Ministry slaps suspension on Meadow Creek Cedar’s forest licence

by Jan McMurray

Meadow Creek Cedar (MCC) has been given notice that its forest licence is suspended as of February 29. The company was also given a $42,000 fine for failing to meet its silviculture (tree planting) obligations, and an order to have the tree planting done by August 15.

These three decisions were handed down by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations following a recent investigation by compliance and enforcement staff. The investigation found that Meadow Creek Cedar did not achieve minimum restocking requirements on six separate cutblocks associated with its forest licence (A 30171).

The company was notified of the decisions on February 3 and has three weeks to appeal them.

“We were relieved to hear about the suspension of the licence,” said Dick Brenton, spokesperson for the North Kootenay Forest Initiative Group, the Lardeau Valley citizens’ committee that was formed to look into the situation at Meadow Creek Cedar. “However, we know that suspension is one thing and cancellation is another. This could go on a long time.”

MLA Michelle Mungall echoed Brenton’s sentiments. “For the MLAs on my side of the house, learning about the process – the process that is outlined in legislation and the ministry is obliged to follow – has really been a lesson on how communities can be so devastated by poor operations, especially small communities like Meadow Creek. If Meadow Creek Cedar appeals, the community is still holding its breath. There are changes ahead for the community and what those changes are will depend on how long Meadow Creek Cedar can drag out the process.”

Garth Wiggill, Kootenay Lake Forest District Manager, explained that the $42,000 fine and the remediation order to reforest the six blocks relate directly to the silviculture contravention found in the recent investigation. The decision to suspend the licence, however, was made based on both current and past contraventions.

“We felt the suspension was warranted because of the company’s accumulation of contraventions,” said Wiggill. “It’s not just based on the current contraventions. The history of Meadow Creek Cedar’s past performance was factored in to the decision.”

He explained that if the company does the replanting by August 15 as ordered, the suspension will be lifted. He also explained that once billed, the company will have 90 days to pay the $42,000 penalty. MCC will be billed when the appeal period is over. If the company fails to pay within the 90 days, Wiggill said he would then consider issuing a separate suspension or including the failure to pay infraction in the current suspension.

Wiggill reported that the company can appeal one, two or all three of the ministry’s decisions. Appeals are made to the Forest Appeals Commission, which is an independent board, separate from the ministry. The appeal of the licence suspension is slightly different in that it would go to the ministry’s Executive Director of the Kootenay Boundary Region based in Cranbrook before being referred to the Forest Appeals Commission.

Wiggill said the company has a number of past contraventions, related to road and silviculture violations of Forestry legislation, and was penalized for these through violation tickets, remediation orders and warnings. All of these past contraventions have been addressed, Wiggill reported – the company has paid the fines or has fulfilled the requirements of the remediation orders.

Wiggill also explained that there is one exception to the company’s licence suspension. Operations on a cutblock in the Trout Lake area, which include a road permit, will be allowed to continue past the February 29 suspension date. “This is to essentially protect the interests of the contractor and to address forest health issues,” he explained. “The contractor is getting paid directly by the buyers of the logs, so we wanted to allow the contractor to complete the work, rather than allowing Meadow Creek Cedar to seize the logs in the bush.” He added that if logs are left in the bush too long, there is a vulnerability to spruce budworm.

Wiggill confirmed that some additional ministry investigations are ongoing involving Meadow Creek Cedar, and he will be faced with making another decision associated with the company in the next month. There is also a Forest Practices Board (FPB) complaint pending for Meadow Creek Cedar. An FPB spokesperson reported that the investigation of that complaint is nearing completion. FPB complaints are completely separate from ministry investigations.

In addition, many violations of safety regulations have been found during WorkSafeBC inspections of Meadow Creek’s sawmill complex in Cooper Creek and of forest service roads under the company’s responsibility.
Slocan Valley resident outlines issues with Water Act modernization

by Jan McMurray

March Break Creative Kootenay Kids Camp
Featuring a different local artist each day
At The Silverton Gallery
March 19 - 23 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
$25 Early Bird Rate
Art supplies included
Public Art Show March 24, 1 - 3 pm

Loving Spirit
Partly funded by CKPG

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The directory will be a searchable database and will be maintained, she said. It will also be printable.
Page added that the Nakusp and Area Development Board is looking into Business Retention and Expansion survey to help determine what local businesses need. She said another idea is to survey part-time residents to find out what it would take for them to move here.
Tourism marketing – “Tourism marketing was identified over and over again as a priority,” said Page. “Creating a local tourism organization is the next step.”
The small group working on this project idea came up with several suggestions, such as a volunteer committee of snowmobile and ATV trips in the area and post them on YouTube; try to keep the groups who already come regularly, improve the area for another day; clean up local websites so they are user friendly; ask a student to come and do a thesis on tourism in the Arrow Lakes; support the expansion of the ski hill; coordinate wellness businesses; support BACA (Beaton Arm Crossing Association), which is working on a fixed link to replace the ferry crossing to Revelstoke; ensure that all hotels have information about events, attractions and activities in the area. They also suggested hiring a marketing coordinator.
Outdoor recreation – The small group agreed with the economic development committee that a web-based inventory of outdoor recreation related businesses, organizations and opportunities is needed.
Wood waste – The group talked about the need for a feasibility study that would look at both wood waste and value-added opportunities. They suggested that NACFOR take the lead on this project. “We really should be looking at alternative energy sources and it would be good to keep power generation local,” said one person in this group, who also pointed out that

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PUBLIC ART SHOW
To avoid impacting the log towing, a towing occurs in the Arrow Park area. The problem with this option is that log clearing span bridge would be necessary, driving up the cost significantly. The estimated cost for this option in the business case is $277 million, but a clear span bridge at Arrow Park is estimated at $600 million.

Option 7 would involve a new road off Hill Creek Road that would lead to a causeway/bridge across Arrow Arm and carry on up the east side of the Upper Arrow to the Illicillawaet River, where there is an existing bridge to Revelstoke. Frerichs explained that the City of Revelstoke plans to replace the Illicillawaet bridge in efforts to have ski hill traffic bypass the city. Unfortunately, the City of Revelstoke does not support BACA’s efforts at this point, and their support is necessary for this option to succeed. “Revelstoke doesn’t want to share the money. They want it for Highway 1 or their own bypass project,” explained Frerichs. Option 7 is estimated to cost $218 million, and it scores 72 because it has low environmental impact, moves traffic well, and has a reasonable price tag.

Option 8 is BACA’s preferred option. It is the least expensive fixed link option at $198 million and scores 71, almost the same as option 7. Option 8 starts off with the same route as option 7, over a causeway/bridge across Arrow Arm, and up the east side of the Upper Arrow, but only as far as Sidmouth. At this point, another causeway/bridge crosses the lake and the old Sidmouth Road (upgrades needed) carries on up the west side of the lake to Revelstoke.

Frerichs said they believe there is an opportunity for power generation at the Sidmouth crossing, and this has piqued the ministry’s interest because it opens the possibility of a partnership. BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation representatives have seen the BACA presentation. “We figure we can get an IPP to come in,” said Frerichs. The idea would be to get the power company to pay for the $16 million causeway/bridge at Sidmouth.

Travel time from Nakusp to Revelstoke with options 7 or 8 would be about one hour and ten minutes.

MP David Wilks is very enthusiastic and especially likes option 8, reported Frerichs. Wilks is working with BACA to get the right federal officials on board and has indicated that the federal government could provide 50 percent of the funding for the project. Frerichs said Celgar is supportive of the project because the company wants to put barges on the lake at Shelter Bay. The barges would be used to transport wood chips to the Celgar mill, eliminating chip trucks from Highway 6 in both the Arrow and Slocan Valleys.

Frerichs said there is support for the north-south corridor in Castlegar, and although the corridor would provide the link, it would be the “last ditch for us,” he said. “Corridors don’t do much for you except put lots of trucks through.” He said he would rather have the north-south corridor on the west side of the lake. “I don’t want a four-lane road through Nakusp, and I don’t think Burton and Fauquier want that, either,” he said.
Exhaust questions
How come the exhaust pipes of many trucks in the back is pointing to the right, to the pedestrian side of the road? Is there a good reason for it?
Do we want to get rid of pedestrians altogether? Why not direct the fumes to the middle of the road, where they don’t hit the people directly?
At ferry landings as well as on the ferries themselves, there are signs now, proclaiming that BC is free of idle exhaust. Are RCMP vehicles exempt from that rule?
Last Thursday, not a very cold day, an RCMP panel truck was idling for the whole crossing on the Fausti-Needles ferry. In contrast, a logging truck behind us shut his engine right off, despite that for technical reasons, a big diesel engine would be better kept running.

Just asking.

Richard Eichener
Fausti

Fresh organic food in New Denver?
After Ann Bunke closed her natural foods store in fall of 2011, we were asking ourselves three questions. First: Must we go to Nelson to get what we need and like? Second: Will the new Market Foods grocery store offer what we like? Third: Who will bring organic food close to us?
There was a sign in front of Mark Adams’ office announcing an organic food store coming soon. We were skeptical. Now, we’d like to say that generally there is not a need and like?

Richard Eichener

Open letter to Vic Toews, federal public safety minister
Your boss is a sick man. I realize you don’t utter a single syllable without Steve’s prior approval, but going along with this perverse and immoral form of government will see you wrapped in the same bloody cloth. I refer to the following.

From Canadian Press on Feb 7, 2012 - Vic Toews says Harper government will “... require CSIS to share the most complete information available at the time with relevant authorities, including information based on intelligence provided by foreign agencies that may have been derived from the use of torture or mistreatment.” This is completely outrageous and wrong!

Be careful of your future; you won’t be in government forever. You may want to try to lead a normal life after the CPC is demolished in the next election. With this on your CV, you and your family will have to lay to low arrest for encouraging human rights violations.

Bill Wells
Kaslo

Open letter to Kaslo council: Ring Road
I have been following the letters to the Valley Voice opposing Kaslo council’s proposed traffic changes with a great deal of interest.
As a user of Vinny Park, I have to say that generally there is not a major volume of traffic which travels to or through the park except during the warm season. Having said that, throughout the year families drive to the park to use park facilities and to access the playground. The road is also used by folks and their pets to provide direct access to the beach and walking trail when they come into the area by car. The skateboard park is also accessible by road, as is the campground and logger sports site. As far as I can see all of the above access will remain should Kaslo council proceed with its proposal.
What will change with this proposal is that folks will be able to drive to the park and waterfront instead of through them. I believe this will make the whole area safer, and will cut down on the dust kicked up during the dry season, thus making it a more pleasant place to visit.
I want to thank council for providing the community with this forward-thinking initiative.

Rick Koorens
Kaslo

Theft of our common wealth
Theft of our common wealth is theft from the commons of future generations. That wealth is our common survival currency of clean air, soil and water, minerals, and an environment for healthy minds and bodies. Oil is part of that common wealth, as are lands above and below. Taxpayers provide lakes full of water for ‘fracking’ subterranean areas to extract oil and gas – the water is mixed with chemicals and then pollutes the underground aquifers, making the water over huge areas unsafe in the future by humans and other animals.
‘Public relations’ exercises by the industry, with government participation, tell great stories of how the caribou can be saved by killing all the wolves. No mention of the depleted and reduced range of the caribou is made in industry plans to pillage our environment and rob the future generations. Nice fuzzy animal stories around to cover the unethical!
The selfish, ignorant and unprincipled government has enabled corporate theft of our common wealth, and it must stop. Both federal and provincial governments are guilty, including Christy Clarke, who promised to protect water and families – I guess she just means the current generation.
The only hope I see for the future of all of us, and our commons, is for all parents and grandparents to exercise their powers to ensure that everyone eligible in their family votes in the next election!

Eric Faulks
Hills

Clarification on radiofrequency radiation
At the risk of appearing pedantic, it’s important to respond to Ms. Fields’ letter of February 8 and correct some serious inaccuracies.
According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are currently classified as 2B (possibly carcinogenic), although this classification is still listed as being ‘in preparation.’ One problem with such a classification is that many things could be ‘possibly carcinogenic.’ This is not the same thing as proving they are.
What’s essential to know here is this IS NOT in the same classification as some other items mentioned by Ms. Fields. Tobacco and asbestos are both listed as category 1 (carcinogenic to humans). Lead is classified as 2B but the real lead worries, inorganic lead compounds, are listed as 2A (probable carcinogens). I don’t want to cause you coffee drinkers undue reason to worry, but your beverage of choice is listed as 2B for urinary bladder cancer. UV radiation is classified as Category 1, as you
continued from page 4

I feel adapting to and adopting sustainable and resilient renewable energy systems is what is going to give our children a healthy future, so I don’t want to turn my back on such a system. I would like to know the answers to my questions. I would also like to know that we homeowners are going to be able to connect to the grid, as my solar-powered neighbours produce three times the amount of electricity that they need with their solar system, and my household is investing in solar energy this spring. Is anybody out there able to answer my questions?

Susan Eyre Yahl

Smart meters and smart grid seem beneficial

Currently, I am reading The Leap, a book by Chris Turner, a Canadian, about ‘the leap’ to energy efficiency. He says: “Often if occasionally incomprehensible, there is a new realism.” When referred to as ‘the internet energy’, the smart grid has emerged as the most promising application of distributed power generation. Communications since the internet...the smart grid is not so much a technology as the integration of several new ones from formerly disparate fields...devices that can measure the common use of electrical cars and the scale electrical generation of the sort that can be responsible for 10% of electricity. For us, we have no privacy at all, and at any time receive a letter or a visit from the government about our ‘crimes.’ Real internet criminals will have the expertise to circumvent these measurements. And the people who run the ISPs won’t be too fond of the difference between hackers and personal information and government snoops.

I’m going to fight this bill, and any others. But let me first tell you what you can prevent from being passed. Check out this online initiative: it’s Canadian Bill C-30, variously called “The Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act” or “The Warrentless Online Spying Act.” Opennmedia.ca is fighting this bill and is a good place to start.

As the installation of smart
meters that have been installed is soon to be thrust upon us, the smart meters being installed is currently happening in Denmark and Germany? And second, do the Danes and German citizens suffer health problems from their household smart meters?

The CEO’s extensive list does make for some interesting, if occasionally incomprehensible, reading, but if you’re prepared to sit down, saturate yourselves with coffee, you probably don’t need to worry too much about radio waves either.

The current controversy has focused on several important points so far. I offer the following article from The Economist for some further information: http://www.economist.com.

We all need to have reasonable concerns about a healthy environment, but inaccuracies and pseudo-science do not promote a sensible discussion.

Dave McCormick

Kaslo

Fight online surveillance

On Valentine’s Day, the Harper government introduced its worst legislation yet. This month, Bill C-30, the Online Surveillance Bill, which came with its own tag, courtesy of Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety: “You’re either with us or with the child pornographers.” Oh, really. However, this bill is nothing to laugh about.

It mandates ISPs’ (Internet Service Providers) to turn over to the police all the personal information about subscribers, including their IP numbers (the unique identifier for their internet access). As it is now, ISPs may cooperate voluntarily with the police in the case of child pornography, and have. There is no account on record of a criminal investigation being thwarted by a recalcitrant ISP. In fact, there is actually no reason for this bill at all. It’s a solution in search of a problem. Since no mention of child pornography is mandated in the bill, permit me to suppose that it actually has a very different purpose. ISPs will have to purchase expensive surveillance technology to be able to track the emails, transmissions, and activities of all its subscribers. This expense will most likely put small ISPs (like the ones that serve the Kootenays) out of business. This is covered under section 33. This section also allows the government to hire ‘inspectors’ to inspect all the ISPs for compliance with this bill.

Section 34 tells more. These inspectors (appointed by the minister) can enter any ISP (either in person, or more likely, remotely) and look for anything. This is an enormous fishing expedition by the minister) can enter any ISP (either in person, or more likely, remotely) and look for anything. This is an enormous fishing expedition by these inspectors (appointed by the minister) can enter any ISP (either in person, or more likely, remotely) and look for anything. This is an enormous fishing expedition by these inspectors (appointed by the minister) can enter any ISP (either in person, or more likely, remotely) and look for anything. This is an enormous fishing expedition by these inspectors (appointed by the minister) can enter any ISP (either in person, or more likely, remotely) and look for anything. This is an enormous fishing expedition by... devices that can measure the common use of electrical cars and the scale electrical generation of the sort that can be responsible for 10% of electricity. For us, we have no privacy at all, and at any time receive a letter or a visit from the government about our ‘crimes.’ Real internet criminals will have the expertise to circumvent these measurements. And the people who run the ISPs won’t be too fond of the difference between hackers and personal information and government snoops.

I’m going to fight this bill, and any others. But let me first tell you what you can prevent from being passed. Check out this online initiative: it’s Canadian Bill C-30, variously called “The Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act” or “The Warrentless Online Spying Act.” Opennmedia.ca is fighting this bill and is a good place to start.

Harvey Armstrong

Kaslo

Stopping smart meters

Stopping smart meters is time sensitive. FortisBC’s intention is to apply to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), the regulatory office for BC utility companies, for approval to install smart meters during the third quarter of this year. (BC Hydro got a political ‘just do it’ and did not have to go through the normal procedures, shamefully.)

What you have learned about the damage to health with regard to cell phones, Wi-Fi, dirty electricity, and electrosmog in general is all part of this need to stop smart meters from coming here now, if we are to do the right thing for our health and the health of our children.

In a city, population is dense and cell phone signals are broadcast everywhere here. This type we have now lasts longer than the digital ones, and does not produce dirty electricity. Attend the rally outside the Fortis office in Trail February 29, 11 am - 1 pm. This is the provincial ‘bullying awareness day.’ We want to make it clear to Fortis that we don’t want smart meters forced upon us with bullying tactics.

Sadly, if you go searching the internet recently, as the debate thickens, there has been an upswell of outright lies and sometimes hardly intelligible pro-cell-phone-industry duds. Use your common sense and intuition, or go straight to the sources.

Keep Telus from ripping out our pay phones!

Find out what you can from folks back east or at the coast who have had them installed already. Better safe than sorry.

As Bob Dylan said: “What good am I, if I know and don’t do?”

Daphne Fields

Slocan
Walter Posnikoff retires as superintendent of School District 10 Arrow Lakes

by Jan McMurray

Walter Posnikoff has retired from his position as superintendent/secretary-treasurer of School District 10 Arrow Lakes as of January 31.

“I have mixed feelings about retiring – I believe it’s time for me to move on and do other things with my life, and at the same time I feel I’ll miss a lot of what’s going on here,” he said.

Posnikoff has worked in the district for 33 years, since 1979, first as teacher at Nakusp Elementary, and then on to head teacher of the southern zone, principal of Nakusp Elementary, and acting superintendent before becoming superintendent/secretary-treasurer in 2001.

“I’m very proud of the working philosophy we’ve been able to implement here – what is the best for our children? Using that as our guiding light, we have provided support for our teachers, principals, staff and students to excel,” he said.

“The boards, past and present, have made some tough decisions over the years to help this community. I think we have the confidence of the parents and community members to help educate the citizens of our community.”

However, Posnikoff said declining enrolment has been and will continue to be a challenge. Enrolment in the district was 1,100 when he first started and is down to a projected 979 for the 2012/13 school year.

“Declining enrolment brings challenges in delivering high school programs and teaching multi-graded classrooms – but they are not insurmountable,” he said. “We’ve been doing a great job in this district, and using new technologies – moving some of the educational delivery model through the internet, for example – is a way we can grow.”

The other ongoing challenge is balancing the budget, said Posnikoff. “As long as the government continues to recognize that rural education delivery is more costly, it will be fair.”

Posnikoff added that he is hopeful the relationship between government and the teachers’ union works better in the future, as well. “An awful lot of positive energy is lost when these things happen. It does create tensions.”

Interviews for the new superintendent/secretary-treasurer are taking place March 1 and 2. Posnikoff says he has offered to help during the transition period, so he will do so if the board asks.

“I don’t have any concrete plans for my retirement, but I won’t be leaving the area – I love this area. I will do a bit more reading, and more outdoor recreation, and a bit of travel.”

Posnikoff concluded by thanking the communities of Arrow and Slocan Lakes for all the support they’ve given him. “There are a tremendous number of people in the area who have supported me, and I thank them,” he said.

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan

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Email: info@villageofslocan.ca

RFP 2012
Springer Creek RV Park and Campground Operator

The Village of Slocan invites proposals for:
Operator for the Springer Creek RV Park and Campground

Details of the Operator position can be found in the Request for Proposal which is available on the Village of Slocan website, www.slocancity.com and at the Village Office – 503 Slocan Street.

Proposals will be accepted no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 29, 2012. Proposals may be faxed, mailed or e-mailed.

Village of Slocan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of New Denver is seeking local residents to sit on the Village of New Denver’s Local Selection Committee for the CBT Community Initiatives funding program. Interested individuals should contact the Village Office at 250-358-2316 or office@newdenver.ca for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

Walter Posnikoff has retired from his position as superintendent/secretary-treasurer of School District 10 Arrow Lakes. He held the position for over 10 years, and has been with the district for 33 years. Many thanks to Walter for his dedication to education in the Arrow/Slocan Lakes over the last 33 years!
Kaslo council, February 14: Website to attract vintage motorcycle groups supported

By Jan McMurray

• Put Mackle attended as a delegation to ask for council support for his project to develop a website that would attract vintage motorcycle clubs to the Kaslo area. He told council that the Antique Motorcycle Club of North America was coming to Kaslo in July, and he would like to encourage more of this through the website. “The rationale behind this is that Kaslo is a scenic area and the roads here have low traffic volumes so they are suitable for motorcycles. Although it can be ridden for pleasure,” states Mackle in a letter to council. Mackle said he would be working with a registered society to apply for funding for the project. He assured council that the website would include links to other existing websites, and that council will be able to look at the site before it goes live. Council passed a resolution of support.

• According to minutes of the January 25 Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee meeting, the Chamber has applied for a $10,000 grant from Columbia Basin Trust for economic development initiatives. Mayor Lay reported that the community has already started planning an economic development summit.

• Council decided to support the Kaslo Golf Club’s application for a liquor licence that allows entertainment, subject to the following limitations: that entertainment occur at the Kaslo Golf Club’s application for a liquor licence that allows entertainment, that entertainment occur at the municipal park on the site before it goes live. Council decided to ask the public works foreman to report on the bylaw on the building. Council decided to ask the Village would hold the liability on the terms of the lease. Councillor Holland questioned this, and pointed out that the auxiliary’s responsibility as per the terms of the lease. Council referred the lease to the Municipal Services Committee.

KDCF's News

Everyone working on the forest license has been very busy in the last few months and anticipates being even busier still. At the last regular board meeting on February 8, the directors voted unanimously to cancel their next meeting that is our first five-year cut out objective.

Cut Control Situation

The area-based licence we’ve had for five years allows us to harvest 125,000 cubic metres of timber within our boundary, in any one event, five years, or roughly 25,000 m³ per year. When the winter logging in the Milford area and Cut Bertrix 25 west of the transfer station is completed, we will have logged roughly half of what we might have in the five-year period that began in January 2009 and will end in December 2012.

We are not required by the government to log our allotted cut. But what the community forest does not harvest, represents work that is not made available to the people who live in Kaslo and Area D. Local work means greater local prosperity and stability for everyone, whether you work in the forest industry or not.

2012 Harvest

Timber prices are better than they have been for years now, but the harvesting program we are anticipating for 2012 is very ambitious. As I write this, numerous company work plans are being considered. Success will depend upon a high degree of cooperation between the board, our woodlands manager, Richard Marchand, and other contractors upon which the community forest depends.

The areas that will be harvested this year have already been identified at public meetings and open houses held in the last two years. A further opportunity for the public to comment on, or alter the finalization of the blocks that are not currently under permit, will be advertised in the next month.

Meeting with the Contractors

On January 25, the KDCF’s board invited all forest industry contractors, log and transportation. Richard Marchand presented a rough outline of work opportunities for 2012 and over the next five years. He also invited a discussion of how the KDCF’s work should be tendered/allocated. There were 22 people at that meeting and a lot of ground was covered.

Local prospects in forestry have changed a lot in the past years and it is evident that the competitive, lowest bidder, win policy that worked well enough when there was a lot of work – and a lot of money in the offer to handout – is no longer a viable business model in this region to gain efficiencies.

KDCF’s has to prove that its management plan is practical, efficient and well organized so that local contractors are brought into the development plan at an earlier stage.

The minutes of the meeting with the contractors is being mailed to all those who were invited and will be posted to www.kaslo.com.

The board felt the meeting was very productive and we wish to thank everyone who intended for freely offering the benefit of their experience and insight. A lot of food for thought was laid on the table.

Winter in the Forest Festival

For the first time in ten years, KDCF’s will be sponsoring the Winter in the Forest Festival. We hope the festival will return in 2013. Since our 2011 financial pictures show we spent $204,004 more in logging revenue than spending, all was pretty much on target to justify funding a “party.” The 200 grand represents an investment that we made in roads development, but with our cash accounting methods it is simply recorded as a loss.

2012 Annual General Meeting

The date for the community forest society’s annual general meeting has been set. Wednesday, evening, April 25. If you were a member in 2011 you need to get your $5 membership paid before March 27 – if you have not paid your membership you can do so at the AGM. The terms of directors Donna Corinne, Steve Anderson and Bruce Leachman will be finished in April. If you are interested in being a director, please think about it and let me know by mid-November by which you must apply is Wednesday, April 11.

The AGM of the BC Community Forest Association will be held this year in Kaslo, the weekend after May Days.

Community Dividend

The community dividend from the 2011 harvest is $14,599. If your organization needs funding to help make a positive difference in Kaslo or RDC Area D, please fill out a grant application, available on line at: www.kaslo.com. The Community Development Select Committee is looking for volunteers to help decide how to allocate the funding. Please contact the office if you want to help. It will be a short term, one time only commitment of your time.

The KDCF’s legacy fund will grow by $7,299 this year. The board is very happy to announce that Rick Hewat of Kaslo will manage this fund on behalf of Kaslo and Area D.

Other News

KDCF’s has submitted an application to the recreation branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to designate an area on the bank of Mt. Buchanan as a multi-purpose recreational area. Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society (KORS) will manage the tenure. Other stakeholders are being contacted.

Adrian Shadrack, director for RDCK Area D, has appointed Chris Webster to replace Steve Fawcett as Area D representative on the KDCF’s board. This appointment has a term which will end Dec. 31, 2014. Chris lives in Smutsy Bench and has previously served as a director.

Steve – thank you for all that you have contributed to our community forest over the last 5 years.

Erika Bird, Secretary, Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
City trip planned for Lucerne Grade 5/6/7 students
submitted by Katrina Sumrall

Lucerne Grade 5/6/7 students are planning a visit to the city April 25 to May 1. The adventure will take the students first to Victoria, where they will visit Science World, UBC Museum of Anthropology and Grandview Elementary U’quinak uah, a school that take a look at Beacon Hill Park. They will have an opportunity to compare the fresh water of Slocan Lake to the ocean environment.

A ferry ride will take the group to Vancouver, where they will visit the Royal Museum, and will attend a session at the legislative building. Students will walk or use public transportation to get around while discovering the two cities. Learning to manage the skytrain and public buses will be a new experience.

The students are very excited as they began the year, the decision was to raise the funds for a trip of this magnitude takes a lot of work and community support. In addition to some school funds and some grants, the students have many activities planned. The class will be having a spaghetti dinner on February 29 at the Bosun Hall. A theatre production of the play “Law and Order” will be performed at the Silverton Gallery on March 8 and 9. They plan a bottle drive on April 1 and hope to have a raffle for a chance to be drawn on May Days.

Many of the students in this group have canceled the distance of Slocan Lake twice, hiked our local trails and explored our mountain bike trails. When they began the year, the decision was to visit the city. The group of 17 grades 5/6/7 students are very excited as they look forward to this amazing trip. The school, the students, and Katrina would like to thank everyone for supporting their events.

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Applications Now Accepted

Columbia Basin Trust, in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines and arts, culture and heritage groups in the Columbia Basin to apply for project funding. Program brochures and application forms are available online at www.basinculture.com, or call CKCA at 1.877.505.7335 or email vkrac@telus.net.

Deadline for applications is March 9, 2012, or March 23, 2012, depending on the program.

SLOCAN VALLEY

STORYTELLERS: WORD OF MOUTH

2012

Mary Mortimer

Ray Kosiancic

Shirley Relkoff

Passmore Lodge

February 25th, 2012

1:00-4:00 pm

Advance tickets $8 / $6 at the door

Family Rates Available

Tickets can be purchased through Slocan Valley Recreation - 250.226.0008

Compiled, prepared and provided by The Slocan Valley Arts Council

SEATING IS LIMITED - ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED

COMMUNITY

RAISING THE FUNDS FOR A TRIP OF THIS MAGNITUDE TAKES A LOT OF WORK AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT. IN ADDITION TO SOME SCHOOL FUNDS AND SOME GRANTS, THE STUDENTS HAVE MANY ACTIVITIES PLANNED. THE CLASS WILL BE HAVING A SPAGHETTI DINNER ON FEBRUARY 29 AT THE BOSON HALL. A THEATRE PRODUCTION OF THE PLAY “LAW AND ORDER” WILL BE PERFORMED AT THE SILVERTON GALLERY ON MARCH 8 AND 9. THEY PLAN A BOTTLE DRIVE ON APRIL 1 AND HOPE TO HAVE A RAFFLE FOR A CHANCE TO BE DRAWN ON MAY DAYS.

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Nakusp council, February 13: Use of old firehall building discussed

by Jan McMurray

• Council decided to call for Expressions of Interest from groups wishing to use the old firehall building.

This decision was made after a lot of discussion, and after CAO Linda Tyan explained to council members that they would not be obligated to accept any EOI. “We could make it clear that we are exploring the idea only,” she said.

Councillor Duchaine brought the item forward. Although Tyan reported that she has received many phone calls from parties interested in using the building, council identified two roadblocks. First, the fire chief has advised Village staff that the building would not pass a fire inspection for any kind of occupancy. There did not seem to be much appetite around the council table for the Village to pay for an assessment or upgrades to the building. Tyan said she would have the fire chief compile a list of deficiencies so that interested groups will be aware of the necessary upgrades.

The second roadblock is that the previous council decided to sell the old fire hall building to cover the cost overruns and debt incurred by the construction of the emergency services building. Mayor Hamling also noted that more work is required to finish the ESB. “It worries me not to have a plan to sell the building – I am really concerned about putting the burden onto the taxpayer,” she said.

Tyan reported that the real estate commission is working with Village officials on March 1. This is yet to be confirmed.

• Councillor Hughes reported that he took the feedback from council on the hot springs rate increase to the hot springs commission, and the commission clarified that it recommends removing the ESB from all prices, with the provision that prices can be rounded up or down slightly to eliminate pennies. The commission is working with Village staff on a report on this for council.

In January, there were 20 percent more local customers at the hot springs than in December.

• All banners will be removed from light standards and hydro poles around town. The public works foreman noticed several worn banners with outdated logos while removing Christmas lights.

Mayor Hamling said the Downtown Revitalization Committee would use its 2011 budget of $5,000 to have the banners replaced. Council will also ask the Nakusp Roots Music Society to remove music festival banners, as there will not be a festival this year.

• Three readings were given to the Traffic, Streets and Sidewalk Control Bylaw Amendment, which removes all information about outdoor cafes on Village property (sidewalks). Council plans to adopt a policy on outdoor cafes instead, as policies are much easier to amend than bylaws.

David Walker-Larsen is being replaced by Mary Anne Coles as the community relations person for Nakusp. Both Walker-Larsen and Coles will attend the upcoming wharf meeting (no date yet).

• Councillor Zeleznik reported that NACFOR’s logging operation in Slewiskin (MacDonald Creek) began January 17, with Arrow Lakes Logging doing the work. He said Ruth Graham of Nakusp was the winner of NACFOR’s trail naming contest, and the new hiking trail in Wensley Creek will be named Jackrabbit Interpretive Forest Trail. The name comes from the nickname of a pioneer of skiing in North America – Herman Jackrabbit Smith-Johansen, who was born in Norway in 1875 and died in Canada in 1987 at the age of 111. The nickname ‘Jackrabbit’ is said to have been given to him by the Cree, who were impressed by his speed on skis compared to the snowshoes they were using at the time.

• Council decided to hold seven council meetings this year at the emergency services building because it is wheelchair accessible.

New this year - We are offering drop off/pick up tax service in New Denver and Edgewood.

Edgewood at the Legion Hall every Monday, beginning Monday, February 20th from 10 am - 1 pm

New Denver at the Valley Voice building every Tuesday, beginning Tuesday, February 21st from 10 am - 1 pm

Drop off your tax information and we will return the following week with your completed taxes. Cash back services available if you qualify.

Please call the Nakusp office if you would like to schedule a pick up at another location or if you have any questions.

313 - 6th avenue • Nakusp, BC  (250) 265 4051

Opening hours:

Monday through Friday 8 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 9 am - 5:00 pm

The Best Lumberyard in the Kootenays
We deliver!
Slocan Valley Arts Council celebrates silver anniversary

February 18 at the Vallican Whole.

The Slocan Valley Arts Council held its 25-year anniversary ‘Love the Arts’ celebration on Saturday.

Everyone got into the spirit of celebration at the Slocan Valley Arts Council’s silver anniversary celebration, wearing colourfull masks created by arts council members.

COMMUNITY

Slocan Valley Arts Council continues to support and promote the importance of the arts in rural areas. Early members were also involved in the formation of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance so that CBT funds would be allocated to arts, culture and heritage project funding all over the Columbia basin. This legacy has led to a thriving artist community in the area that the Slocan Valley Arts Council continues to support, fund and promote.

Arts council members spoke of their current projects, such as Trash Art Challenge and the Art & Garden Tour. The tour will be happening again this year on Father’s Day.

The Slocan Valley Arts Council would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to a lovely evening as well as all the new members that joined the organization.

For more information about the Slocan Valley Arts Council, visit www.slocanvalleyarts.ca.

Chicken Day comes to the Vallican Whole

After a successful first year operating the area’s only licensed poultry abattoir, owner Judi Morton is beginning the new season with an educational event. ‘Chicken Day’ will be held March 10 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre from 9 am to 3 pm.

It will feature an introductory session for beginners as well as sessions for experienced poultry producers and planning for group orders of chickens and feed.

Morton is expecting a busy second season for her abattoir. “We have a great crew who take pride in our convenient and humane service. We have updated our website with tips for commercial producers and backyard hobbyists alike.”

The site (www.passmorepluckers.ca) also has the schedule, booking instructions and prices.

Locally raised poultry is popular and profitable. Morton hopes her abattoir will support growth of sustainable farming in the area.

Chicken that has been processed in a licensed facility can be sold legally to a wholesaler or direct to retailers, restaurants or consumers. Every bird in Morton’s abattoir is examined by a Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspector. Morton says, “Our CFIA inspector was really impressed with the quality of poultry raised in this area.”

The abattoir is located in the Slocan Valley, so poultry travel less than two hours from anywhere in the West Kootenay. Considerate treatment of the birds is important for Morton.

New gift shop opens in Crescent Valley

Marion Perepolkin has recently come back to the area from the Northwest Territories, and has opened Spruce Gum Gifts. The store is located in Crescent Valley, in the old RCMP building behind Pony Espresso.

The work of local artisans as well as fair trade items from all over the world are found in this gift shop with a global flavour. “I also have Inuit art displayed from my own collection for people to enjoy – it’s not for sale, but it’s lovely to look at,” she says.

Perepolkin is an artist herself.

“It’s important to me to support local artisans, and to carry fair trade items,” she said, explaining that the philosophy behind fair trade is to make sure the artisans are paid fairly and eco-friendly products are used. There are also educational programs for fair trade artists, she said.

Spruce Gum Gifts carries the pottery of Rose Hodwitz from Shoreacres, First Nations cedar boxes and handmade drums by Wayne George of Thrums, and earrings and necklaces by Holly Jordahl of Nelson. She will soon carry furniture by Slocan Valley artist Cindy Moser. One of the fair trade products in the store is Peace Soap, which Jewish and Arabian women get together to make in the Middle East.

Perepolkin does fish scale art, which she learned in the Northwest Territories. This unique art form uses the vertebrae, ribs and scales of whitefish, which are in the shapes of flower petals. “I clean them, dye them and I make flower arrangements with them, and I put them in shadow boxes,” she explained.

Perepolkin has a nursing background. Originally from Nelson, she worked at Kootenay Lake Hospital for 14 years, and then went to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut as a travel nurse on a casual basis for 10 years. She says she enjoyed her experience up north very much, and learned a lot about aboriginal culture. Nelson was always her home base – where her mother and two sons live.

“Short travel distances are best for the birds. Most go from the producer’s farm to the customer’s fridge or freezer in the same day. We help producers plan their delivery to get the optimum value from the birds and create a safe, delicious product.”

Chicken Day will be held at the Vallican Whole, 9-3 pm on Saturday, March 10. Admission by donation. For directions see www.VallicanWhole.com.

Judi Morton and one of her hens in front of the area’s only licensed poultry abattoir. She presents ‘Chicken Day’ at the Vallican Whole on March 10.

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February 22, 2012   The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

Huge participation at Summit Lake Club Races

Submitted

Summit Lake Ski Hill hosted the annual Club Races on Sunday, February 19. Fresh snow fell Friday night, then Saturday the club got busy getting ready. On a well-groomed hill, thanks to Eric Waterfield, three courses were set up. Susie Madden, Daryl Katchen, Troy Clark and Matt McKee set up a slalom, a super giant slalom and a snowboard course. The timing apparatus was put into place, fences and barriers were installed and grooming was completed. The entries and starting lists were figured out and myriad organizational details were taken care of. Everybody pitched in and made a big job not only manageable, but fun.

The terrific part about these races is that they are open to anybody who wants to participate. This year, there were 90 skiers and snowboarders combined, ages 4 to 50+. The slalom course was run first, then two back-to-back snowboard races, followed by GS. Some die-hards opted to race in both the ski and snowboard events. The courses and conditions were fast. After finishing his slalom course, Mike Smith was overheard saying: “I may not have looked fast but I sure felt fast!”

If speed was sought, it was surely found in the Super GS course. Leah Gililland, Jody Clark, Tracy Smith and Sondra Krajewski all thought the race was a real rush and wanted to repeat the course immediately. All participants seemed to genuinely enjoy the challenge they signed up for—ready or not!

Last, but not least, some keen 3- to 5-year-old beginners took two runs each on a balloon-laden mini novice course set up by Erin McLeod, Claire Jackson and Brenda McQuair—goodie bags for everyone!

Without delay, timekeepers Trish Cannon and Beth McLeod produced a long list of podium placers. By the end of the presentations, entire families had made an appearance. Congratulations to all.

Fastest overall snowboarder of the day went to Gareth Douglas and fastest overall skier went to Daryl Katchen.

Three memorial trophies were awarded. Taylor Aeichele was presented with the John Gleboff Memorial Trophy for fastest high school skier. Gareth Douglas was presented with the Tim Markholm Memorial Trophy for fastest overall high school snowboarder, and Ivy Tourand was presented with the Teanne Jones Memorial Trophy fastest overall Nancy Greene racer.

On the podium microphone, High School Ski Coach Frances Swan pronounced a huge thank you to the Summit Lake Ski Hill, and all of the race officials, gatekeepers, side slippers, timekeepers, bib collectors, coaches, high school racers, parents, and helpers of all kinds who made the competition rewarding for all who were there. It takes a high level of community support to get the job done and Nakusp families always see it through.

It should be mentioned that the club races were good practice and a fun send-off for the high school snowboard and ski teams that are heading to Whistler to compete in the provincials this coming weekend. Head Coach Matt McKee says his boarders are all really solid and ready to go. We wish them luck. Also, the Nancy Greene ski league racers will be sending a team to Phoenix Mountain at Grand Forks for the fourth zone race.

Next on the agenda: Saturday, March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, the Summit Lake Ski Hill Spring Carnival and Downhill Dummy event plus the Summit Lake Racers Wind-Up. Come up and check out the festivities.

The three trophy winners at the Summit Lake Club Races held February 19 were: Gareth Douglas, Taylor Aeichele and Ivy Tourand.

Submitted

The New Denver May Queen Committee kicked off Heritage Week on February 19 with the annual Heritage Tea at the Bosun Hall. This year, the May Days competition will be among four nine- and princess), Danika Hammond (Miss New Denver) and Marlowe Nicholson-Chodat (queen’s court).

As of February 15, 10 school snowboard and ski teams will be sending a team to Phoenix Mountain at Grand Forks for the Alberta winter games in Edmonton. This one adds to the many medals and trophies she has won in hockey, baseball, football and wrestling. Her wrestling career of two years brags 54 wins and one loss, the only loss coming at the winter games try-outs for Calgary. She was then eliminated, so Lethbridge/Medicine Hat picked her up to represent them in her weight catagory. She then went on to defeat five Calgary representatives to win the gold.

Willi Jahnke.

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**What's better – an RRSP or a TFSA?**

Well, it's that time of year again when people are scrambling to get their income tax documents together and scratching their heads wondering if they should make an RRSP contribution.

This year, only one week left — Wednesday February 29, to be exact — to get your last-minute RRSP contribution in for the 2011 tax year.

I've had several of the clients ask me whether it's better to contribute to an RRSP or that relatively new savings plan called the TFSA (Tax-Free Savings Account).

Unfortunately, there isn't a clear-cut answer as there are so many factors to consider and each person's case is so different.

The purpose of the RRSP is twofold: First, most people are diligently trying to save for retirement and of course, the benefit of saving within an RRSP is the fact that it is tax-deferred growth within the plan. The compounding effect over the years can grow your portfolio significantly, and it's even better when it's sheltered from tax during your accumulation years.

The other benefit of the RRSP is the tax deductibility. Put it this way: the higher your earnings, the higher your tax bracket, the better off you could be in contributing to an RRSP.

If you look at it from the 'tax angle', this aspect works like this — a tally of all of your income for the year. Once you've figured that out, it gives you a pretty good idea of what your marginal tax rate is (the highest percentage in which you'll be taxed).

As an example: if your earnings are roughly $43,000 or lower — you'll be in the lowest tax bracket, which is approximately 23 percent. If your earnings fall somewhere between $43,000 and $60,000 then you'll be in the 30 percent tax bracket.

Did you earn more? Let's say your earnings were between $85,000 and $103,000 — now, you're in a 33 percent tax bracket. Anything above $120,000 will get you into the top bracket which is over 43 percent!!!

So, if you decide to make a RRSP contribution, this tax aspect is something you'll need to keep in mind. If you make a contribution of $1,000 and your earnings are $60,000 — you would only get a tax deduction of 30 percent — or $300, in this case.

Obviously, the higher your earnings are, the bigger the tax deduction.

It's even sweeter if you land yourself in the lower tax bracket during retirement. Sure, you might be making the big bucks now, but if you keep your total retirement income under $40,000 or so — you'll be bringing in that RRSP income in a much lower tax bracket.

Now if we turn the tables to the TFSA, that's something you'll need to keep in mind also. If you land yourself in the lower tax bracket during retirement. Sure, you might be making the big bucks now, but if you keep your total retirement income under $40,000 or so — you'll be bringing in that RRSP income in a much lower tax bracket.

The TFSA offers much more than just fish and chips.

There is only one week left — Wednesday February 29, to be exact — to get your last-minute TFSA contribution in for the 2011 tax year. If you make a contribution of $1,000 and your earnings are $60,000 — you would only get a tax deduction of 30 percent — or $300, in this case.

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Also, you might be wondering about the TFSA and the question of whether you need to talk to a financial planner to find out what size would work best for you. The answer is yes. It's very important to talk to a financial planner to find out what size would work best for you.

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Boats were sent to the Kootenay to be reassembled, the SS Moyie at the Nelson yard and the SS Minno at the Nakusp yard. The first boats with composite hulls in the Kootenay, they were the longest serving of all the BC Lake & River Service. Thomas looked after the Nakusp yard and James the Nelson yard.

After the building of the SS Revestoke in 1902, Thomas retired and his two sons took over in 1903. James became the master builder in Nelson and Dave became the foreman of the Nakusp yard.

Dave was also very active in the local scene. The Nakusp Amateur Drama Club was very popular in early days and Dave would take his launch Minerva and the drama club out for excursions. He also was a member of the Nakusp ball team, and competitions took place between the towns of Edgewood, Burton, Nakusp and Comaplex every summer. James and his wife were known for 30 different species of roses, prompting them to name their home the Rose Villa.

In 1905 and 1908, new hulls were built for the SS Sicamous and the SS Rossland and their superstructures were transferred onto new hulls. Quite a feat of engineering, this was the only time that it was done for the Lake & River Service and showed the Bulgers’ experience and skill as shipwrights. With increased tourist traffic and more passengers were built in 1906 and 1907 on the Kootenay and Okanagan lakes. They were an improvement over the earlier SS Rossland built in Nakusp in 1897.

In the years 1911 to 1914, Captain Gore, superintendent of the BC Lake & River Service, advocated the building of three new super steamers with steel hulls. The CPR was promoting a ‘circle tour’ through the Kootenay and Okanagan districts with the Banff-Lake Louise area. The Bonnington, the first to be built in 1911 at Nakusp, had a hull that was flatter, a barge-like bottom, to help maneuver it through the Burton narrows five months of the year. The SS Nasoiskin was built in Nelson in 1913 and the SS Sicomans was built on the Okanagan Lake in 1914. However, at this time, World War I started in August and the decline of shipbuilding began. These were the last steamers to be built by the Bulgers. The following year saw the withdrawal of the barge service on the Arrow Lakes and the completion of the Kettle Valley railroad. The Arrow Lakes became a local route rather than a link between the south Kootenay and main line.

The winters of 1916 and 1917 were severe on all the lakes. The SS Kootenay was stuck in ice below Burton for six weeks. Thomas Bulger died in 1916 at the age of 89 and John Gore died of a heart attack in 1917. Seven days after his death, the SS Rossland, weighted down with ice and snow, filled up with water and keeled over onto her side and sunk. It was not raised until April. Under the foremanship of Dave Bulger, this was unacceptable and he was let go.

He found work in 1918 in Vancouver and James Bulger was transferred to Victoria to become the superintendent carpenter for the BC coast service under Captain Troup.

In 1919 and 1920, the steamer SS Slocan was transferred onto new hulls. The last sternwheelers to be built by the Bulgers were the SS Sicamous and the SS Rossland. They were the longest serving of all the BC Lake & River Service.

In 1911, Thomas retired and his two sons took over in 1903. James became the master builder in Nelson and Dave became the foreman of the Nakusp yard. Dave was also very active in the local scene. The Nakusp Amateur Drama Club was very popular in early days and Dave would take his launch Minerva and the drama club out for excursions. He also was a member of the Nakusp ball team, and competitions took place between the towns of Edgewood, Burton, Nakusp and Comaplex every summer. James and his wife were known for 30 different species of roses, prompting them to name their home the Rose Villa.

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Come celebrate Heritage Week in the Village of Kaslo

submitted by Carol Hughes, Village of Kaslo

The Village of Kaslo invites everyone to learn more about Kaslo’s rich history, embrace our past and participate in planned events during Heritage Week, February 20-26. Tour Kaslo’s public heritage buildings with tour guide Daphne Hunter on Wednesday, February 22 at 1 pm, starting at the Kenilworth Memorial Centre. Next stops are the Masonic Lodge, St. Andrew’s United Church, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Sacred Heart Church, Langham Cultural Centre, the Old Fire Hall (Kaslo Thrift Store) and ending at the Kootenay Star Museum – a great café to enjoy a home-baked delight and coffee afterwards, celebrating community with an old-time visit at Trevor’s.

Look for the Kootenay Lake Archives display at 415 Front Street and visit the Langham Cultural Centre to view the Kootenay interment displays.

Did you know that the City of Kaslo once had its own electric power plant? 2012 Heritage Week focuses on Energy in BC. Don Scarlet will provide some background surrounding this era of our history by a tour if weather permits or a presentation at the Heritage Tea. Check www.kaslo.ca, look for posters or call 250-333-2311 for further details when available.

Enjoy an old-fashioned Pie Social and Heritage Tea at the Legion between 12 noon and 3 pm on Saturday, February 25. Sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust, entry is by donation to the Kaslo City Hall Conservation Fund. Bring your pies and baked goods and enjoy a leisurely visit with new and old friends. Plan to make a tax-deductible donation and purchase a can of paint for $50 to stabilize and rejuvenate this beautiful historical landmark of Kaslo. All non-profit organizations are encouraged to reserve a table at the event for a $10 donation and join the fun.

Hydroelectric power in Sandon’s early days submitted by Sandon Historical Society

Because of its location high in the Selkirk Mountains, with a ready supply of nearby streams and creeks, Sandon was ideally situated to take advantage of the new invention beginning to sweep the globe at the end of the 19th century – hydroelectric power. The first power plant in Sandon was a 110-volt DC plant located at the corner of Slocan Star and Galena Streets.

Built by JM Harris in 1897, this plant was the basis for the first city-wide public utility in BC, and possibly all of Western Canada. In later years, Harris was to recall the first night the Sandon Waterworks and Light Company began operations: “Folks came from all over the Kootenays to see the lights turned on.”

Originally, Harris supplied power for the city’s streetlights and a handful of businesses, including his own Hotel Reko, but before long he was hooking up residences for any who were willing to pay him. At first, lacking any reliable means of measuring consumption, Harris charged subscribers based on the number of electric lights and appliances in their buildings. Eventually, however, he installed a system of early power meters, one of which is now on display in the Sandon Museum.

Having escaped destruction in the 1900 fire, the Sandon Waterworks and Light Company ran virtually trouble-free for over 50 years, until shortly after Harris’ death in 1953. By then, with the DC power system badly out-of-date, the equipment was sold for scrap and the plant dismantled.

Harris’ hydro plant was certainly not the only source of power in the city, though. All told, there were eight different hydroelectric generating plants built within a two-mile radius of Sandon. Like Harris’ powerhouse, these other plants all generated electricity using a Pelton wheel, and all but two produced direct-current, most of these other power plants supplied various mining operations in the area.

One power plant remains in Sandon, on “Capitol Hill” behind the Sandon Museum. The plant was built in 1916 by the owners of what was originally called the Slocan Star mine. They reorganized their company in 1916 and renamed it “Silvermine.” The powerhouse was built to power the Silversmith mine and concentrator mill.

The hydro plant has run continuously since 1916, making it the oldest continuously operating plant in Canada. It was the original generating system for the City of Vernon from 1905 until 1915, when Vernon upgraded to a larger system.

The Silvery Slocan Museum – a heritage site submitted by Webb Cummings, Silvery Slocan Historical Society

The Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver is in the old Bank of Montreal building, a recognized historic site. Built in 1897, the bank operated until 1961 and was acquired by the Village. It has been operated as a museum by the Silvery Slocan Historical Society since 1989, and has been restored inside and out to its condition 100 years ago – but with a foundation!

The main floor – the business area – includes the manager’s office, bank vault and fireplace, with portrait of Queen Victoria. upstairs exhibits are in what used to be an apartment for bank staff or renters. Exhibits are about the original New Denver Hospital building built by Dr. Brouse, the Japanese-Canadian community, and a bedroom of the period. Dr. Brouse also built the Lancet – an elegant lady’s bath displayed outside on museum grounds.

An addition on the east side was used as an office and storage space by the BC Security Commission administering the internment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II. The Chamber of Commerce operates the Visitor InfoCentre in the lobby from February to September, and the museum is open then, with only the public washroom on the main street.

The opening date will be announced, with information about new exhibits.
**HERITAGE WEEK**

submitted by Joyce Johnson, Slocan

**New historical society forms in the Slocan Valley**

submitted by Joyce Johnson, Slocan Valley Historical Society

On January 26, 2012, the newly formed Slocan Valley Historical Society had its inaugural meeting and appointed the board of directors.

“The Slocan Valley was an area of the Kootenays that did not have an active historical society and a small group of people came together in the hopes that by creating the society we could begin the work of ensuring that the Valley’s history is not lost,” said Joyce Johnson, a member of the board.

The society’s mission is to preserve and protect the history of Slocan and area for future generations. “We will collect, store, interpret and preserve historical items, creating a resource that is available to the public,” said Johnson.

There have been a number of books written in the last few years, as well as a film project, that go a long way to preserving Slocan Valley history. The society wants to expand on the work that has already been done by creating space for the collection and by preserving irreplaceable documents and items of historical value.

“We know that there are people out there who have treasures – snippets of Slocan Valley’s history tucked away in their homes. So, when they are ready to part with them, we want to have a local, safe and secure option for them to consider. We would like to see the Whisthatan Lake’s history stay in the Slocan Valley!” said Johnson.

The society’s first projects include creating a physical archive and developing a digital archive.

The Slocan Valley Historical Society meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the library at WE Graham Community School. Memberships are available at $10 per calendar year. If anyone has an interest or project ideas for the valley, or would like to be on the email list, please contact Joyce Johnson at jaj@netidea.com or attend the next meeting on February 23. New members are welcome and encouraged to join.

**Bats and mines in the Lardeau Valley**

by Jan McMurray

The Lardeau Valley Historical Society hopes to embark on a project this year to see if historic mine sites in the area are suitable winter hibernation habitat for the blue-listed Townsend’s big-eared bat.

“It’s such a nice partnership between environment and heritage — we are excited about it!” said Deb Borsos, secretary of the society. “We hope that through this we can identify sites that are good for the bats as well as doing more identification and research on our many mine sites.”

The society plans to hire Dr. Cori Lausen, but biologist of Birchdale Ecological in Kaslo, to research and monitor up to 10 of the various known mine sites with the assistance of Fraser Bonner, the Lardeau Valley Museum curator, who is also an archaeologist.

“If the historical society can prove through research and monitoring that the historic mine sites in our area are suitable for hibernation habitat for the Townsend’s bat, we will have assisted with more valuable research into this threatened species and its habitat needs,” said Borsos. She added that the information will also be submitted to the larger research project currently ongoing in the Columbia Basin.

To raise awareness about the bats, the historic value of the mine sites and how the mines can help to protect this blue-listed species, Borsos says the project includes producing a brochure, signage for each mine site, and public presentations — including a presentation to Jewett School students through the Wild Voices for Kids program.

The society has applied for funding for this project from the Columbia Basin Trust’s Environmental Initiatives Program.

**Whatshan Power Project has a long and interesting history**

February 22, 2012 • The Valley Voice

**HERITAGE WEEK**

submitted by Sharon Montgomery, Nakusp and District Museum Society

The theme for Heritage Week is ‘Energy in BC: A Powerful Past, a Sustainable Future.’ Let’s take a look at Whatshan Lake as an archaeological treasure of years gone by.

In 1977, Gordon Mohs conducted an archaeological survey of the Arrow Lakes, including Whatshan Lake Reservoir. In 2002, a preliminary archaeological survey of the reservoir drew down zone was initiated along with a literature review. No new sites were discovered, but 14 sites were previously identified with 10 sites documented within the draw down zone. Two sites of the 10 are considered to be destroyed.

I had the opportunity to attend an open house at the beautiful Whatshan Lake Resort in the fall season. A short walk from the retreat toward the Whatshan Dam revealed an abandoned subterranean pit house and across the road, a dugout of a rectangular long-house. Were these houses counted?

The original development was constructed by BC Power Commission in 1951. In 1953, a rock and mud slide destroyed the original powerhouse and switch yard. Following slope stabilization, the plant was rebuilt. In 1972, the plant was raised 12 metres higher due to the elevated water levels on the Arrow Lakes following the completion of the Keenleyside Dam. Today, we look at Whatshan Lake Reservoir as a sustainable source of power for the Upper Arrow Lake and Okanagan Valley. The reservoir is approximately 17 kilometres long and one kilometre wide, with a storage capacity of 122 million cubic metres when it is at maximum operating elevation. It has three distinct basins that remain connected and passable by boat at all operational elevations.

The project includes the Whatshan Dam, 12 metres high and 82 metres long, located at the south end of the reservoir; the Whatshan Dam Low Level Outlet, which is operated manually; the Saddle Dam, a seven-metre-high earth fill dam located about five kilometres north of the Needles ferry crossing; and the penstock on the southeast side of the Whatshan Lake Reservoir that directs water through the 3.4-kilometre tunnel to the powerhouse.

Whatshan is a Sinixt word meaning ‘hat.’

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**HERITAGE WEEK**

February 22, 2012 • The Valley Voice

**NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMS IN THE SLOCAN VALLEY**

submitted by Joyce Johnson, Slocan Valley Historical Society

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February 22, 2012 • The Valley Voice

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Youth to perform in support of musical trip to Cuba

The students took a large role in selecting the music for their program, aided by the music-directing efforts of their coach, Miranda Hughes.

All three young musicians also sing with Nelson’s Corazón Vocal Ensemble, a youth choir directed by Allison Girvan. Senior members of the choir, including Danika and Noah, were offered the opportunity to participate in a tour of Cuba and April in May of this year. Their Summit Strings performance this weekend will help fund their travel costs.

Corazón Choir has a strong world music focus, with a repertoire in many languages and drawn from many cultures. The trip to Cuba will allow them to expand their horizons even further.

In Cuba, Corazón will be participating in joint concerts and workshops, and taking part in cultural and social events which ordinary visitors do not normally have access to. Local fans of Corazón will be happy to hear that the choir will be returning to the valley for a performance at the end of April, just prior to their departure for Cuba.

At their fundraising concert, Summit Strings will be performing works from Bach to the Beatles, from Gypsy music to tango tunes inspired by Latin tangos inspired tunes. They’ll also be talking about their music and about the trip to Cuba, and serving Cuban-inspired appetizers and drinks. The performance is being held Sunday February 26 at the Silverton Gallery at 2 pm. Tickets are $10 and are available from the performers, or at the door. To reserve tickets you may call 358-2282.

Slocan Community Library receives grant

Vivav Harger, a software developer working in Slocan City for IBM (International Business Machines), has secured a $1,000 IBM grant for the Slocan Community Library.

The grant will be used to renovate the library’s foyer, turning that under-used space into a media centre housing the library’s growing collection of videos, DVDs, CDs and talking books.

Vivav, wife Naum and their three daughters arrived in Slocan from Israel in 2010, and recently welcomed the birth of their son. Vivav has volunteered at the Slocan Library almost since their arrival, installing and maintaining the library’s catalogue software, and he is currently developing the library’s website. (You can browse the catalogue at www.slocanlibrary.ca).

IBM’s corporate policy encourages employees to volunteer in their local communities, and offers monetary incentives for doing so. Yuval applied to IBM’s ‘Community Grants Program’ after completing 100 hours of volunteer work for the library. With the assistance of Joanne Ellis, Executive Director of WE Graham Community Service Society, Yuval applied to the IBM corporate policy and received $1,000 and saw his efforts rewarded.

The Valley Voice  February 22, 2012
ANNOUNCING

ANYONE INTERESTED in bringing Kootenay Canshure Co-op to New Denver / Silverton? Please contact Susan Yurychuk at 604-438-2587. Learn all about canshure at: http://www.canshurecapeco.com

CALTSCHEL GARDEN AND NATURE FEST looking for vendors. Saturday, May 19. 10-4. Garden-related only. For more information please contact calsche@unetouch.com or call 250-358-3287.

COMMUNITY MUSIC Program on Wednesdays at the Slocan Legion Hall, 502 Harold St. Nakusp. 6:30-8:30 pm. Open to all levels of experience from kids (12+) to adults. Bring your instrument (some are provided by CBT and Roe & Co). Free. However donations invited to keep the programs running. Saturdays, 26 February & 27 March @ 2 pm $10.

HAND & SOUL WELLNESS CENTER presents: Awakening the Heart - Expressive painting workshop on Saturday, February 26 (1-5 pm) $35. Family Constellations workshop on Sunday, February 26 (9:30-4:30) $35. Call 258-2177 or soulsearch@handandsoul.ca.

SILVERTON GALLERY is hosting the COMMUNITY MUSIC Program on Sundays (6-8 pm). Learn music theory and play a set of songs together as a group. All levels of experience from kids (12+) to adults. Bring your instrument (some are provided by CBT and Roe & Co). Free. However donations invited to keep the programs running. Saturdays, 26 February & 27 March @ 2 pm $10.

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FOR RENT

SUITE FOR RENT – One mile from Nakusp. On acreage. 3 bdr. Appliances. Available. $700/month. 250-575-8867 or email suseenthompson2@gmail.com.

WINLAW 1 BEDROOM newer home, 2 bathrooms, 1,500 sq ft., appliances, electric heat, beautiful view of Frog Peak. 40 minutes from Nelson, Castlegar. Trail, Landlord references, no indoor pets, no smoking. Available. $1,200 plus deposit. 250-265-1019. Sarah, 6804, syurychuk@gmail.com.

SPACIOUS 2 BDR APARTMENT in Silverton available immediately. $750.00. Seeking quiet, responsible and non-smoking tenants. Call 358-2177.

HOUSE FOR RENT in New Denver Orchard. March 1, $600 + util. 403-763-0925.

AVAIL FOR RENT IN NAKUSP 0925. Orchard. March 1. $600 + util. 403-763-0925.

CARSHARECoop.ca/ Learn all about carshare at: http://www.carsharecoop.ca

SPEECH THERAPIES

• Myofascial, Swedish, Lymphatic, Joint Play, Craniosacral, Visceral, Somatoemotion, Chakras, Nutrition etc.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS my sincere gratitude to Dr. Burkholder, Dr. Magier, Dr. Skrenes, Home Care help and all the wonderful, caring staff at the Pavilion who have shown us kindness, love and loving care to our wife and mother. We are all so touched by the words, hugs, and cards of condolences since Peggy’s passing. It helps so much to know so many care. Thank you.

Ron Magier and family

COMING EVENTS

WANT TO GET INVOLVED in the arts, have a voice in the running of a gallery, connect with local artists? Alfa Guild Gallery AGM 1pm, Feb. 26, 2012. Arrow Lakes Building, 92 7th Ave. Nakusp

TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT Arrow Lakes Archives Building, 92 7th Avenue, Nakusp. March 17. 6 pm. Call 250-358-3352 to reserve. No minors please.

COMMUNITY DANCE Night Slocan Health Clinic - Thursdays 4-5 pm starting February 22, 2012. $5 donation at door. 1007 HWY 23, Nakusp. To reserve. No minors please.

WINLAW: CASINO NIGHT March 17 at the Slocan Legion Hall, 502 Harold St., Slocan. 5 pm – 9 pm. Handicapped accessible. Free, however donations invited to help keep the program running.

WINLAW 3 BEDROOM – One mile from Nakusp. On acreage. 3 bdr. Appliances. Available. $700/month. 250-575-8867 or email susannah.thompson2@gmail.com.

Nakusp@futures.bc.ca. All levels of experience from kids (12+) to adults. Bring your instrument (some are provided by CBT and Roe & Co). Free. However donations invited to keep the programs running. Saturdays, 26 February & 27 March @ 2 pm $10.

JO’S JEWELRY CUSTOM WORK AND REPAIR IN SILVER AND GOLD, by appointment New Denver, Goldsmith Jo-anne Barclay

Spectrum Home & Family Care

Helping you maintain your dignity and independence in your own home.

Free consultations in the West Kootenay

250-265-3842

www.spectrumhomesupport.ca
**Help Wanted**

From a Restaurant will be open April 1. Looking for kitchen and wait stuff.
Call 250-803-8327 or email vincentroger@gmail.com.

**Interested in Serving**

On the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, The SVEDC currently has a vacancy for a Village of New Denver resident, for a two-year term. Interested individuals please contact the Village Office no later than 4 pm on Thursday, March 29th.

**Valley View Golf Club**

is now accepting resumes for part-time clubhouse staff for the 2012 season. Looking for a professional, independent and reliable team player with customer service skills. Send resume to Box 57, Winlaw, BC V0G 2B0 or email to info@valleyviewgolf.com.

**Looking for Someone**

to design their home or one or two weekends a month for an adult male with disabilities in the New Denver/Silverton area. Please contact: KSCU, 2224 Sixth Ave., Castlegar, BC V1N 2T0.

**Lost**

Pair of Eyeglasses – black wire frames, rectangular Call 250-974-7118.

**Mobile Home**


**Notices**


**Classified Ads**

**Rental Wanted**

Sarah, Mark and Sequoia Jeffreys are looking for a home to rent in the Slocan Valley this summer. Ideally, we’d like to be in a house no later than May to late August, but we are open to any other arrangements that are at least 2 months long within that time-frame. Please email us at markjeffreys@yahoo.com or phone us at 406-522-6204.

**Professional Couple**

with infant and dog seeking small, affordable short-term accommodation in region till June. Partially furnished with laundry machine preferred but not mandatory. Call 250-697-2872.

**Wanted**

– House to rent for April 1 in Nakusp, 3 or 4 bedrooms with appliances N.S., family of 5 with 1 dog relocating from Vancouver Island. Please contact ASAP 250-339-2379 or email osbourn_yak@yahoo.com.

**Real Estate**


**3/4 Acres Slocan Valley** – Quaint studio cabin on Red Mtn. Rd. with hydro, propane and telephone hooked up and a water plan in place. Building location with views for larger a solid investment in an area that promises opportunities for adventurers and nature lovers to enjoy all the activities the Slocan Valley has to offer. Priced to sell at $23,900. Call 250-385-2655 for details.

**3/4 Acres – Slocan Valley** What a great spot to call home! Just minutes from town on a public road with power and telephone. This property backs on to a county road to really ensure your privacy. There’s a water license in place so you’re ready to build this spring. Priced at $54,000. Call Larry at Landquest Realty 250-513-2733.

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The Valley Voice  February 22, 2012
Margaret Frances (Peggy) Magnuson, age 82, a longtime resident of New Denver, passed away on Monday, February 13, 2012 in the New Denver Pavilion. She was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1929, the eldest child of Sam and Nellie Johns. Married to Ron in 1951, they had only child, Andrew. From a very young age, Gail bravely made the move out west at the age of 21, settling in Slocan, where she met her true love Will, uniting in marriage on July 4, 1969. On June 22, 1978 they welcomed their only child, Andrew.

Gail’s beautiful life will be announced at a later date. Online condolences may be expressed at www.thompson.ca

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thompson Funeral Service Ltd.
It takes a special kind of person to climb and ski two million vertical feet in 266 days. Revelstoke-based ski mountaineer Greg Hill will be doing so as a special guest presenter at the sixth annual North Valley Mountain Film Festival on Saturday, March 3 in New Denver. One of the world’s most accomplished ski-touring endurance athletes, Hill shares his tale about this ultimate achievement in 2010. In addition, the festival promises another amazing lineup of mostly local films and photography that will inspire and awe the audience.

The festival audience will find local flavour in films such as ‘Crossing Over’ – The Art of Jeremy Down. This beautiful film by Mike Bernard is a remarkable account of a local artist’s near drowning experience on Slocan Lake and how it changed his perspective on his art and his life. Local youth and up-and-coming videographers Yoan Shandro and Quade Nicholson-Chodat (‘Snow Daze’) will debut their ski films.

An alumni presenter this year includes kayaking film guru Carl Jacks, who returns with the world premier of ‘Deep Runs the Canyon’, the culmination of his efforts to document our local canoers in an attempt to prevent them from becoming hydroelectric projects. Audience members will look forward to two wildlife photography presentations: one by festival favourite, Jim Lawrence, returning with ‘Kootenay Wild II’, and a second by local presenter Jesse Schpakowski.

Mountain biking is well represented in the lineup this year as New Denver resident Gary Parkstrom presents ‘Songlines’ - a film that highlights the riding of local councillor Nadine Raynolds through Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Jesse Schpakowski brings us a second slideshow featuring the talents of New Denver mountain bikers Arti and Dylan Bokstrom, Max Bonazo and another local councillor, Dave Hodsell.

Three more diverse films include: ‘Surge Freerun’ by Liam Barnes, a high-energy tour through Rossland featuring two parkour athletes; ‘Mt Assiniboine’ a new film by畸形 Mt; and ‘Our Bus’ by Burton resident JoAnne Alaric, a funny yet poignant look at living in a remote mountain community.

Tickets for the festival can be purchased at Silverton Building Supplies and Rutaguba in New Denver. The event typically sells out, so get your tickets in advance ($5 to $15 sliding scale; children under 10 are free). This year’s event is a fundraiser for the North Slocan Trails Society, so proceeds from ticket sales will benefit local trails and programs. Film screenings will be held, and popcorn, pizza and goodies by Christopher Love will be available.

Kootenay Co-op finds a new home

If you are one of the 10,362 member owners of the Kootenay Co-op, you want to keep your membership informed as we move through this process.

The Kootenay Co-op members are working on behalf of the Kootenay Co-op to develop a new home for the Kootenay Co-op. This involves finding a new location for the co-op, doing preliminary work on finding the new location and getting the necessary approvals and permits.

The co-op has been negotiating with the Village of Silverton and the City of New Denver to lease the property at 708 Vernon Street. The co-op is negotiating with the Village of Silverton for a 10-year lease, which will provide the co-op with the opportunity to stabilize and grow over the long term. The co-op is committed to ensuring that we make the best decisions for our members and the community.

Hills Nordic Club and Ginzu Groomer

Though Hills Nordic is small, it has a positive impact on the area. The facility has been closed – it is one of the biggest changes is that the wooden walls were insulated, and some of the roof was replaced, the floor was replaced with a cement surface.

The community is very happy to see it back up and running. The biggest change is that the wooden walkway between the two curling rinks has been removed – it is one of the biggest changes is that the wooden walls were insulated, and some of the floor was replaced with a cement surface.

The Village of Silverton and the Slocan Lake Arena Society have collaborated to develop a new home for the co-op, as well as regular updates in the newsletter and on Facebook.

For more information, contact Russell Precious, project manager at mmann@kooteneycoop.ca, marketing and outreach manager at marketing@kooteneycoop.ca.

Silverton Arena grand opening held February 9

A grand opening event was held February 9 to celebrate the re-opening of the Silverton arena. The facility has been closed since 2005 for renovations, so the community is very happy to see it back up and running. The biggest change is that the wooden walkway between the two curling rinks has been removed – it is one of the biggest changes is that the wooden walls were insulated, and some of the floor was replaced with a cement surface.

The arena is open for public skating on Sundays from 2 to 4 pm.

Silverton Arena grand opening held February 9 by Jan McMurray

The Silverton Arena grand opening was held February 9 to celebrate the re-opening of the Silverton arena. The event took place at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7 pm.

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