and local artist Tina Taylor. The secondhand store not only sells a diverse line of secondhand clothing, housewares, tools, local art and crafts, but it also provides the community with a place to sit, drink tea, and chat.

“I want to give back to this amazing community in which I live. The Slocan Valley is growing and has great potential to be a cultural and eco-conscious hub. I hope that Moonmonster’s Secret Cave will not only be a place to find quality and affordable goods, but also a social space for the community to rest their tired feet, to talk politics, to read a zine or to just hang out.”

Taylor is a permanent resident of Winlaw, and at 28 years old decided it was time for the Slocan Valley to have an alternative secondhand store that focused on quality, creativity and community. Born and raised in Vancouver, Tina grew up with a passion for funny and stylish secondhand treasures, for creative ventures, and a passion for saving the environment, all of which she brings to her store. As the whole world faces economic instability and the challenge of lessening its footprint on the earth, Moonmonster’s Secret Cave seems to have arrived at the perfect time.

Moonmonster’s Secret Cave is located in the Spicer Centre in downtown Winlaw (5686 Hwy 6).

For more information on events and how to donate or consign items, visit www.moonmonsterssecretcave.com or contact Taylor at owner@moonmonsterssecretcave.com.
New Denver council, April 27: Resilience Action Plan adopted

by Michael Dorsey

• Council welcomed Craig Stowell of Have Blue Consulting to present the Village of New Denver Resilience Action Plan, Phase 3 Final Report.

Stowell prefaced his remarks by noting the difference between sustainability and resilience — noting that sustainability is a “static concept,” whereas resilience at a community level is about being able to adapt to change. Have Blue’s research and application of indicators found the Village doing many progressive things toward building resilience.

He said that Phase 2, public participation, showed self-reliance and self-sufficiency are “built into the history and bones of New Denver.”

He spoke in detail about using less energy, saying that the BC Climate Action Charter commits New Denver to achieving carbon neutrality in municipal operations by 2012. He suggested that converting one gasoline vehicle to wood gas could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are currently about 30.8 tonnes a year. After 2012, solid waste emissions (currently 185 tonnes in the Village) will be included, and at a waste emissions (currently 185 tonnes a year. After 2012, solid waste emissions (currently 185 tonnes) will be included, and at a dramatic increase in GHG emissions include a community-wide food security plan.

• Mel and Gail Swanson are the new campground attendants. Council thanked the management of the Silverton, British Columbia, for offering to repaint them.

• Administrator Gordon noted that the Chamber received $3,500 from the chamber, and $1,200 from the chamber, for a four-day baseball camp. This was referred to staff. It was noted that moving the grass in preparation for May Days will be impractical due to skyrocketing fuel costs, increased road maintenance costs, and a dramatic increase in GHG liability.

Locals make submissions on microwaves to Ottawa committee

by Art Joyce

Two groups in the New Denver area were among Canadians from coast to coast submitting statements to the House Standing Committee on Health at hearings held April 26 and 28. The parliamentary committee agreed to hear concerns about microwave exposure standards after Bloc Québécois MP Luc Malo presented a petition with 1,100 signatures asking Parliament to “protect the public from microwaves.” The petition was an initiative of the魁北克 group Protect Our Children From Microwaves (SEMO in French), headed by François Therrien.

Similar hearings have been held in France, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, Switzerland, and Belgium, where have microwave safety standards far tighter than in North America and also publicly warn citizens to protect their homes from microwave radiation. They object to Telus placing a cell antenna 190 metres from the park and playground, and “posting advertisements inside our school to attract new younger customers.”

Beth Pieterson, Health Canada director general of environmental and radiation health sciences, told the committee that health believes microwaves are safe under current standards, while agreeing more studies should be done.

Dr. Havas, associate professor of environmental and natural resources at Trent University, told the parliamentary committee that the problem in Canada is a lack of will from the government to fund independent research. A recent Swiss funding on finding sources for studies done on EMR drew a clear connection between industry-funded studies and favourable reports.

Jack Rowley, director of research and sustainability for public policy at the GSM Association, representing the international mobile communications industry, told the committee it’s impossible to run a mobile network while meeting the radiation standards recommended by the Bioinitiative Report, which analyzed the results of 2,000 studies and concluded various mechanisms of harm to health from microwave exposure. SEMO President Therrien countered that some regions in France are imposing emissions standards based on the report.

Dr. Havas and Therrien are urging Health Canada to take the precautionary approach, which does not require ironclad scientific certainty to assume health risks.


Notice of Proposed Disposition of Assets

The Council of the Village of Silverton proposes to dispose of the following asset:

Property: Lot 73, Block 3, Plan 477, District Lot 4346, Tulem, Land, District PD 016-205-049

Location: Alpha Lane

Size of lot: 25 x 105 feet

Terms: Bid submitted must include a proposal for the use of the land.

The highest or any bid is not necessarily accepted

DEADLINE: 4:00 pm, May 27, 2010

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.

New control valves have been ordered for the water system. Final inspection of the new reservoir will occur in late summer.

Two letters were received from property owners regarding Health septic setback distances from the Green Park pumping system. There is confusion over whether the required distance is 100’ or 200’, and the tax and development implications to the landowners are affected. Council asked administration for information on the grounds of health, and that Safety Code 6 guidelines may not be challenged. They further point out that Industry Canada is allowed to overturn local democracy in granting cell tower permits. The Valhalla Committee also notes that the Code allows EMR levels ‘10,000 times higher than the base’ safe rate stated by the scientists and doctors in the Bioinitiative Report’... and other experts.

A submission was also sent to the committee by the New Denver Area Parent-Children’s Group, representing 53 parents and 84 children. In it they point out that “Most countries, including France, Russia, Japan, Switzerland, and Belgium, have microwave safety standards far tighter than in North America and they also publicly warn citizens to protect their homes from microwave radiation.” They object to Telus placing a cell antenna 190 metres from the park and playground, and “posting advertisements inside our school to attract new younger customers.”

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Land Act: Notice of intention to apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Front Counter BC had accepted an application made by Red Mtn. Internet Society of Silverton BC, on behalf of the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) Kootenay Region, for a License of Occupation for the purpose of communication site situated on Provincial Crown Land near Roseberry, B.C. and containing 1.0 hectares more or less.

The ILMB file Number that has been established for this application is 4405044. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Natural Resource Officer at Front Counter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C7G1 or email to AuthorizationAgency.Cranbrook@bqwc.bc.ca. Front Counter BC is the office of file of the application.

Front Counter BC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please refer to http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp?SearchSearchBy File Number: insert Lands File Number for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information contact the PD’s Agent at Integrated Land Management Bureau, regional office.
Frerichs and Nagy celebrated as Nakusp Citizens of the Year

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s Citizens of the Year, Earl Frerichs and Gene Nagy (Lifetime Achievement Award), were celebrated on May 1 at the Legion Hall. On behalf of MP Jim Abbott, Dorothy Dretst presented certificates to both award recipients. Laurie Page read a message from NHL A Karine Conroy, and presented certificates on her behalf.

Area K Director Paul Peterson thanked Earl and Gene for “making things happen” – finding out what’s needed and getting things done.” He said that what makes a community is not the streets, schools and infrastructure, but the people and the spirit of those people. “Volunteers are the drivers of the community.”

Mayor Hamling echoed Peterson’s sentiments when she said that without volunteers, Nakusp would not be the community that it is. She congratulated Gene and Earl for working extremely hard to get Phase 4 of the Arrowtarian Villa done, and thanked them very much on behalf of the Village.

Hillary Bitten spoke for Earl. She said it was his heart and passion that you can see in your work,” she said. Hillary acknowledged that Earl’s son and daughter were present, and that Earl did a lot of volunteering for organizations they were involved in as children. Earl moved to Nakusp in 2003 from Calgary, after vacationing in Nakusp for many years. Before leaving Calgary, he became an alumni volunteer of the Calgary Stampede. Upon arrival in Nakusp, Earl became active right away in many organizations, including his church, the seniors society, the museum society and the Arrowtarians.

“Many of us will volunteer for a certain cause or project but for Earl, it’s a way of life. Where there is a need, he will help – but only on his terms, which are that it has to be done right.” Hillary worked with Earl on the Arrowtarian Villa project and said Earl was extremely dedicated, and: “he didn’t just do the easy jobs… It was no surprise to me that he was a curker because he looked very comfortable with a broom in his hand.”

She said evidence of his volunteer work can be seen around town, but she wanted to point out the unseen things: his respect of others, encouraging ways, peacekeeping abilities, and appreciation for the work of others. “We are here tonight not only to thank him for everything he has done in his seven years here, but also to honour the heart of the man who has inspired us all.”

Earl thanked his wife, Sandi, for all her help and support, and the board of directors of the Arrowtarians, and all who donated to the project. He said the spirit of volunteerism was “a family thing – the way we were raised,” and said his son, daughter and granddaughter were all involved in volunteering as well. “If we all pitch in together, it makes the load lighter,” he concluded.

Laurie Page, speaking for Gene, fittingly opened her remarks with a joke – something that Gene is famous for. “Gene is always willing to lend a hand. He is generous, philosophical, humourous and kind. And you can always count on him to say what he thinks,” she said.

Page listed the lessons learned from Gene: take risks, give 100%, persevere through tough times. “To take more than a year to accomplish something is amazing.”

Page concluded with a humourous comment: “Gene is generous with his money, time and talents – but not in ping pong, bridge or poker!”

Gene got up to receive his award and said, “I like to contribute. It’s great to volunteer here.” He thanked his wife, Chris, his son James and daughter Suzanne, and everyone who helped with the Arrowtarian project.
Synergy Therapeutics Healthcare Clinic open in Winlaw

An affordable, comprehensive healthcare clinic, Synergy Therapeutics, is open at the Spicer Centre in downtown Winlaw. Services include acupuncture treatments, diet therapy, mental and emotional wellness and herbal medicine. The clinic is run by Ben Brown, graduate of the Academy of Classical Oriental Sciences and registered acupuncturist since 2005. Recently, Brown developed a personalized healthcare program for long-term care.

A regular visit to the clinic consists of a patient-focused check-in about the client’s wellbeing, an assessment based upon traditional Chinese medicine, guidance around diet and lifestyle goals and personal accountability. Brown said that he developed the program after he recognized that “long-term changes came when clients educated themselves. I want to be a help along the way, to really change people’s lives by empowering them to make core changes in core patterns.” Following a complimentary half-hour assessment and evaluation, program clients are asked to commit for a minimum of three months. They develop a Book of Health that tracks their progress, research and personal health goals.

The clinic is open by appointment Tuesday through Friday at the Spicer Centre in Winlaw. There is also a free drop-in clinic for those with financial need on Fridays from 2-5 pm. For more information, call Synergy Therapeutics at 250-226-7794 or toll-free at 1-877-326-7794.

Lucerne School grades 3, 4 and 5 students participated in the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery initiative on April 19. The students released very young sturgeon into the Columbia River below Brilliant Dam near Castlegar. The children have a special connection to the fish they released – a chip with the child’s name was inserted into the fish.

Kaslo Community Forest presents 10-year draft strategy at AGM, May 12

During the past nine months the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society has been crafting a 10-year strategy for the long-term sustainable management of its license area. The draft strategy will be presented for discussion at the KDCFS’s AGM on May 12, 7 pm, at JV Humphries School.

After formulating a detailed mission for the society, the planning team then crafted a strategy to realize it. This was done through assessing the society’s resources for achieving the mission within the most likely future over the next 50 years. The strategy is principally being driven by increasing climate change impacts on forest ecosystem productivity and greening demand for forest products and services.

The society’s management strategy focuses on sustainable forest productivity through adapting forest management to climate change, while assisting in mitigating negative impacts of this change. Proactively the society will take advantage of the increasing demand for greener forest products and ecological services. This includes sustainable timber management for supplying building materials along with new and emerging niches, such as biofuels, carbon offset services and specialty architectural components. To this end the society will advance its organizational skills to benefit from changing opportunities, especially through the use of strategic planning. Further it will expand collaboration and partnering with our community and other key organizations that can assist with achieving our mission.

A detailed version of KDCFS’s 10-year draft strategy (and support materials, such as the project’s mission) is posted on the society’s website at www.kaslocommunityforest.org.
Safe Boating workshop offers life-saving knowledge
by Art Joyce

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society sponsored an evening workshop on boating safety at New Denver’s Bosun Hall April 22.

Boating Safety Officer Chris Marrie was present from Transport Canada’s Office of Boating Safety in Kelowna, which deals primarily with recreational boating, delivering prevention-based programs.

About 90 percent of boating fatalities could be prevented if the victim was properly wearing a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD). The largest percentage of fatalities is comprised of anglers and hunters, mostly males, usually in small open boats. Again, lack of lifejacket use is a major factor. Boat owners can be fined if caught without a lifejacket or PFD. Over May this year the fine will be increased to $200 for the first missing lifejacket.

The number one cause of boating related drowning is cold water shock, which sets in well before hypothermia. Sixty percent of boating fatalities drown in water under 10 degrees Celsius. Of these, 43 percent were less than two metres from safety.

The rule of thumb for fuel is to carry one-third of the fuel in reserve. The checklist should include a lifejacket, bailing pail or pump, floating throw rope of 15 metres (50 feet), board ladders, and a sounding device such as a horn or whistle. Canoeists and other non-motorized craft should have a watertight flashlight on board. Although few who fall overboard are able to get back into a boat, some motors have a hydraulic lift that can be used to lift you back onboard.

The New Denver Fire Department has been doing rescues on Slocan Lake for about 15 years and got its own rescue boat about two years ago. Marrie also discussed the regulatory structure governing navigable waters, primarily a federal jurisdiction. The universal shoreline restriction is 10 km/h within 30 metres of shore. A Vessel Operation Restriction was created to address specific local boating issues, usually safety concerns. The applicant seeking special boating restrictions must be a local government authority, usually only when all else has failed — signage, education, and public forums. Localized restrictions can be done for bays and estuaries, but seldom for an entire body of water. Marrie’s office is available for advice.

Typically regional districts deal with shoreline restrictions. The Coast Guard is responsible for pollution response, Transport Canada for boating prevention. Provincial and local governments may have their own approval processes in place for docks and dock houses that touch the foreshore.


For more information contact Marrie at chris.marrie@tc.gc.ca.

COMMUNITY

One Wroe Back

HST petition has arrived in Nakusp

On May 15 Sharon & Dan are celebrating 5 years in business & Dan’s 50th Birthday at the Leland Hotel.

- We will be having our customer appreciation day with free appsy between 3-5 pm
- Prizes every hour between 1 & 9 pm
- Live Music with “One Wroe Back” from 9:30 pm Please come out and celebrate with us and give Dan a hard time! Leland Hotel • 96 4th Ave SW • Nakusp, BC 250-265-4221

Slocan Logger Sports back in business other people to come forward and help out.

Loggers able to help out with timber for the event, or those interested in volunteering, can contact Duncan at duduncan@ timberland.org or 250-354-1152.

Area H CB Community Initiatives grants by Ian McMurray

The public meeting and vote for Community Initiatives projects in Area H was held April 10 at Winlaw Hall. There were 51 applications with requests totalling $337,278, and only $256,622 available for spending.

Area H Director Walter Popoff used the same system of voting as last year. Each of the 254 Area H residents had a sticker with a number of voting dots. Each dot was worth $55.71.

Of the 51 applications, 43 were funded to some extent, with six allotted the full funding requested. A list of successful applicants, visit the RDCK website (www.rdck.bc.ca) and find the agenda of the April 29 board meeting.

Slobo Collins' Real World Talk: It's Not the End of the World! - The Valley Voice May 5, 2010

by Ian McMurray

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Area H Director Walter Popoff used the same system of voting as last year. Each of the 254 Area H residents had a sticker with a number of voting dots. Each dot was worth $55.71.

Of the 51 applications, 43 were funded to some extent, with six allotted the full funding requested. A list of successful applicants, visit the RDCK website (www.rdck.bc.ca) and find the agenda of the April 29 board meeting.

Slobo Collins' Real World Talk: It's Not the End of the World! - The Valley Voice May 5, 2010

by Ian McMurray

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Zoning changes take Nakusp East Road residents by surprise

by Jan McMurray

Minimum lot sizes on five Nakusp East Road properties in Area K were changed from 5 acres to 2.5 acres at the April 29 RDCK meeting. Originally, the RDCK had proposed to re-zone the properties to allow for half-acre lots, but it was rejected at a public hearing held April 20.

“The 2007 survey results clearly showed a growing concern for water quality in the area as a priority. Our rural lifestyle cannot be maintained with half-acre lots,” said affected property owner Ernie Knecht in a telephone interview after the meeting.

Other concerns expressed by Nakusp East Road residents at the public hearing included water and sewer capacity, access, and fears of public hearing included water and sewer capacity, access, and fears of public hearing included water and sewer capacity, access, and fears of

Nakusp CBT Community Initiatives vote results

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp and area residents voted on CBT Community Initiatives projects on May 2 at the arena. There were 386 votes cast.

Each voter was entitled to vote for five large projects (over $10,000) and five small projects ($10,000 and under).

There were eight applications for large projects. Grant requests added up to $91,000 and $14,000 was available. Six of the projects were fully funded, with the seventh receiving the leftover funds.

Successful large projects were:
- Sugarloaf Mountain Resort, parking lot and trail repairs to ski hill groomer $27,000 (294 votes);
- Arrow Lakes Search & Rescue, office equipment and storage and regional training $30,000 (280 votes);
- Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade, equipment for regional training centre $30,000 (254 votes);
- PALS Animal Rescue Program $15,000.

There were 10 applications for small projects. Grant requests totalled $45,715.78 and there was $40,000 available. Seven of the projects were fully funded, with the eight receiving the leftover funds.

Successful small projects were:
- Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, food bank $7,700 (278 votes);
- Halcyon Assisted Living Society, bathing room flooring $4,366.50 (276 votes);
- Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation, CT scan room $3,000 (267 votes);
- Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, computer literacy program $4,679.28 (193 votes);
- Nakusp Community Radio, equipment replacements and upgrades $7,000 (230 votes).

Campbell

Village of Nakusp

JOB POSTING - HOT SPRINGS CASHER 2 POSITIONS – 1 Casual, 1 Regular Part-time

GENERAL OUTLINE: Work 8am and 11am; duties are diversified and include greeting the public, admissions, maintaining hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession and janitor/labor work. Positions are available tentatively from May through Thanksgiving.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Include grade 12, class 5 drivers license and a dependable vehicle, occupational first aid, food safe Level 1, WHMIS, BC Super host, medical certificate and criminal record check. A more detailed job description is available from the Village.

RATE OF PAY: As per the Collective Agreement, Compensation will be $13.55/hr for the Casual and Probationary period, and $14.61/hr for the Regular Part time position.

Please forward your resume and verification of all certificates to Mr. Bob Lafleur, CAO, Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp BC.

Dated April 12, 2010 (This posting will remain open until the positions are filled)
Kaslo council, April 27: City Hall project management re-organized

by Jan McMurray

• The City Hall conservation project is now being managed by a committee made up of all council members, representatives from the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, the library and fire department. Deputy City Clerk Jocelyn Anderson is recording secretary. The Development Committee for the City Hall building meets the third Tuesday of every month at 5 pm and has the power to act without having to make recommendations to council.

• The fee proposal for Phases 2 and 3 of City Hall conservation from David Dobie and Thomas Lob will be signed by Mayor Lay and the Chief Administrative Officer. Phase 2 (Permit and Construction Documentation) will cost $225,000. Phase 3 (Construction) will be billed on an hourly rate ($75 in house and $110 for municipal authorized signatories).

• All City Hall building contractors will be advised approvals to resume work on the building will not be in place before July 2010.

• Engineers Ward, True and WSA will be contacted to determine the cost of sewer treatment and engineering for a sewer pipeline from the City Hall to the sewer treatment plant.

• Staff will investigate further the expansion of the sewer system from the Legion to the City Hall building, and will confirm that funds are available for this from the Gas Tax reserve.

• A proposal from Kootenay Sprinkler Installations to install a sprinkler system in the City Fire Hall for $11,700 was referred to the Development Services Committee.

• An agreement with Golden Assay being managed by a committee plus GST for a geotechnical report on the sprinkler system in the Kaslo Fire Department.

• Council received a copy of an email from UBCM stating that the public washroom would likely not be eligible to be funded with gas tax money. Probably only the alternative energy component of the project would be eligible.

• As recommended by the Municipal Services Committee, the municipality will proceed to determine what the washroom project would likely be eligible for development cost recovery in Kaslo.

• Regular meeting agenda packages will be made available for viewing in the Village office as soon as agendas are posted.

• A total of $2,750 in spring Recreation Grants were awarded: Kaslo Car Show $200; Kaslo Slow Pitch $200; Library Reading Program $250; Youth Council $600; Junior Curling $500; Kaslo Riding Club $500; Kaslo Youth Soccer $500; JHV Badminton $220. These grants are contingent on receipt of financial reports on full grants.

• A total of $7,500 of the $20,000 of the Loggers Sport Committee was referred to the Public Works Committee to deal with the possible purchase of Eastern White Cedar poles that meet current standards.

• A letter from a resident saying the Kootenay Lake Historical Society and report back to council.

Lynx Farm eviction threatens Kaslo food security efforts

by art Joyce

At least one farm in the Kaslo area will likely not be able to continue farming within the next year, seriously impairing local food security. Lynx Farm in Johnson’s Landing, which leases a 35-acre parcel, has received an eviction notice from their landlord, who wishes to use it as a vacation property. A letter in support of farmers Jade Summer and Veronica Blanco was written to the property owner from the Johnson’s Landing community. Summer has yet to find a new farmer and her lease for the farm and doubts they will be able to continue farming in the Kootenays. Previously they had leased a farm in Winlaw and had been forced to leave there.

“I don’t think people are aware of the difficulties facing farmers, especially young farmers. If there’s ever going to be food security, we need to support our farmers,” says Summer.

It’s a problem endemic to a young generation of farmers who want to have access to land due to overvalued real estate values. Summer says he knows a young couple who bought 30 acres in Winlaw with the intention of farming but who were forced to take other jobs to pay the mortgage. Much of the available land is being sold by older couples who are unable to keep farming, requiring several years of cultivation to bring land back to productive levels. Young farmers are also faced with having to erode invasive plants, further delaying farm productivity. It can take two to three years to bring a farm to profitability. Recent changes in government regulations have made it more difficult for small-scale farms, though this still pales in comparison to land costs as a barrier.

That’s the problem, people in the Kootenays want food security, yet there’s no provision to make that happen under the current system. By increasing the number of people farmed, we can then look at realistically finding land for farmers, the problem is much bigger, and report back to council.

The City Hall project management re-organized

by Jan McMurray

• Council received a letter from Bruce Blackwell, project manager of the fuel management project in the three Kootenay Regional Districts: RDKB, RDKD and RDEK. This project has been awarded $3 million in Job Opportunities Fund monies by the Ministry of Forests for the purpose of developing a management strategy for reducing greenhouse gas reduction targets that are eligible to be fully funded with gas tax money. Probably only the alternative energy component of the project would be eligible.

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Students from JV Humphries build school food garden for Earth Day

Submitted

The grade 4/5 class at Kaslo’s JV Humphries School built three small cedar boxes for growing food in the intermediate wing playground on Earth Day, April 22. They planted strawberries, chives, romaine lettuce, radishes, greens, Johnnie-jump-ups, and sunflowers.

JV Humphries is one of 10 schools in the Columbia Basin participating in Wildsight’s Beyond Recycling Program, which aims to inspire students to consider the impact of their actions and to make positive environmental changes. The weekly lessons use slideshows, costumes, movies, and games to make the learning about these serious topics fun. The curriculum is recognized by the Ministry of Education as contributing to science learning outcomes, and so far teachers, parents and kids are giving it great marks.

The food garden project at JVH was the culminating project for the students in Victoria McAllister’s class, who have been participating in the program for several months. Local facilitator Gillian Sanders explains, “Beyond Recycling looks at our cycles of waste and consumption. We have done energy audits, visited our local landfill, and looked at ways we could shrink our ecological footprint. One of the subjects we talked about was food, and the environmental costs associated with food production and the transportation of food to our plates. In this class many of the students grow food at home, and were happy to share their experiences with their peers.

In preparation for Earth Day, Sanders spoke with the class and with McAllister, who came up with the idea for the planters to grow local food. The class will look after the beds until the end of June, and more salad could be planted in September. They could even be covered with hoops and plastic and go into the winter, and early spring greens could be planted next year.

Students had a great time drilling boards together, dumping in the soil, and especially mixing in the water. Participating student Sjofna Weeks reported: “The students built the boxes and planting seeds, ‘It’s fun, it’s good for the earth, and it’s healthy.’” Wildsight’s Education Program Manager Monica Nissen is thrilled with the success of Beyond Recycling this year. “We have seen some amazing Earth Day events throughout the region in which students showcase what they have learned during the program. We would gratefully like to acknowledge our program sponsors: the Federal Government’s EcoAction program, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Tenures Gas, Fortis BC, BC Hydro and Columbia Basin Trust, with support from teachers, administrators and parents from schools throughout the region.”

Literary cookbook fundraising project simmering

Submitted

In a literary-culinary partnership that’s all about local, the Kootenay Country Store Co-operative and the Nelson Municipal Library are teaming up to create a cookbook for Kootenay people who love to read. They are seeking submissions of both recipes and writing from locals. The cookbook, a fundraiser for the Nelson Library, will be launched at a special event this fall. With the working title Seasonsings: a Year of Local Flavour in Words and Recipes, the book will include seasonal recipes that celebrate locally grown and available foods, as well as writings from some of our area’s finest writers. With Steven Creteny of The Forest Communication Design and Heather Goldsworthy of Image Obscura photography on the team, the result promises to be delicious. There are two opportunities for community involvement. The first is to submit recipes that feature local ingredients. The second is to submit longer pieces of writing (minimum 300 words) that concern food, cooking, growing, or gardening.

Kootenay Country Store Co-operative is looking for your best recipes that feature local ingredients. Appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, breads, beverages, and desserts – especially those particular to a season – should involve, but need not be exclusive to, locally-grown foods. Recipes must be received by Monday, May 24 via email to Jocelyn Carver at jcarver@kootenay.coop. The Nelson Municipal Library is looking for short writings by local authors, for inclusion in the cookbook. Poems, nonfiction prose, short fictional stories, and anecdotes of 500 words or less are all welcome; longer pieces will be considered. Writings should concern food, cooking, growing, or gardening, Friday, May 28 is the deadline for writing sent to Anne DeGrace at alegrace@nelson.ca.

For more information visit www.nelsonlibrary.ca or www.kootenay.coop.

Kaslo Minor Hockey holds annual awards night

Submitted

Kaslo’s Hockey Awards Night was held on April 20. Blair Enns was the emcee for the evening. He kept the crowd pleasantly amused with his humour and quick wit. Anita Early and Laurie Hartland took on the huge task of organizing the event.

The night was full of laughter and pride. There was a touching moment when Spencer Davie read his original poem, Ode to Rose. Rose is Kaslo’s trusty, loyal, and energetic arena snack bar lady. Spencer is graduating this year, and had to share his love of Rose and all she has to offer the community.

Awards were presented as follows:

Jr. Novice
Tudor Rutherglen - Ethan Gray

Sr. Novice
Tudor Rutherglen - Harley Command; Most Improved - Callum McDougall; MVP - Elijah Havens; Sportsmanship - Sage Matthews; Best Defense - Brendan McIntyre; Best Forward - Rowan Wiltse.

Pee Wee
Tudor Rutherglen - Ishmani Baker; Most Improved - Catalina Hartland; MVP - Avery Enns; Sportsmanship - Haley James and Mikenna Hansen; Best Defense - Ayden Boulton; Best Forward - Hannah Enns.

Bantam
Tudor Rutherglen - Brenna Tate; Most Improved - Alric Moore; MVP - Scott Mitchell; Sportsmanship - April Settle and Tasha Hewat; Best Defense - Scott Mitchell; Best Forward - Jessie Lay.

Referee of the Year – Mick Legg
Most Improved Ref of the Year – Bijiorki Weeks

President’s Awards – Liam Mitchell, Spencer Davie.

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2) Achievement of a 5 Star Master Builder. First, 25th anniversary of Manulife Financial in the industry is a remarkable achievement, let alone the Financial Services industry, where less than 1% of people survive for even five years.

This is only achieved with a significant commitment to your clients, your business, your family, your community and your professionalism.

So, congratulations to Darril and Lori for this significant achievement.

Second, a 5 Star Master Builder – what does this mean?

For more than four decades, this program has paid tribute to our outstanding advisors – the men and women who have made substantial contributions to the development and expansion of the company.

Excellence will be attained when you constantly strive to be the best in all that you do. Advisors who achieve Manulife’s Master Builder status are the epitome of excellence. Since its inception in 1961, the Master Builder program has been Manulife’s most prestigious advisor reward and recognition program worldwide.

Membership in this program is offered by virtue of exceptional volume of current music lessons, display of proficiency for persistency. There are five levels in the Master Builder organization, all of which are identified and recognized with stars; the first star identifies the supreme excellence. Since its inception in 1961, you do. Advisors who achieve Manulife’s company.

Darril Beninger

MANULIFE FINANCIAL

with Manulife Financial and in the industry;

Darril Beninger
MOTHER'S DAY PIE BINGO at Slocan Park Community Hall, May 8, 6:45 pm. Everyone welcome.

KOOTENAY DANCEFEST ’13: 7-30 pm, May 8, Junction Church, South Slocan. Swing, Latin, Smooth, Country, tap music. 80 plus members, 55 members. Parcels to be offered. Donations for purchasing and recycling! Looking for new art for your home? Want to “trade” some art? Want to support the Hidden Garden Gallery’s project of public art in New Denver by sculptors Toru Fujibayashi? You can accomplish all of the above by participating in the Hidden Garden Gallery’s Silent Auction. Bring your donation of art to the Gallery (803 Kirkwood Lane, New Denver, June 13 to 10 – 3. Visit the Gallery June 15 – 17 to see the eclectic collection and to place your bids. We shall party on Saturday, June 19 for a bigger and better sale! Hot concession stands but the new place makes it possible. Call 250-358-9100 for details. Email: valleyvoice@netidea.com

SLOCAN VALLEY HERITAGE TRAIL: SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday, May 20, 7:00 pm at the Passpooe Hall. All members please attend. Membership fees are due prior to meeting. For info call 1-888-683-5VIRT.

RENT, LEARN, Activities at Brent Kennedy Elementary School. Tuesdays, May 11, 18 and 25. Room 240 in Brent Kennedy Elementary School from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. SESSIONS ARE FREE! Each week, children will do some learning activities and crafts around a different theme. They will also have a snack and some playtime in the gym or outside. It’s a great opportunity to introduce your child to kindergarten. Parents will spend part of each session with their child, and then be invited to join discussions with local professionals. Discussion topics will include all day kindergarten, vision, speech, hearing, and children’s health issues. You may attend as many sessions as you wish. Call the school at 250-359-7292 to let us know which session(s) you plan to attend.

FURNISHED SUMMER HOUSE for rent in New Denver. May 14 end of month. October 600 plus. 403-996-0084 or 403-263-9025.

YOGA AT THE DOMES – Wear layers for the next month - come to class - Monday & Saturday mornings 9-10:30 am – Flow; Thursday afternoon 3:30-5:00 pm – Restorative Flow. For more information call 250-358-7607 or email shirley@21nkunnap.com.


Kootenay Restorative Justice working toward understanding, respect and harmony and health communication in our communities kjustice@weycgs.ca


REAL ESTATE

NEW LISTING: Spectacular views from this Nakusp home on extra large lot. New kitchen and baths. Beautiful yard and gardens. Lots of privacy. Walking distance to downtown, waterfront. Two adjacent lots in Hills and have a wonderful living space with lots of potential for development hobby farm, camping, outdoor sports, spa resort. Use your imagination. Well maintained home and garden on one, the other’s vacant land. Call or email Shirley at 250-265-8400 or email shirley@21nkunnap.com.

GOING ON A ROCK WALK – With Lesley Anderton. Discover the geological wonders of our valley. Sat., May 29, 1043 Playmor Hwy.

VENDORS WANTED for May Day Market, May 24, 2010, Centennial Park, New Denver, Noon to 4 pm. Info from antistudios@tels.net or Shelley 358-2456.


Lestor’s Hobies

LESTER KOENEMAN
Phone 265-3128 or 24-hour Fax 265-4808
Broadway St, Nakusp

JONES BOYS BOATS www.jonesboatstravel.com
Airsworth, British Columbia
4080 Hwy 31 N
Call: 1-877-552-6287
(250) 353-2550 Fax (250) 353-2911
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YAMHA MERCURY

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1043 Playmor

YAMHA MERCURY
Information sought on Vaux’s Swift roosting sites

Submitted

Spring is the prime season for migratory birds and just before nightfall small acrobatic birds may be plummeting into a brick chimney near you. If you witness such a sight the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program’s (FWCP) Vaux’s (pronounced “voxx”) watch program is gearing up for the arrival of these small birds.

The southern portion of the Columbia Basin provides important habitat for Vaux’s swifts as many breed in the forests of the Interior Cedar Hemlock Zone. Historically the breeding and roosting sites consisted of hollow trees often found in old growth forests. Due to logging practices, most recorded sites are now in man-made brick chimneys; as more brick chimneys are converted to steel or aluminum, even this manmade habitat is in decline. Towns with older houses and historic buildings are most likely to support nesting birds. In 2008 the FWCP’s Gerry Thompson made nearly 30 massive Vaux’s swift nest boxes that were distributed to various parts of the Province. The Class C transitional license originally introduced to enable slaughter operators to become fully licensed will be phased out. Operators will develop custom plans to transition these facilities to other licenses.

The BC Liberals say the number of provincially licensed slaughter facilities has increased from 14 in 2004 to 37 in 2010. Since 2006, government has provided more than $11.9 million to support industry’s transition to the new requirements. But NDP Healthy Living and Sport critic Jagrup Brar notes that countless small farmers went out of business after the government brought in regulations that restricted consumer choice. “After six years of failed agricultural policy, the BC Liberals are still refusing to give consumers across the province what they want – the right to buy meat directly from a farmer they trust,” said Brar. For more information visit www.bcgrow lbs.ca/protect/meat-regulation.

COMMUNITY

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For more information visit www.fwcp.ca, call 250-352-6874 or email irene.manley@ bchydro.com.
**FLIKS brings Kootenay-made film to West Kootenay**

**submitted**

The award-winning, Creston, BC independent film *Lovers in a Dangerous Time* is making its long-awaited Kootenay debut with FLIKS on May 19 at 7:30 pm in Nelson’s Capitol Theatre.

The film has been described as “an undeniably lovely film; natural, gorgeously shot, haunting, funny and practically oozing with Canadiana,” by Eric Volmers of the Calgary Herald. The writing, directing, actor team of May Charters and Mark Hug will be in attendance at each screening.

A tale of small-town Canadian romance, the film follows a pair of childhood friends reunited at their high school reunion. Ten years after graduation Todd remains a local could-have-been, while Allison illustrates children’s books and wonders what might have been. Fueled by hope, longing, and nostalgia they embark on a romantic, if illusory, adventure to recapture lost love and happiness.

It was crucial for Creston native Hug and Toronto-born Charters to tell a Kootenay story in the Kootenay landscape. This keen passion for honesty storytelling earned Hug and Charters the Maverick Award at its Method Fest Premiere.

*FLIKS* is making its long-awaited Kootenay debut with FLIKS on May 19 at 7:30 pm in Nelson’s Capitol Theatre.

**Hoja acapella group delights Nakusp audience**

by Cedar Eichenauer

The three members of the acapella group Hoja brought their powerful voices and boundless energy to Nakusp on April 24. Although many people find it hard to believe, these three men use no musical instruments beyond their voices.

Hoja’s performance was dynamic and fast paced, with every song choirographed.

Kirk DeHaven sang the base line and most of the percussion sounds, and occasionally took the lead. He also made some of the more dramatic choreographic moves. Trent Funk and Scott Olynek took turns singing lead and back-up. All three sang the sounds of various musical instruments.

After performing a couple of traditional music and Hindu culture, Pandit Deobrat Mishra is bringing classical North Indian ragas and folk music to the West Kootenay, for both classes and performances. Joining him will be the phenomenal season will feature paintings by Gillian Redwood, showing September 3 to September 26. There will also be an exhibit during the last two weeks of June and the first week of July – to be announced. Studio Connexion is located downtown Nakusp at 203 5th Avenue. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 3 pm to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm.

**Indian traditional musician to teach and perform in West Kootenay**

submitted

From his home city of Benares India, an ancient spiritual centre of

Five new art exhibitions at Studio Connexion

submitted

The art gallery at Studio Connexion in Nakusp will soon launch its second season.

The first artist to be featured at the gallery this year is Mya De Ryan, returning to Nakusp with her amazing fish rubbings. Everyone is invited to come and check out ‘Fish Tales.’ Local fishermen will not be disappointed.

The show runs from Friday, May 14 to Sunday, June 13. The artist will be in attendance at the opening, May 14, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Russian artist Anastasia B will show her work from July 8 to August 2.

Barbara Maye is now working on a series of paintings that she will show at the Studio Connexion gallery from August 5 to August 29.

The gallery’s final show this season will feature paintings by Gillian Redwood, showing September 3 to September 26.

There will also be an exhibit during the last two weeks of June and the first week of July – to be announced.

Studio Connexion is located downtown Nakusp at 203 5th Avenue. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 3 pm to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm.

Presanth Mishra on tabla drums. The Mishras will perform at the Nelson United Church, 602 Silica Street, on Sunday May 9 at 7 pm.

Throughout May, they will be taking time away from their BC tour to support the recently formed Mishra School of Indian Classical Music in Nelson. Classes are offered in blocks of one hour sessions ranging in sitar, tabla, vocal, and/or harmonium. There will take place in a month long intensive program or in increments of one week periods from May 10 through June 4 at Selkirk College Tenth Street Campus. Students do not need their own instruments to attend classes, we will provide instruments for those without.

Call Selkirk College at 250-352-2821 to register. The Mishras will be performing in Silverton during the month of May, with the date yet to be confirmed. Advance tickets for the Nelson performance are available at Eddy Music and Gaia Rising for $17 and at the door for $22. Next they appear at the Yasodhara Ashram, 527 Walker’s Landing Road, Kootenay Bay on Saturday, May 22 at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the door, $18 for adults and $12 for children.

For further information visit www.mishramusic.com or contact Michael Nibet at 250-551-2229 or via email at mishramusic@gmail.com.

**Village of Nakusp**

**JOB POSTING – HOT SPRING OPERATOR (casual)**

**GENERAL OUTLINE** – Hours of work will vary depending on scheduling and will require evening and weekend shifts. Duties are specific to the operation and maintenance of the Hot Spring Facility.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS** – include grade 12, RFABC Pool Operator Level 1, bronze medallion, first aid, chlorine handling, WHMIS, and food safe. A detailed description and list of minimum requirements is available from the Village.

**RATE OF PAY** – is $17.33/hour (probationary) and up to $19.39/hr after probation depending on certifications.

Applicants are requested to submit resumes with copies of all certifications to Bob Lafleur, CAO, Village of Nakusp Box 280 V0G 1R0. The Village thanks all who apply however only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. This posting will remain open until the position is filled.

Dated at the Village of Nakusp – April 27, 2010

**Images from the Lucerne Writers Festival, 2010**

Matthew Driedger reads at the elementary students’ coffeehouse.

Prashant Mishra on tabla drums. The Mishras will perform at the Nelson United Church, 602 Silica Street, on Sunday May 9 at 7 pm.

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Yamaha V-Star 950 Tourer

Although the weather this week has been rainy, I was smiling on Thursday when I got to take my first test ride on Yamaha's new V-Star 950 Tourer. I've ridden a lot of motorcycles over the 40 years I have been riding, and I can honestly say that I wasn't disappointed with this mid-level V-twin.

The first thing to point out is what this bike isn't. It isn't insanely big like the former V-twin. This is a bike with easy manners, more than enough power, a very low seat height, and comfortable passenger accommodation. The electronic ignition and throttle body fuel injection allows for easy starts and quick warm-ups. Like most modern motorcycles, this is accomplished with the dab of a button rather than a kick-start, and once the girl is up and running, things are easy. The turn signals are easy to operate and self-cancelling so you don't look like a fool driving down the highway with the turn signal blinking for miles. The tank-mounted speeds is easy to read and the clutch lever is easy to pull. The mirrors are some of the best I've experienced. The stretched out rake makes for a cool look and adds to the solid feel on the highway, but can be a bit disconcerting as it flaps into the corner at low speeds. Acceleration is brisk and passing is easy without downshifting.

For this test ride, I rode the bike from the junction to Castlegar, and up the Fruitvale hill. The bike will easily pull 150 kph on a steep grade, which lets me know that highway speeds with a passenger will never be a problem. I didn't experience any undue shaking or buzzing at high speeds. This bike will comfortably eat up the miles.

The seat is quite comfy at first, but there isn't much room to move around and the soft padding isn't comfortable for long rides. Just as I was wishing for something a bit more on the firm side. Passenger comforts are great, though, with well-placed foot pegs and a sissy bar back rest. The saddlebags look and perform well and I liked the windshield, but this isn't adjustable so it would have to be the right height for you.

Riding through town is a piece of cake as the low seat height gives great stability at stop lights and the seamless clutch action and smooth shifting will give confidence to the novice rider.

The best part of the ride was Castlegar back to the junction via the Pass Creek Road, which is definitely one of the Kootenay's best rides if you like turns. It took me about the third turn to find the limitations of cornering clearance. The shaker floorboards like to ground out with any real spirited riding, but that said, it isn't much worse than my old Harley and I still had a lot of fun. I really wanted to turn around and do the road again, but the bike had to be back.

The engine itself is a single overhead cam, 60 degree V-twin. It produces about 58 ft/lbs of torque and about 45 HP. The front brake is a single floating disc while a single fixed disc is on the rear. The gas tank holds about 17 litres, which will give good cruising range. The rear drive is belt and there is a 5-speed transmission.

I didn't care for all the plastic add-ons that are supposed to look like engine parts that aren't there, such as the fake rocker boxes and plastic air cleaner cover, but I guess this makes it look like a Harley and keeps the price down – which by the way is very reasonable. The bike costs $11,495 including all taxes, dealer prep etc. – not bad, considering my last engine change on my Harley cost just shy of $13,000.

What I really want to highlight in this evaluation, though, is not as much the bike as the dealership that sells it. I can't say enough good things about Playmor Power Products. Jim and Bob have been a great help to both my Mt. Sentinel Mechanics class and myself for many years. They help with technical advice, give prizes for bike building contests, let us into their bone yard to gather parts and are generally a great bunch of guys. Bob is one of the best wrenches in the Kootenays and Jim is honest and informative in the front end of the dealership. They sell everything from chainsaws and skidoos to quads and motorcycles.

There is a great selection of clothing and apparel. If I were in the market for a new bike or snow machine, this would be the first place I would check out. They run a first class establishment and if you haven't been in, stop by next time you're in the neighbourhood.