Ministry holds meeting in Nakusp on new Arrow Lakes ferry

by Jan McMurray

A new ferry is slated for spring 2014 for the Arrow Lakes crossing at Galena/Shelter Bays, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure officials hosted a meeting March 1 in Nakusp to tell people about it.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) on the design-build of the new vessel closes April 10, and the ministry expects to make a decision in late spring. The successful contractor will be required to hold a public meeting.

Both existing ferries, the DEY Galena and the MV Shelter Bay, are reaching the end of their service life and will be replaced with the new ferry.

The biggest bonus of the new ferry is its weight capacity. Although its carrying capacity of 80 passenger vehicles doesn’t sound much better than the 78 passenger-vehicle capacity of the two existing ferries combined, the new ferry will be able to carry 470 tonnes – significantly more than the 350 tonnes the two existing ferries together can take.

“It was designed to take all the commercial traffic and not limit deck space. You’ll never see a ferry leave when there is still space on the deck – unless we run out of cars,” said Callum Campbell, naval architect from Capilano Maritime Design and part of the project management team.

The new ferry will have wider lanes, a deck de-icing system and dedicated viewing galleries. It will be designed so that maintenance can be done in the water, and will use 25 percent less fuel than the existing ferries. It will be 90 metres long, with a breadth of 19.5 metres and a depth of 3.65 metres.

Several people said they would like to see the ferry built in the Nakusp area. Renee Mounteney from the ministry said she would also love to see that, but cannot speak for the successful contractor. She said the ministry’s newest ferries, the MV Osprey and the MV Forester, were partly built on site.

Members of the public were concerned about the lack of a back-up ferry. Mounteney of the ministry said the new ferry would be built with “enhanced maintenance technology, greatly reducing the chance of lengthy breakdowns.” Also, the two old ferries will be available for the first two years for back-up. “We won’t take those ferries away without assurance we can keep the ferry running,” she said.

Mounteney said there were other back-up options, suggesting that a tugboat could tow the ferry if necessary. Dave Holm of Western Pacific Marine, the ferry operator, was in the audience and pointed out that there would be no tugboat available for this. She said they would turn their minds to a back-up plan once the contract was awarded.

Some people questioned the ability of the new ferry to maintain the one-hour schedule. Earl Frerichs of the Beaton Arm Crossing Association (BACA) said BACA’s calculations on load and unload times showed a 90-minute turnaround time for the new ferry.

Ministry officials were adamant that the one-hour schedule would be maintained. “Callum and a team of marine engineers have come out and looked at the existing ferries and they are confident we can meet the one-hour schedule. The RFP requires absolutely that they meet that. The vessel and docking must be designed to meet that,” said Mounteney.

Nakusp resident Helmut Klughammer asked if the ministry was planning to widen the highway at the ferry approaches to handle the increased traffic coming off the ferry. Holm expressed the same concern. “The ferry may be able to allow double-lane loading and unloading, but the roads can’t handle that,” he said.

Glenn Olleck of the ministry said they would fly the area this year and “over time, we can look at different designs if we think we need road improvements.”

Someone asked if a fixed link would be more cost effective than building a new ferry, particularly if road improvements would also be necessary. Mounteney said she did not want to avoid the question, but cannot discuss costs until the RFP has closed. When Frerichs said the Osprey cost $20 million in 2000, Olleck pointed out that the Osprey is a high-end vessel and the cost of the Forester was considerably less at $8 million in 2004.

Campbell commented that comparing the Osprey with the new ferry was not comparing apples to apples when Gene Nagy of BACA asked about greenhouse gas emissions. The Osprey’s run from Ballour to Crawford Bay on Kootenay Lake is longer, and the vessel has two high-speed diesel engines compared to the new ferry’s two medium diesels. Also, the Osprey was designed to go 50-60 knots compared to the new Arrow Lakes ferry’s 11 knots.

Freerichs made a pitch for the fixed link based on the argument for economic development. “If you want to have any industry come to Nakusp, you need a fixed link. We have economists who have gone over that and over that,” he said. However, he and Nagy agreed that even if construction of the fixed link were to begin tomorrow, the ferry would still be needed.

“We just want the fixed link to be on a ministry plan somewhere,” commented Nagy.
Lucerne School students walk out in support of teachers

by Jan McMurray

Lucerne School high school students participated in the province-wide student walk-out in support of the teachers’ strike at 3 pm on March 2.

The students walked up and down the main street of New Denver, and four of them stopped in at the Valley Voice office – Sadye Butler, Cypress Hunder-Rookees, Danika Hammond and Margaret Barkley.

Although they admitted that the things teachers are fighting for – smaller class sizes and improvements for special needs students – do not affect Lucerne students, they said they recognize that these are important for students in other schools.

“Our teachers are fighting for valid things that are important, and we feel it’s important to give them support,” said Hammond. “The reasons they are striking aren’t so much, but we want to help the bigger picture.”

“The strike sucks but it will be worth it if we get something out of it – if there aren’t 40 kids in a class and no library at schools in the cities,” said Butler.

A written statement about why Lucerne students decided to walk out cites the 1984 school closures and huge funding cuts to education in the past decade in BC. “We want funding cuts to stop and funding to return to our public education. We want our government to recognize that education, teachers, and students must be respected,” says the statement.

Teachers vote for full strike action for three days

by Jan McMurray

Teachers voted overwhelmingly to escalate strike action to a full withdrawal of services for three days March 5, 6 and 7. This was in response to Bill 22, which will legislate them back to work when it becomes law.

Nicole Suhr, president of the Arrow Lakes Teachers Association, explained that once the bill becomes law, teachers will not be in a legal position to engage in any strike action at all until September 1.

The legislation imposes a mediation period until the end of June. If an agreement has not been reached by then, the mediator will make non-binding recommendations to government.

“Minister Abbott has hinted that he will come up with additional legislation, so we will wait and see,” she said.

Suhr said the teachers’ main complaint is the government’s net zero policy. “That is a choice the government made, yet they still go ahead and give politicians raises,” she added.

This contract dispute is a complex one of which are hard working and caring individuals dedicated to the enrichment of their students.

In their posturing and in their contract proposals the government implies that teachers in the system need closer supervision, better training and tighter management. Teachers resent those implications.

Seven years ago the education system in British Columbia was recognized as one of the best in the world. In recent years, our ranking has been slipping. It is because teaching practices have declined or could it be because resources have been cut while class sizes and demands on teachers have been increased?

There are two sides to every story. You will decide which to believe.

March Break Creative Kootenay Kids Camp

Featuring a different local artist each day
At The Silverton Gallery
March 19 - 23 • 9 am - 3 pm
$150 - Art supplies included
Public Art Show
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Teachers taking a stand

What does legislation mean for students?

• $160 million in budget cuts in education next school year
• no improvements for students with special needs
• larger classes for Grades 4-12 next year
• continued conflict between government and teachers

82% of British Columbians say it’s important for teachers to have a contract that establishes specific learning conditions, such as maximum number of regular students, and the maximum number of special needs students per classroom.

Show your support—You can help your kids by urging your school board, your MLA, and the minister of education to fund schools and respect teachers.

Kids matter Teachers care

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Columbia River Treaty session comes to New Denver

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s CRT session on February 29 was the sixteenth in the series of information sessions being held in communities around the basin by CBT.

These sessions are happening now, in the lead-up to 2014, when notice must be given if either country wants to terminate the treaty. The treaty cannot be terminated before 2024.

In attendance to answer questions were Kindy Gosal, CBT’s expert on the treaty, Richard Paisley, UBC law professor specializing in international water and energy agreements, and Ingrid Strauss of the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Gosal explained that CBT’s role is to provide information to basin residents about the treaty and to produce a report on these information sessions, while the Province’s role is to make decisions and conduct formal consultations.

Strauss said the Province would identify concerns about the treaty by going through the CBT report as well as reports done by BC Hydro, and then would host another round of community meetings to discuss ways the concerns could be addressed. “We’ll look at the different options we have and how they would impact your concerns, and let you know what you would have to give up for certain interests. It’s a complex agreement and there will be tradeoffs that are not black and white,” she said.

Gosal said that the US is also looking into the treaty, but rather than having open community meetings, they are having stakeholder meetings with mostly government representatives.

The CRT, an international transboundary waters agreement, was signed between Canada and the US in 1964. It allowed for the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, built in the 1930s in Washington State. Gosal said that First Nations are committed to re-introducing salmon into the systems that have been dammed into this.

Gosal said that the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams in Washington State block salmon migration to the upper Columbia River system, but studies show that it is feasible to introduce juvenile salmon into the upper Columbia. However, Gosal explained that the reservoirs are not good fish habitat, mainly because of the huge fluctuation in water levels. Paisley added that most salmon species in BC are on the cusp of survival because they are temperature intolerant. If temperatures rise another one or two degrees, he said, there will only be salmon up north.

In the US, salmon is protected under the Endangered Species Act and Gosal said they spend huge amounts ($800 million/year) to support salmon. “Whether or not it is feasible to keep those populations viable is under debate, and moving them up into the upper Columbia makes that even more complex,” said Gosal.

Although ecological issues such as salmon fisheries are a big concern today, they were not concerns at the time the treaty was signed. The treaty is about power generation and flood control.

Before the CRT, the US was generating power from dams it had already built on the Columbia. The CRT dams allowed the US to generate more power. This additional power, called the ‘downstream benefits,’ is shared 50-50 between Canada and the US.

Canada’s share of the downstream benefits, ‘the Canadian entitlement,’ is paid to us in power. We then sell it and turn it into cash. Based on a 10-year average, the Canadian entitlement is worth $150-$300 million per year. However, in 2011, the Canadian entitlement was worth only $120 million, and Strauss said they don’t see that amount climbing back upwards. She said gas and thermal generation are bringing down the value of hydro.

From the US perspective, however, they are paying Canada too much – and the salmon are again an issue here. US environmental laws prohibit the US from generating power to maximum capacity, so the Canadian entitlement is calculated based on computer models. The Canadian entitlement is therefore a theoretical amount of power, not the actual amount of power generated by the US. Paisley said it bothers the US that they are paying for power they do not actually generate, and suggested that they may be more willing to pay for flows that benefit the ecology.

The other objective of the treaty is flood control. In 2024, ‘assured flood control’ expires and ‘on call flood control’ comes into effect. On call flood control never expires, and means that the US can ask Canada for flood control whenever needed. The US has to manage its reservoirs to a certain prescribed level, and a remediation order to plant trees on six cutblocks by August 15. These penalties resulted from a recent investigation that found MCC did not achieve minimum restocking requirements on the six cutblocks. The decision to suspend the licence was based not only on the current contraventions, but also on the many contraventions MCC has accumulated over the years.

The US has filed a notice of appeal with the Forest Appeals Commission on the $42,000 fine. The company has taken the appeal of the remediation order from the US, and is key to the viability of Kootenay Canal, so Canada benefits from Libby, but people who live around Kootenieu and Kootenay Lake would like to see better coordinated operations.

FISH TIDBITS: Fish that live in lakes and migrate to rivers or streams to spawn are ADFLUVIAL species. Fish that stay in a lake for all of their life history stages are LACOSTRINE species. http://slocanlake55.wordpress.com
Wireless meters not needed to harvest solar energy

Susan in Yahk, BC asked for answers. Yes you can grid interconnect up to 10 kW of generation with BC Hydro with no special purchase contract. The process is simple. Your existing meter works fine with solar by rotating backwards, however BC Hydro insists on installing one of their new meters so they can do a more detailed accounting of kilowatt hours (kWh) purchased versus kWh sold.

Those new meters happen to be ‘smart’ (‘smart’ marketing?). Everyone wants to be associated with ‘smart’ so we line up behind ‘smart stuff’. Let’s be honest, the new wireless meters that might be installed (we have one – wireless not enabled yet) are just ‘data slaves’ that answer to the ‘master’ when he calls with his electromsmog signal.

The existing grid is very well informed, responsive and works surprisingly well. All generation sources are modeled into a matrix that considers the variety of factors affecting demand and generation. On average the loads consumers use throughout the days and seasons are very predictable based on past data.

We know from satellite data that Nakusp gets on average 3.4 kWh per day or about 1,250 hours per year. Located on our house is solar energy resources that need to be harvested and put into our generation with BC Hydro in a way that benefits us homeowners.

My husband collected a pension for 30 years and five months. The obstacles are financing, storage and acceptance.

Hydro rates are going up. BC Hydro says they need a third dam on the Peace River for an estimated price tag of about $7.9 billion to meet BC’s future power needs. If that was put into solar and microhydro FIT or low interest loan program, we could have that power with no added loss of farms and rivers.

If instead of building dams for $8 billion and retrofitting homes with ‘data slaves’ for many millions, BC Hydro could incentivize home scale distributed solar energy resources that need not have anything to do with ‘smart stuff.’

Kip Drohlich
Oso Renewable Energy Hills

Pension reform

When my husband retired at 55 in 1976, the statistics were: if a man retired at 65, he would get a pension for 30 months, but if he retired at 55, he would collect a pension for 30 years. So if Mr. Harper can get people to work till they are 67, he will not have to pay any pensions at all.

My husband collected a pension for 30 years and five months.

E. Irene Varty
Winlaw

Congratulations to the Slocan Valley Arts Council

Twenty-five years – WOW! I really wanted to come and almost made it. I loved receiving a personal phone call invitation. Three people come particularly to mind as I think about this occasion.

Leslie Mayfield. How would the arts council have survived if you didn’t do the books for years and years? Yes, it isn’t much time or work, but all the same, you have given of your time and attention. May you be blessed!

Joel Harris (bless his soul) would have been so proud of all the people who have organized so many great events over the years. Art and Garden Tours, Recycled Art competitions, etc. and all that came before my time.

Kip Drohlich
Oso Renewable Energy Hills

Voter suppression

Here are my thoughts on the news of voter suppression. If there has been an attempt by any person or party to suppress the vote, then our government should act immediately to assure a complete impartial investigation, inquiry, and if warranted, prosecution of those responsible. And if any party is found to have engaged in an effort to suppress the vote, that party should be forced to dissolve and its assets be forfeited to the People of Canada!

It doesn’t matter if the calls affected the outcome in any riding or not. What matters is the intent and attempt.

We don’t charge a bank robber with bank robbery if he or she happens to fail to take any money. It’s still bank robbery!

If any attempt was made to suppress the vote, it’s still election fraud! As for the penalty, if any party is found to have participated in such activity, that party should have to dissolve, and its assets should be forfeited to the People of Canada!

Also, it doesn’t matter who did it, any riding where it occurred should have its results disqualified and a byelection should be called immediately!

I hope parliament will act to insure this matter is dealt with swiftly!

Will Webster
Kaslo
BACA should consider a tunnel

It is quite surprising to me that the Beaton Arm Crossing Association (BACA) has not involved the town in their planning, instead of using the engineering wizards responsible for the Burton tunnel. These design and construction geniuses could provide a feasibility study leading to a causeway and allow a direct route from Shelter Bay to Galena Bay.

While these dedicated women and men put on the airs of prima donnas – rightly so considering their incredible accomplishments – with a diplomatic approach, they may deserve to be consultants in the planning of an underground option for the crossing.

The skill and artistry involved in the construction and the relocations of the Burton tunnel amaze all who make the journey from Burton to Winlaw and back.

A tunnel under Arrow Reservoir makes sense for a variety of reasons. Road maintenance would be minimal because the roadway would be out of the weather, the periodic removal of bat guano notwithstanding. There would be local jobs maintaining the lighting system, as well.

You are calling this the longest subterranean highway tunnel in Canada – the Burton tunnel having a solid lock on first place – it would surely become a tourist attraction. Situate a most appropriately positioned Subway restaurant and gas bar at the midpoint in the tunnel and you’ve got the makings for a road trip.

So I wonder, BACA, break out of the box and use some imagination. Challenging times call for innovative initiatives.

Brian Barney
Beaton

RF radiation dangers slow to surface

This is in reply to Dave McCormick’s letter of February 22. There is reason indeed to be concerned about radiofrequency radiation.

Last year, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified RF fields as possibly carcinogenic. RF radiation was known to be possibly carcinogenic 12 years before.

In 1999, Health Canada commissioned the Royal Society of Canada’s Task Force to gather a panel of experts and conduct a comprehensive review of the health risks associated with exposure to RF fields.

They reviewed the evidence on RF exposure, ODC, polymers, and cancer was examined. Omithine de Carbodioxide (ODC) is an enzyme related to cell growth and division, and is present in both normal and malignant cell growth. The level of ODC is capable of increasing in less than one hour after exposure, due to low frequency components of both magnetic and RF fields. ODC has been studied extensively in relation to the cancer phenotype. Many chemical carcinogens have been shown to increase ODC levels and activity. This is a common phenomenon related to cell exposure and tumour promoting agents. AND, it looks like RF radiation in the same fashion. RF radiation was shown to be possibly carcinogenic in 1999, then 12 years later in 2011, the IARC said it was. What trust can we have in the IARC? At the rate they work, some researchers may prove RF radiation to be carcinogenic and then 2 years later the IARC may classify it as such.

It’s possible RF radiation could be carcinogenic like tobacco and asbestos. At one time, they were considered harmless. The increasing levels of electrosmog, precancerous measures should be taken.

Ed Zak
Nakusp

Silverton council fence decision irresponsible

At the February 28 Silverton council meeting, the council unanimously passed a motion to build a six-foot-high fence along the south side of Water Street. At taxpayers’ expense. That is also the north side of our property.

Council says their fence will run right along the original property line. This means their fence will cut off all access to that side of our property. If we put in a garage for example, we would have to make access from 5th Street.

We wonder if it is legal to block off someone’s property from a street. That aside, is this morally responsible thing to do? We don’t believe so! Imagine if they were doing this to your property.

About two years ago, we asked council to make Water Street about 25 feet wide and build a fence on the north side of the street. This was to give us privacy from the campsite and deal with safety issues. One huge safety issue is a large tree that leans directly at our house.

At the time, a council member told us that no more trees would be cut down. She said they were going to plant new trees to replace ones already removed. Since then, one tree has been removed because it was dying, and 15 trees have been removed to accommodate the campers. The one tree we aired our concerns about. The score: campers 15, taxpayer 0.

If council did as we originally asked, they would remove a few trees. Some campers would need to be re-aligned, but the number of sites would probably be the same.

So please residents of Silverton, tell your council members to put some real thought into their decision. This is irresponsible.

Anyone wanting to know what we want council to do and why, please call Don Broughton. Please only call if you want the real facts and not to hassle me (358-2769).

A history note: Silverton campground was not always as it is now. Past councilors allowed it to encroach onto Water Street without consulting the neighbours.

Don Broughton
Silverton

Open letter to Conservative MP David Wilks

I am an activist – that is, I write politicians with my opinions about how I view situations. I was taught that it is my responsibility to speak for democracy. Democracy is something that we can’t take for granted.

With these measures, I could be labeled as a ‘disruptor’ in the traditional sense. RF radiation does the same thing. RF radiation was shown to be possibly carcinogenic in 1999, then 12 years later in 2011, the IARC said it was. What trust can we have in the IARC? At the rate they work, some researchers may prove RF radiation to be carcinogenic and then 2 years later the IARC may classify it as such.

Brian Barney
Beaton

Against a fixed link to replace Galena ferry

I view with some alarm the goals of the Nakusp businesspeople and their Village council, as well as the Beaton Arm Crossing Association. They are trying to replace the Galena ferry with a ‘fixed link’, which they have embrace as the panacea for economic improvement in the area. They claim to have support from 700 locals and other politicians.

I do not want such a fixed link, and I’m not alone. We would end up with lots more traffic and the related stinks and pollution, increased wild animal road slaughter, more noise, and more large vehicles (like chip trucks) and more dangers. A ‘fixed link’ just means that their money and their pass through faster with no time to stop and smell.

We would also have increased (re-directed) taxes to support a system of wider, faster roads, beyond the actual bridge cost. Bridges cost a lot of money to maintain and have been turned down in the past with many good reasons.

Many of us want to live in as natural environment as we can sustain. When neighbouring ecosystems and people are to be affected, it makes sense to pay attention.

It is unwis to infer unsolicited support! Living in these small communities is a matter of survival for many, and it is not necessary for council politics which lie beneath the societal surface often does not encourage free and full community discusson.

We need merchants who can find a way to work within the natural boundaries of their ecosystem. The Nakusp area has many wonderful natural attributes and well-intended business and council people. Finding niches that would attract tourists who stay for most of their vacation, retirees, artists, people interested in specialized education, and non-motorized sport enthusiasts (team training facilities?) could be explored.

Brainstorming openly to come up with and then define ideas should be shared for the benefit of all stakeholders. Money has already been spent in community brainstorming, but it’s been done within parameters that have maintained the same dependency on getting our ‘slice of the pie’ from outside our boundaries rather than self-sufficiency.

I suggest that these very busy businesspeople reconsider why and how they are doing business here, and figure out how they can redirect themselves to a sustainable future for themselves and their good neighbours without a ‘fixed link.’ I believe that building sustainable communities does include trade routes, but not acceptance of an undefined commercial onslaught that doesn’t care about our environment.

Eric Faulk
Hills
Downsides of smart metering

Regarding the letter from Susan Eyle (February 29), I’d like to comment even though I can’t answer her questions. Maybe they’ve been answered by now. But I want to make a point of caution. The statistics from numerous meters that Eyle quotes are at least generally valid; however, there are downsides that should be mentioned.

For one thing, if North Americans reduced their consumption of oil by a mandated one or two percent, that would amount to more than we’d ever get from efficiencies that can be gained by the wind or the sun. And probably minimize consumption of oil one or two percent for that tradeoff.

And I’d do so because of the next downside of smart metering, which involves the proliferation of electromagnetic signaling that happens on our airwaves, in the very air we breathe, and so close by they tend to go right through us.

And just as we’re not well adapted to living in the smog of London or LA and can’t escape it, these situations up, we are also not well adapted to living in an environment that’s reeking with EMF that’s cycling at a rate we are not attuned to and which we know very little about vis-à-vis its effects on humans. It’s not a normal human environment, it’s a man-made one.

The question becomes, is it worth it? What do WE have to gain?

Not many of us in the Kootenay will generate juice on our own hook, whether via solar panels or a propeller in the wind or a Pea. It’s simply midsummer.

Some of us may, but the great majority will not, being largely unable to afford the capital costs of such installations or live in situations where it simply can’t be done.

So I don’t think the idea of selling surplus juice back into the grid around these remote Off-peak areas is a bright deal towards smart metering.

Last but not least, smart metering will create a situation in which Fortis and BC Hydro can charge different rates at different times on the clock – less in daylights hours, more in nighttime hours – or whichever they choose. And my bet would be that in doing this, they’ll jigger things so they come out ahead of where they are right now, and their revenues will soar. And they’ll become happy campers.

But meanwhile, those of us who are paying the tab will be taking it in the you-know-what while having to decide to buy gas or juice, because we won’t be able to afford both.

Smart metering is a bad idea.

Sean Rooney
Vallican

Hurray for our teachers!

Fly at ’er, guys. They’ve made your job impossible.

It is clear that the teachers in Victoria who dictate WHAT must be taught, WHEN it must be taught, and HOW it must be taught.

Inclusive education means that any class of 20 or 25 students can include a Down Syndrome or autism student, five or more ADD ADHD students, several dyslexic students, maybe one visually impaired, hearing impaired, cerebral palsy, or spina bifida, or oppositional defiant disorder. Some come to school without breakfast, others so high on sugar they crash of hypoglycemia after a couple of hours.

Students no longer repeat a grade when they fail to master the subject matter, so that a grade five, six or seven class sometimes read at a grade one or two level, right up to all others who read at a grade nine one level, and only a few who can do even simple math without a calculator.

And all one discipline has been abolished. Restraining an aggressive or violent student constitutes assault. There are no consequences for work not done, lessons not learned, assignments not completed. The words “courtesy” and “responsibility” have been deleted from their dictionary.

The question becomes, is it worth it? What do WE have to gain?

Not many of us in the Kootenay will generate juice on our own hook, whether via solar panels or a propeller in the wind or a Pea. It’s simply midsummer.

Some of us may, but the great majority will not, being largely unable to afford the capital costs of such installations or live in situations where it simply can’t be done.

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Suggestions for Lakeview Village

The staff at Lakeview Village, a seniors housing complex in Nelson, have suggested that new ideas be brought in to improve the facility. I used to live there, and I have some suggestions for them. The elderly need reasons to live and need activities that keep some variety in their days. I think Lakeview needs to pay for a professional person to organize daily activities such as exercise, perhaps tap-dancing, and perhaps hire a consultant to help keep the residents physically and mentally active. Residents would pay for these activities.

There is also a need for a larger bus to transport more residents to places in the community, such as Answorth Hot Springs, the Capitol Theatre for plays, or the Izaak Walton Inn. Having excursions to other towns would also benefit the residents, allowing them to witness the changes going on in their local communities.

The monthly rent is high for the average retired person. Now that I have left Lakeview, my current apartment rent is $630 per month, which includes utilities, washer/dryer and cable. The rental at Lakeview was $1,400 per month for a small studio, kitchen area, bathroom and deck. In addition to the high rent, some of the older residents are charged for food that they do not eat. I went away for 50 days and was charged $675 when I returned.

I am a resident of Lakeview Lodge, I began a business called Howie’s Electric Scooter for Sale or Rent. On August 30, 2011, three of my scooters and a small trailer were taken away. This took place while I was in the hospital. The scooters were cut loose from a cable that had a siren attached for security. Apparently, the management decided to rent the scooters in return for rent money. The total value of the scooters was about $6,000 plus the trailer valued at $250. The replacement cost of cut cables was $500. A letter was sent to the head office in Cranbrook (Goldstone Background Report) with no reply.

I believe speed bumps need to be installed along the road leading to Lakeview Village, coming from the condo at the east. This will slow traffic down and reduce the chance of someone getting run over. Residents going on holiday should have permission to cross the road with their dogs or visitors.

In addition, ambushes regularly come to the front door to pick up individuals who need to go to hospital, or worse, those that have died. They could come to the side doors instead; no one wants to see a friend delivered to the hospital or hear the next day that one of our residents has passed away.

In conclusion, I wouldn’t want my parents to move into Lakeview Village, especially under the current conditions and management.

H owie Ey nelson

Open Letter to Ministry of Environment re: Water Act Modernization

I want to thank my neighbour, Nelle Mace, for all her tremendous research, time and energy, and for speaking at public events to bring awareness to all of us about this very serious water situation.

There is a serious need for a larger Kootenay Lake Forest Management that also threatens our food supply, ultimately resulting in concern for local communities.

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Through the years I have seen unusual weather phenomena that have come back to bite us. We keep making the same mistakes and we keep on having the same problems. We are about to have the mother of all droughts and more.

Fran k N Isom

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Frank Nixon

WInEwOn Meadow Creek Cedar licence suspension makes way for biodiversity

BC’s Kootenay Lake Forest Ministry’s suspension of Meadow Creek’s forest licence will hopefully give opportunity to save species and create jobs.

At stake is the survival and recovery of a rare forest fragmentation, and the mountain caribou, Purcell grizzly, and wolverine and yet undiscovered species of oceanic lichen such as recently discovered in the research done on the west side of the Selkirks in the Incomappleux River. The Duncan/ Landare and Incomappleux Rivers meet at the highway in Glacier National Park. The goal is to keep a primitive biodiverse corridor from Glacier National Park to the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. This would become an important Kootenay National primitive species.

The last 50 years of flooding, urbanizing, road building, clearcutting and industrial tourism has been bim and profitable to be sure, but our planet needs attention. We should be paid from our provincial and federal tax collectors, the local communities or other criminal organizations to preserve the temperate inland rainforest in the Columbia River system.

The Forest Ministry and Timber Sales have worked relentlessly to destroy primitive biodiversity and the vast carbon sink in this ecological unit. The small, and camouflaged with the remaining intact old growth on both sides of the Selkirk and rainforest potentially sequester from 5 to 10 percent of the entire planet’s carbon.

Logging immediately releases this carbon as the sunlight enters their dark, ancient, cedar/hemlock forests. It takes at least 250 years before a new forest would sequester so much carbon.

The Kootenay Lake Forestry bureucrats and local political pundits have tried on a number of occasions to poison these ecosystems with yes-men decisions in the interest of profit or their personal gain or the small group of local wilderness activists since the mid 1980s has prevented this from taking place in large clearcuts. A small group of local wilderness activists since the mid 1980s has prevented this from taking place in large clearcuts. A small group of local wilderness activists since the mid 1980s has prevented this from taking place in large clearcuts. A small group of local wilderness activists since the mid 1980s has prevented this from taking place in large clearcuts.

The current forest management of this tenure reflects the willingness of the BC’s Forest Ministry to allow confined industrial timber corporations/ contractors unfettered access to remote timber units with no oversight.

My goal as a peaceful wilderness advocate would be to work with the paid forestry bureaucrats and their counterparts in the North Kootenay Forest Initiative Citizens Group to create dialogue that would prevent another 50 years of destructive forestry and instead implement a protected biodiverse and mitigate the global climate crisis.

Tom Prior

Nelson
Crescent Valley Hall washrooms to be upgraded

Submitted

Since 1959, users of the Crescent Valley Community Hall, previously the local elementary school, have been using the same aged, cramped washrooms. This will change with a renovation project being spearheaded by the Crescent Valley Hall Society and funded by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

The main goals of the renovation are to make the washrooms environmentally friendly and accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. Low-flush toilets and motion-sensing lights and fan switches will be installed; a hot water tank will be relocated and entry doors and windows will be replaced.

“One renovations are complete, the washrooms will be in compliance with current design standards for both energy efficiency and universal access,” said Lynda Laffeur, CBT Community Liaison. “We’re pleased that this will make the hall more usable.”

“By providing space to everything from dance classes, to weddings, to government elections, the hall has been an asset at the heart of our community for over 50 years,” said Phil Chemenoff, Crescent Valley Hall Society.

“Upgrading the washrooms to current standards allows us to demonstrate leadership in our community with regard to environmental and universal-access building design.”

The hall was an elementary school until 1978, when it was donated to the community by the school board. Since then it has been used by many different groups as a venue for individuals for various purposes. It also currently houses the Sequoia Learning Centre, which provides lifelong learning programs to a range of community members.

CRESSTON WILL HAVE THE USE OF THE REST OF THE BUILDING, SO WILL BE ABLE TO RENT IT TO COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Silverton council, February 28: Silverton no longer smallest BC municipality

by Jan McMurray

• Mayor Provan reported that Silverton is no longer the smallest municipality in BC. The 2011 census show Silverton’s population to be 195, up from 185 in 2006. Zeballos, on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, is the smallest municipality, with a population of 125, down from 189 in 2006.

• Kootenay Rockies Tourism (KRT) representatives Wendy VanPuybmooq and Emilie Cayer-Huard made a presentation. KRT represents Tourism BC regionally. The organization markets the region worldwide and supports communities across the region to develop tourism.

• Funding programs KRT offers communities include the Tourism Partners Program, a 50-50 cost sharing advertising program; the Community Tourism Foundation program, where KRT facilitates the development of the building’s tourism plans; and a Community Opportunities program, to assist communities in implementing their tourism plan. The KRT website includes tools to help communities.

• KRT has also created a Kootenay Travel App for mobile devices, and it includes a Silverton page.

• Council expressed interest in collaborating with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to learn more about the KRT programs.

• Mayor Provan’s office hours will be on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon.

• Council will survey residents on two hot topics around town – high speed internet and garbage service. The survey will be sent out with tax notices.

• Council agreed to a new arrangement for the Silverton fire hall under the agreement with the New Denver fire department. The department will pay $11,000 annually for the bay area only. The Village of Silverton will have the use of the rest of the building, so will be able to rent it to community groups.

• The fuel reduction project in the wildfire interface area between Red Mountain Road and Silverton is scheduled to begin mid-March and finish up in spring 2013. The project is being managed by the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo) and will create some local employment. It is being funded mainly through the Union of BC Municipalities, with Columbia Basin Trust contributing $41,000 and the Village providing $3,000 and some

The Mt. Sentinel Stage Band Program would like to thank everyone who supported the students’ fund raising effort at Café Jazz held on Wednesday February 15 at Mt. Sentinel School. Patrons enjoyed listening to the Mt. Sentinel Stage Band and the always popular and entertaining Homography.


The Mt. Sentinel Stage Band students are heading to the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho from February 22-26. All beat and good luck!
New products made in Kaslo help with composting, cleaning, gardening

by Jan McMurray

A new business in Kaslo is offering products that can be of great use to just about anybody.

The products made by MyCroBz Bacteria Solutions contain microorganisms that break down waste. The products are completely natural and safe for people, plants, pets and the environment.

“So many problems in our lives come down to a waste problem,” says business owner Todd Veri. “There are over 100 different applications for my products – they can be used around the house, garden and farm.”

Todd says he uses the products from the moment he wakes up to the time he goes to bed, on everything from personal care, pet care, cleaning, composting, and fertilizing his garden.

The two most popular applications of the MyCroBz products are indoor composting and eliminating odours.

Composting with MyCroBz is called ‘Bokashi’ and is more effective than traditional composting in a number of ways. For one, Bokashi does such a good job of breaking down the food waste that even meat, bones, and paper can be composted this way. Also, Bokashi is quicker than traditional composting, does not create bad smells, and is too acidic to attract bees or other animals.

And – unlike traditional composting, this creates heat and gas, resulting in a loss of nutrients – Bokashi creates no heat or gas, so all the nutrients are returned to the soil.

Todd says he uses the products from the moment he wakes up to the time he goes to bed, on everything from personal care, pet care, cleaning, composting, and fertilizing his garden.

The Valley Voice March 7, 2012

Real Estate in Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake

www.century21kaslo.com
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Century21 Mountainview Realty Ltd.

Kaslo council, February 28: KLHS expresses interest in leasing City Hall courtroom

by Veronica Pellowski

• The Kootenay Lake Hospital Society has expressed interest in leasing Kaslo’s City Hall courtroom. KLHS envisages using the space as a public gallery for presentations and exhibitions. The society anticipates being able to access funding which is not available to the municipality, thereby assisting in funding necessary improvements.

• Mayor Lay and RDCK Area D Director Andy Shadrack are in discussion with Interior Health and the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta.

Kaslo Concert Society presents pianist Beatriz Boizán

submitted

The Kaslo Concert Society is pleased to present pianist Beatriz Boizán in recital on Friday, March 16 at St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo at 7:30 pm.

Boizán was born in Cuba and graduated from the National School of Music in Havana. She came to Canada in 1995 for further training at the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta.

Boizán is considered “one of the brightest new lights in the classical world” (The Vancouver Sun). She is admired for her vibrant personality, unique musicianship and ability to deliver breathtaking performances.

Her Kaslo recital includes music by Chopin, Liszt, Locoua, Albeniz, Scarlatti, and Ponce. Boizán is graciously filling in for Winston Choi, whose wife, violinist MingHuan Xu, is expecting twins in mid March.

Tickets are available at Figments in Kaslo or at the door. School-age children admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. For more information, call 353-7539 or 366-4623.

Kaslo and the Fish Lake to Kaslo Ski-a-thon was a huge success

The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society, in cooperation with the Kaslo Trailblazers, organized the ski-a-thon. Over $1,000 was raised for the proposed cross-country ski trails on Mt Bicham. All the skiers were very grateful to a great group of volunteers: Val Koenig and his band of volunteer drivers, who got up at 8 am on Sunday morning to provide the shuttle service; and Tom Duchastel and Gerald Garnett who worked for three days prior to the race to make sure there was a good track set.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of Herb Thompson, Ian MacKinnon and the Rails to Trails crew, who have built the Valley Voice March 7, 2012

MyCroBz Bacteria Solutions

Easy indoor composting with a Bokashi Home Kit. Quickly recycle fruit, veg, meat, dairy, bones, paper, cooked foods, and more.

Use our live Pro-biotic Solutions to:
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All organisms and most ingredients are certified organic and all our products are safe for people, plants, pets and the environment.

www.mycrobz.com
(250) 353-7533
A new day for community radio in the Arrow Lakes region

submitted

The newly formed Nakusp Community Radio Society (NCRS) has taken over CHJQ 107.1 FM ‘The Arrow’ from the Nakusp Roots Music Society, giving the valley its first volunteer group exclusively dedicated to maintaining the community-run radio station.

One of the first tasks that the new, all-volunteer group accomplished was the introduction of online streaming via the station website, www.thearrow107.com, a key part of their mandate to cover the entire Arrow Lakes region. “Not only can homes in Crescent Bay, Burton, Fauquier, and Edgewood finally hear the station now over the internet, but anyone around the world can tune in and listen,” says NCRS President Chris Ewings.

Another thing people may notice over the next few weeks is the Arrow’s ‘woman on the street,’ Millie Pawley, who will be talking to locals and tourists, gathering information for her new Question of the Week program. Millie is also on the lookout for upcoming local events, public announcements, and goings-on, so if you happen to see her, don’t be shy – let her know what you’d like to hear on the radio. Additionally, Ewings says that they have a couple of local DJs producing their own weekly shows and they are open to having more people making their own shows.

The Arrow operates solely on volunteer labour, and is funded by small amounts of affordable advertising. If you would like to know more about the station, or would like to volunteer or place an ad, contact the station via email at tunein@thearrow107.com.

Community radio stations across Canada are mandated to play a wide range of content, including locally produced community shows, current affairs and other spoken word programs, and specialty and independent music. The Arrow currently airs popular nationally syndicated shows such as Democracy Now! and Groundwire, specialty programming such as the Francophone variety programme Mélodie et environnement news show Terra Informa, and an incredibly wide range of music with different parts of the schedule reserved for every genre.

Super Specials!!

Watch for HUGE DISCOUNTS at Igloo Building Supplies in Nakusp
Don’t miss our CLEARANCE PRICES
Products featured will be changed weekly

NAKUSP & THE ARROW LAKES

Summit Lake Racers compete in Grand Forks

submitted

It was a brisk –9 degrees, windy and sunny at the top of the course on Phoenix Mountain in Grand Forks, where an adventurous, 11-member team of Nancy Green Summit Lake Racers competed on Sunday February 25.

In the combined E1/E2, the Summit Lake Racers team placed second! In the individually timed E3 races, Rhys McLeod took the gold medal for the E3 slalom red course and Ivy Tourand brought home the gold for both the red and blue slalom races! Ivy says, “it feels awesome” to have two gold medals around her neck. In the end, everyone raced well.

Volunteer coaches Roger Waterfield, Daryl Katchen and Coleman Mackintosh once again praised the organizers for setting up some good courses and running a smooth race.

A total of 93 racers from Whitewater, Red Mountain, Salmo, Summit Lake and Phoenix competed in the fourth of five zone races. The Phoenix event format was a dual slalom, identified by red and blue flags. Some fresh snow allowed for some powder and the conditions were soft and very agreeable.

The zone finals will be at Whitewater in Nelson on Sunday, March 11.

The team is looking forward to the wind-up celebration and the Summit Lake Ski Hill Spring Carnival and Downhill Dummie event on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17.

BACA receives response from ministry

by Jan McMurray

The Beaton Arm Crossing Association has heard back from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on its proposal for a fixed link to replace the Galena/Shelter Bay ferries.

In a February 24 letter, Glenn Olleck, District Manger, states: “In summary, the BACA business case is a document containing a lot of good information. Our high level review identifies some critical items which are missing. In all likelihood, these items will have a significant effect on the overall evaluations.”

Earl Ferrichs of BACA reports that at the March 1 meeting about the new ferry, he spoke with Olleck, who indicated he wanted to meet with them. “The door is open a crack,” said Ferrichs. “They haven’t totally dismissed the idea.”

Ferrichs said he was confident they could respond to the missing items referred to in the ministry’s letter.

The board of the newly formed Nakusp Community Radio Society: Liz Gillis (Director), Chris Ewings (President), Patty Riley (Secretary/Treasurer), Kyle Kusch (Vice President), Annette Gorrie (Director), missing.

The Valley Voice
Young woman from New Denver wins ski competition

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s Orea Brown-Dahl (formerly known as Meagan) won the title of Queen of the Kootenay Coldsmoke Powder Fest, a backcountry ski festival held February 25 and 26 at Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson.

At 19 years old, Brown-Dahl was the youngest competitor in this year’s event.

To be named Coldsmoke Queen, Brown-Dahl won two of the four festival events and did very well on the other two.

She won the Powderkeg Slopestyle event, which involved jumping off natural features (cliffs, etc.), and the Backcountry Olympics event, where a team of three had to skin up the chairlift run, find a beacon, make a toboggan and sled one team member down. She did well on the ROAM Randonne Rally, a timed event, and on the Poker Run, which she completed with Atli Bostick, also from New Denver.

Brown-Dahl started out skiing at Summit Lake, and moved on to Red Mountain in Rossland. She raced for 10 years before switching to freestyle skiing. She placed second at the 2010 Crystal Mountain junior championships. Last year, she placed second overall in the youth category at Whitewater’s Coldsmoke Powder Fest.

Brown-Dahl’s sponsors are Retallack Resort and Kenworth Trucking.

New Denver’s Orea Brown-Dahl won the title of Queen of the Kootenay Coldsmoke Powder Fest, a backcountry ski festival held February 25 and 26 at Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson.

New exhibition at the Kootenay Gallery features local artists

The Kootenay Gallery will be opening the exhibition season on March 9, 2012 with The Language of Drawing, a show of works submitted by ten artists who live and work in the Kootenay Basin. This exhibition runs from March 9 to April 21 with an opening reception on Friday, March 9 at 7 pm. There is no admission charge and the public is welcome.

The Language of Drawing illustrates how ten artists interpret the practice of drawing, one of the oldest forms of visual expression, and the crucial role it has played in the work of artists throughout history.

Typically think of drawing as images on paper, created using pencil or charcoal to formulate ideas or concepts that lead to works in other mediums. We typically think of drawing as images on paper, created using pencil or charcoal to formulate ideas or concepts that lead to works in other mediums. Carl Schlichting’s quick sketches, used in designing his three dimensional work or George Knoch’s classic figure drawings, fit this traditional definition. However, Deb Thompson renders her drawings in paint, Don Mahie uses gel pens and Wendy Toogood creates her ‘journals’ in watercolour and ink. As materials vary, so does subject matter vary. While Guy Hobbs focuses on wildlife drawings and Peter Velesik primarily on landscapes, Deb Rushfeldt creates familiar images of rural life.

Heather MacAskill’s intricate abstracts contrast the highly realistic portraits of Brigitte Desbons.

The artists and curator will be in attendance on March 9, providing an opportunity for the public to ask questions and learn why an artist has chosen this particular form of drawing and how it informs their art practice.

A drawing workshop facilitated by one of the exhibiting artists, Deb Thompson, will be offered on March 11.

For more information, contact the gallery or visit the website at kootenaygallery.com.

‘Tracing the Columbia’ to show at the Langham

David Thompson was, no doubt, the greatest explorer, surveyor and mapmaker that ever set foot on Canadian soil.

From 2007 to 2011, the Canadian David Thompson Voyageur Society has been re-creating various parts of his journeys with Voyageur canoe trips lasting from 12 to 63 days. In 2011, a group including Kaslo resident Val Koenig re-created his trip of discovery by re-tracing his journey of 1,700 kilometres from Invermere, BC to Astoria, Oregon. In 45 days, up to 195 modern-day voyagers paddled or portaged the same rivers that he and his men travelled, eventually reaching the Pacific on July 15 exactly 200 years later.

On Thursday, March 15, the Kaslo Trailblazers Society will host a showing of ‘Tracing the Columbia’ at the Langham in Kaslo. This 50-minute DVD will start at 7 pm with refreshments after the show by donation.

Everyone Welcome!

Alex Atamanenko, MP and his guests invite you to an evening of lively discussion about the barriers and challenges facing farmers and eaters in the worldwide battle to achieve food sovereignty.

7:00 pm - Sunday, Mar 18th - United Church, 621 Silica St, Nelson

info: Alex.Atamanenko.A1@parl.gc.ca 1 800 667 2393 www.alexndp.ca
Shambhala once again voted best in the world

submitted

Shambhala was named Best Large Event for the second year in a row at the 11th Annual Breakspoll International Breakbeat Awards in London, UK on February 25. Shambhala Music Festival has been held at the Salmo River Ranch since 1998.

“A lot of credit for this award should go to Rich-e-Rich & the Fractal Media Crew who create the Fractal Forest stage,” said Corrine Zawaduk, Shambhala’s executive producer. “They’ve been creating Shambhala once again named best large event at the Annual Breakspoll International Breakbeat Awards in London, UK on February 25.

Addiction services open house

by Jan McMurray

An open house on addiction services in the area was held February 26 at the Bosun Hall.

There was information about Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, counseling through Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, and treatment centres in the province. The highlight was the parkour demonstration by the leaders of Parkour Nakusp.

Michael Garvey is the adult who started the club. He works with FreedomQuest, an organization that provides support for families affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

“We do lots of experiential things with the kids and parkour is the latest that FreedomQuest took on a year and a half ago,” said Garvey. Parkour has its origins as a French military discipline. One of the Parkour Nakusp youth leaders explained that one French military man taught it to his son, David Bell, who is the founder of modern-day parkour. “The Parkour Nakusp philosophy is to build confidence one step at a time,” he said. “It’s about overcoming obstacles or working towards overcoming obstacles. If you work at it long enough, eventually you will overcome it.”

Learn more about fracking

submitted

The Nelson Chapter of the Council of Canadians and the West Kootenay EcoSociety are presenting an information session on the controversial issue of “fracking” in Nelson on March 22, World Water Day at 7 pm, Seniors Branch 51, 717 Vernon Street (across from Extra Foods).

‘Fracking’ is a technique involving the injection of millions of litres of water and thousands of litres of unidentified chemicals underground at very high pressure, creating fractures in the underlying shale rock formations to extract the natural gas below the surface.

Join Dan Woynillowicz of the Pembina Institute for a provocative presentation that will explore the climate change and water impacts of shale gas development in BC. Both the issues and solutions facing British Columbians will be discussed. Woynillowicz joined the Pembina Institute in 2001 as a policy analyst, and is now the Director of Strategy & Communications.

For further information go to http://canadians.org/water/issues/fracking/index.html.
Ted and Marion Outerbridge’s magic show returns to Nakusp

by Cedra Eichener

Ted and Marion Outerbridge returned to Nakusp on Tuesday, February 21 with their magic show.

Ted, born in Montreal, became interested in magic at a very young age, and was performing at neighbourhood birthday parties by the age of 12. Since then, he has set box office records with his tours on both sides of the Atlantic. Marion was born in Germany, and trained extensively in dance. She first came to Canada in 1993, returning later to work on stage in Europe. She has also appeared in several feature films. In 1999, she came back to Canada and joined Ted’s magic show. All ages were in attendance, and Ted drew heavily on the audience to help him with his performance. Marion danced through her role in several acts of various kinds, with many costume changes along the way.

We travelled back in time to over 100 years ago, when Marion climbed into a large basket, which Ted then skewered with at least 5 swords. She emerged not only unharmed, but in a different dress. Ted asked the audience for three ideas to be included in a time capsule to represent Nakusp. He showed us a locked metal box hanging from the ceiling, and told us he had locked his predictions in there earlier in the day. A huge beach ball was bounced around the audience, and the person who caught it after the music stopped gave their suggestion for the time capsule. A band for Nakusp: 23 North; an activity for Nakusp: parkour; and something to see: a drawing of the provincial hockey tournament (great job, Renee!). The box was unlocked, and Ted’s written predictions matched the three answers from the audience.

On a brief camping trip, Ted showed us an unbelievable rope trick and some memorable shadow monsters. Gerard the psychic goose read the minds of audience members, and got rude about the world go by from your perch. Walter Waits opened his coffee/sandwich/news stand in 1937, and it’s been going strong ever since. Today it is owned and operated by Jim and Pam Plamondon, who don’t intend to make a whole lot of changes. That makes us space-travelers happy. They’re friendly, big-hearted, and accommodating. If you desire something not on the menu, they’ll make it if they have the ingredients. If you want a bowl of peanut butter and ham, you got it! Waits’ used to be open 24 hours a day, and it was the only cab-stand around. Now Mari and Jim open from 6 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday. Sundays and Mondays from 8 am to 3 pm. But, on Friday and Saturday nights they re-open at 10:30 pm and remain open till 3 am! On those late night blust’s pizza time: spinach and feta, veggie, ham and pineapple, and pepperoni. Other late night treats: grilled cheese and bacon sand along with peanut butter topped with stuff like nutella, jam, marshmallow, banana or any combination of the above. Regular menu? All day breakfast: egg muffins with ham, cheese, tomatoes and maple! Denver sandwiches. Or maybe you just want toast and coffee. Fine. There are daily lunch specials. MILKSHAKES (best in Nelson), made the old-fashioned way, malts (including root beer), all kinds of cones and banana splits! Seventeen flavours of ice cream: the usuals plus ones like cotton candy, or cookies and cream. Yes. Hotdogs and Coney dogs await you. Check the long list of sandwiches including clubhouse (that’s what I had – my fave!), roast beef, chicken, tuna etc. and Montreal smoked meat available whenever you happen to be there. You can call Wait’s ahead of time and your breakfast or lunch will be waiting for you.

Mari bakes early each day. Things like muffins, granola bars, cinnamon buns, cookies, carrot cake, and the local people who open up your eyes to the world.” Very cool.

If you’re feeling lucky, Wait’s News also has “full service lottery” – you might win a million dollars! Me? I’ve loved Wait’s News since the day 40 years ago when I walked through the door and found myself at the centre of the Universe.

On top of it all, Wait’s News is also a museum. Check out the ancient pair of eyeglasses next to the egg heater before the beginning of the time. Tom of character, coffee, charm, heritage, food and friendly folks... Wait’s News has it ALL! Go there while the cosmos still exist, and it is in Nelson, BC. It’s called the centre of the Universe. Tons of character, coffee, charm, heritage, food and friendly folks... Wait’s News has it ALL! Go there while the cosmos still exist, and it is in Nelson, BC. It’s called Wait’s News right on the comer of Baker and Ward and knew my search was over. Wait’s is long and narrow! From the front door to the back door is 45 feet. It’s about 12 feet wide. There is a long counter from end to end and exactly 14 swivel ing stools. The counter and the stools are 75 years old. There’s also one beautiful high round table with two stools. You can drink coffee while you watch the world go by from your perch.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay Public Meeting

Residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the Regional District of Central Kootenay 2012 Budget

On Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

In the RDCK Board Room
202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC
New Denver council, February 28: Fruit trees to be mapped

by Michael Dorsey

• Public Works crews will be mapping Village fruit trees, and will meet with Harvest Share and other residents to determine which trees will be harvested. Many residents harvest fruit yearly, and a schedule will assist in timing the harvests.
• Councillor von Krogh provided council with copies of a report by Connected Communities, a network of health advocacy groups from around the region. The group presented the report to the board of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District. The report identifies a number of trends in the local delivery of health care that adversely affect seniors and people with chronic illnesses. Council will write to the Ministry of Health with these concerns.
• Councillor von Krogh provided council with copies of a report by Connected Communities, a network of health advocacy groups from around the region. The group presented the report to the board of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District. The report identifies a number of trends in the local delivery of health care that adversely affect seniors and people with chronic illnesses. Council will write to the Ministry of Health with these concerns.
• Beth Corven, of the New Denver Youth Centre, wrote to inform council that the youth centre will be set up in the storefront beside Rory’s on Main. She asked for the Village to cover the cost of the building permit fee for a Change of Occupancy Permit. Council agreed.
• Council agreed to pay for the printing of brochures for the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre if the funding request to CKCA is not approved. Council also authorized free admission to the centre for former internees, who are planning to visit the centre in June.
• Council approved a request by Loren Oldham, Community Gaming Group, to install a projector screen in Knox Hall, with the provisos that it be installed to safety code standards and that other hall users have access.
• Mayor Bunka reported on the Tri-Cities (New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H) meeting, where discussions included the proposed Slocan Lake Management Plan, the electronics recycling facility in Silverton, and area cooperation to acquire a speed reader board to be used in a variety of locations throughout the valley, especially for special events such as Village celebrations, Garlic Festival and the Winlaw Water Festival. Council will send a letter of support to the RCMP regarding acquisition of new radar equipment.
• Councillor Raynolds reported that the Chamber of Commerce had a good strategic planning session with CBT Community Liaison Lynda Lafleur. She extended an invitation from the Chamber to council to attend a meeting with Terri MacDonell of the Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College. The meeting will take place at Knox Hall, and council agreed to waive the rental fee.
• Council scheduled the public meeting for CBT Community Initiative Grant funding requests for April 16, 7 pm, in council chambers. Following this meeting, council will inform the public of the date and location of the adjudication meeting.
• Council voted to send a letter of support to the Beaton Arm Crossing Association for the proposed fixed link to replace ferry service at Galena/Shelter Bays.
• Council decided to write to BC Hydro asking for the option to refuse smart meters.
• A letter will go out to the Province, urging improvement of infrastructure for rural cyclists.

Ike Thiessen competes at Winter Games

by Jan McMurray

Ike Thiessen, 14-year-old from Crescent Valley, attended the BC Winter Games February 23-26 in Vernon to compete in speed skating.

Thiessen has been a member of the Nelson Speed Skating Club for three years. He says he decided to try it out when his parents asked him if he wanted to put on really big skates and move really fast. He is glad he said yes.

Thiessen competed in the 200-metre, 400-metre, 1,500-metre and 3,000-metre events. His results were very impressive, most notably his third place finish in the 1,500 metre and fourth place finish in the 400 metre.

Three other youth from the Nelson club competed in the games: Claire Young, Emily Musa, and Tyler Hartleb. Coaches are Jason Hartleb and Lisa Thiessen, Ike’s mother.

Ike Thiessen holds one of his ‘really big skates.’

To prosper in today’s turbulent global economy, discipline and focus are essential. All around us we see governments paying the price for overspending and uncontrolled debt.

In BC, we have a different story.

• BC enjoys a AAA credit rating after 7 successive upgrades by credit rating agencies.
• A very low debt in relation to the size of our economy means we’re seen as a safe harbour for investment.
• BC has the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to $120,000 per year.
• In fact, when all taxes are considered, British Columbians generally have one of the lowest tax burclens in the country.

Budget 2012 builds on our progress.

• Spending controlled to just 2% on average per year, keeping us on track to balance Budget 2013.
• Increasing the HST rebate threshold to $850,000 to help the new home construction industry and provide home buyers up to $42,500 in rebates.
• Creating a new $10,000 BC First-Time New Home Buyers’ Bonus for first-time buyers of newly-built homes.
• Extending the Training Tax Credit program to help employers and workers take part in apprenticeship programs.
• Eliminating the provincial jet fuel tax for international flights to spur trade and tourism.

We’re working to keep BC’s economy strong in the face of global economic uncertainty. When other economies are looking inward, BC is reaching out to seize opportunities around the world.

British Columbia. Canada Starts Here.

For more details on Budget 2012, visit www.bcbudget.ca or www.bcjobsplan.ca
Comprehensive study planned for Silverton Gallery

by Jan McMurray

Big plans are underway for the Silverton Gallery, starting with a conservation and feasibility study. Silverton council is applying for Columbia Basin Trust funding of $15,000 to have the study done by Ken Butler & Associates. Butler is a local contractor specializing in heritage conservation.

Butler and his assistant (and son), Ryan Butler, attended a Silverton council meeting on February 28 to present their proposal. “We need to do a conservation study because it is deemed a Village of Silverton heritage site, so the people of Silverton need to know what it would cost to preserve, restore or rebuild the building,” said Butler, adding that there are provincial guidelines for the various levels of heritage conservation. “It’s a matter of presenting costs and options to council, the people of Silverton and user groups.”

The consultants are planning a comprehensive study of the building, looking at the roof, siding, windows and doors, windows, walls, ceilings, insulation, washroom, kitchen, electrical, water, plumbing, septic, heating, fire suppression, security, and acoustics. They also plan to look at the original drawings of the building, which they believe are available from the provincial archives, as well as the assessment of the building recently done by an engineering firm, and the geothermal study done by WSA Engineering for the Village of Silverton, added Butler. He said the team would do a model of the building as part of the study.

Butler’s team will include Robert Turner, a planner and historian renowned throughout BC, who has worked with Butler many times. The team will also include Brian Stolle from the Slocan Lake Gallery Society, a representative from the Silverton Historical Society, and a designer.

Ryan Butler said the report on the building’s condition identified issues that will need to be taken into account in the study. “Issues with the way the snow and water builds up on the building is causing some fairly significant rot in some places, so that limits some of the things we can do,” he said. “There is significant water damage on the north side of the building so there may need to be changes in the roof there or cladding rather than stucco.”

He said the wheelchair ramp will have to be re-built, as it is no longer to code. “To bring it to code would put it out into the parking lot so that will also determine what we can do,” he said. Installing an elevator or a stair lift would be other options for wheelchair accessibility.

Councillor Main said the existing wheelchair ramp has helped tremendously with getting equipment in and out of the building, and asked that this be taken into consideration.

The team would like to look at moving the entrance around to the parking lot side of the building, Ryan said, and building a new stairway there. “We’d explore closing off the existing stairway at the existing entrance if the entrance is moved.”

Ken Murray of the historical society said the museum would be happy to move to the west side of the building. “That would give the gallery a storefront entrance, which would be so much better because tourists don’t know how to get in.” He also said the society’s historical photos of the building could be helpful to the team.

Councillor Johnson suggested connecting the fire hall and gallery buildings with a covered walkway so that the fire hall kitchen could be used, eliminating the need for a kitchen in the gallery.

Once the funding is in place, Butler said it would take 90 days to complete the study.

Although grants were secured last year to re-finish the floor and replace the escape, these projects have been postponed and will be done as part of the larger project. Extensions have been granted from the funders.

Digital history launch celebrates West Kootenay feminists

The West Kootenay Women’s Association’s Digital History Project is launching the audio and video components of its digital archive on Sunday March 11, from 4 to 6 pm. The festivities will take place at Touchstones Museum, 502 Vernon Street in Nelson.

www.kootenayfeminism.com is an award-winning, publicly accessible digital archive of the history of feminism in BC’s West Kootenay. The Nelson Women’s Centre is the oldest running rural women’s Centre in Canada, and West Kootenay feminists were at the forefront of the feminist wave with some of the first women’s festivals and conferences in the country. This digital archive illustrates the efforts of women in this vibrant region working towards an equitable society and celebrates the profound talents of Kootenay women writers, poets and musicians performing at women’s festivals.

As of March 7, audio and video recordings documenting this rich and important history will also be available on the website. “The website is fully searchable and contains a multitude of historical documents,” says Dr. Marcia Braundy, who has spearheaded the digital history project since its inception. “This digital history presents our efforts to create a society where women and girls are valued for their contributions, and have access to choices regarding how they live their lives, earn their livings and find their rightful place in community contribution. While we have not yet achieved this goal for all women across Canadian society, and too many are still falling through the deep cracks of poverty, violence and injustice, www. KootenayFeminism.com is a testament to the work undertaken during the past 40 years.”

Dr. Braundy won the 2011 Barbara Roberts Award from the Canadian Research Institute of Women (CRIAW) for her vision and work on this project.

Cinematomographer Miriam Neelands, the project’s audio/video technician submitted:

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society to co-host provincial conference

The 2012 BC Lake Stewardship Society is holding its annual conference in Silverton and New Denver from June 8-10 this year and the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) is co-hosting the event. Potential topics that may be discussed at the conference include lakes classification, lake management planning, challenges associated with stewarding large lakes, invasive species, and more.

The SLSS is encouraging local participation and all events will be open to the public. A registration fee will apply. Details will be posted on the SLSS’s website, www.slocanlakess.wordpress.com. Submitted:

Bogie to benefit the Vallican Whole

Get down and boogie with DJ Blair Altman ‘Bringing it Back to the House’ at the Vallican Whole Community Centre on Saturday, March 3, 8 pm to midnight, in support of the Vallican Whole. Blair plays House music leaning towards the Chicago and San Francisco styles – usually pretty funky, maybe a little techy, somewhat party, with a touch of hip-hop lyrics for good measure.

Bax and Chung performing “Dance” Piano Music

Bax and Chung are a dynamic and unique music on piano with four hands, commonly known as piano duets. They will be performing at the Bonnington Arts Centre at 7:30 pm. Advance tickets are available at the Bon Marche Dollar Store, or at the door.

Bax and Chung perform a delightful program of mainly Russian and Slavic music. Highlights of this uplifting program include Dvorak’s Slavonic Dances, Stravinsky’s Petrouchka, Ravel’s Mother Goose Suite, and Tchaikovsky’s Slavonic March. The real life married couple of Lucille Chung and Alessio Bax has led to one of the best piano duos of their generation. A musical love story, this powerful duo has appeared in the United Kingdom, Europe, China, Korea, Central America, USA, and Canada.

This is the fifth concert presented by the Arrow Lakes Arts Council. The participation in the conference and all events will be open to the public. A registration fee will apply. Details will be posted on the SLSS’s website, www.slocanlakess.wordpress.com. Submitted:

Boogie to benefit the Vallican Whole

Tickets will be $10 at the door. Contact Sharon Dixon at 250 226-6738 or Marcia Braundy at 250 226-7624.

One piano, four hands submitted:

On Wednesday, March 7, Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung, two great concert pianists, will be presenting a unique form of music – ‘dance’ piano music on one piano with four hands, commonly known as piano duets. They will be performing at the Bonnington Arts Centre at 7:30 pm. Advance tickets are available at the Bon Marche Dollar Store, or at the door.

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CASH FOR YOUR SILVER COINS AND OLD GOLD!
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SILVER COINS - PAID OUT AT 10 TIMES FACE VALUE!
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(Only exception Canadian 1967/68 25¢ and 10¢ x 5 PAID
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Bring in $100.00 face value of the above silver coins and leave with $1000.00

The price is based on the karat content and weight. Broken gold and used jewellery, tangled chains, silver and gold coins and bars, unwanted gold rings, bracelets, earrings, dental crowns, charm bracelets, bangles, any condition - broken or not - YES WE EVEN BUY UGLY JEWELLERY! ANYTHING KARAT GOLD! Any ROLEX or OMEGA watches, quality pocket watches, SILVER Franklin mint collectables, sterling silver cutlery and serving trays. Paul will assess your gold, test anything not stamped, weigh and quote you a price, and pay you CASH right on the spot.

WITH GOLD AND SILVER AT RECORD PRICES now is the time to cash in. You might be amazed what your unwanted gold and silver is worth $$$

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at the VALHALLA INN MOTEL, HIGHWAY 6
NEW DENVER, BC • 10:00am - 5:00pm

OKANAGAN GOLD 1-250-460-1550

THE OKANAGAN GOLD TRAVELLING ROADSHOW
Nakusp council, February 27: Fire department budget presented

by Jan McMurray

• Fire Chief Terry Warren attended to present his annual report for 2011 and the 2012 preliminary operating budget for the fire department.

The draft 2012 budget for the fire department totals $109,377. In 2011, the budget was $116,805; in 2010, it was $112,208; and in 2009, it was $133,127. The main reason for this decrease is that there is no longer any cost to operating the old fire hall in the budget. The Emergency Services Building (ESB) will have its own budget, which has not yet been drafted.

Warren said the department currently has 22 members, and four or five of them work overtime at least two weeks at a time. He said the decrease in members is directly due to lack of employment in Nakusp.

Warren reported that moving into the ESB was the biggest event in 2011, making it difficult to keep up with everything else. The department worked with the Initial Attack crew of the Ministry of Forests Fire Protection Branch to do some fuel mitigation work at the Rifle Range, particularly because of the brush fires that were set just north of the property. There were 89 incidents in 2011.

Mayor Hamling thanked Warren for all the work he has put in on the Emergency Services Building. She also pointed out that Nakusp was fortunate to have a department where training was kept up to date, and asked Warren to thank the crew for the time they take to go to training courses.

After lengthy discussion, council decided to deny the Chamber of Commerce request to hold meetings at the Emergency Services Building, at least until council receives a staff report on fees and policies for the ESB. The Chamber is looking for a wheelchair accessible meeting room.

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Legal Services Society of BC has established two “community partners” in our region to help people access legal resources. The Advocacy Centre in Nelson is one of the two partners and the Trail FAIR Society in Trail is the other.

Legal Services is hoping to create relatively local sites where people can find out about Legal Services, get access to the society’s many publications and get some orientation to the online resources produced by LSS. Two popular online resources are Clicklaw (www.clicklaw.bc.ca), for information about a variety of legal topics in BC, and Legal Service’s family law website (www.familylaw.bc.ca), which is dedicated to issues such as separation, child support, custody and the like. While anyone can access these Legal Services resources online, the Advocacy Centre and Trail FAIR stand ready to help people navigate some of these resources or provide paper copies of the publications if desired.

Legal Services still provides people with lawyers to represent them in certain circumstances,” Becky Qork of the Advocacy Centre says, “but for people with problems that do not fall within those topics where representation is provided, there are still many resources available to help those people get a better understanding of their options.”

The Advocacy Centre is generally open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 521 Vernon Street, Nelson (250-352-5777). Open hours are 10 am-noon and 1-3 pm. An advocate also staffs an office at the Castlegar Community Services building on Thursdays (1-877-352-5777). Appointments are encouraged.

The Advocacy Centre is a program of the Nelson CARES Society. The Trail Family and Individual Resource Centre Society (Trail FAIR) is also a community partner with the Legal Services Society.
MARGARET WILLIAMS 100th BIRTHDAY PARTY Friday, March 30, 2012. Edgewood Legion Community Hall. Lunchtime available between 11 am and 1 pm. Celebration and social to follow all afternoon. Edgewood Legion branch 203 to host.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN for the NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS AWARD for 2011. This award recognizes and celebrates an individual or group who has led and contributed to our community. This may include our youth, couples or individuals. Please include in your nomination as much supporting data as possible. NAKUSP@futures.bc.ca.

Awards in Nakusp and area. Nominations of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented at the gala dinner on Saturday in March. Please come out and support Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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March 7, 2012

The Valley Voice
SUITE FOR RENT

40 minutes from Nelson, Castlegar, Trail. Available. $700/month. 250-575-8867 or

YORK VILLAGE APARTMENTS

420-2101 - 960-6867

Available immediately. NS/NP/RK, quiet person. $550.00 month + util. Call 250-265-1878.

FREDKENSAK Awareness Through Movement classes: *Nakusp* *Winlaw* *Radium* *Invermere* *Castlegar* 

250-265-4523

REAL ESTATE

PROPERTY FOR SALE by owner. 2805; South Slocan 226-7705.

365-9958

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE to rent in Nelson area. Boat & RV storage available. Phone 250-265-8479.

RENTAL WANTED

WANTED – HOUSE TO RENT

2-BDRM HOUSE


For Rent

suites for rent

$750.00 month + util. Call 250-265-1878.


Bed and Breakfast in Silverton available immediately. $750.00. Seeking quiet, responsible and non-smoking tenants, Office space for rent $150.00. Call 250-385-1717.

Spacious 2-BDR APARTMENT in Silverton available immediately. $750.00. Seeking quiet, responsible and non-smoking tenants, Office space for rent $150.00. Call 250-385-1717.

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Women are active in branches of WI throughout BC, helping their members, communities, province, country and world. There are Women’s Institute branches in Edgewood and Slocan. The Edgewood-Inonaukin branch is calling for members – call 250-269-7314.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION
Kids/Teen Program
Slocan Park Hall Park Mon., March 19, 9 am-4 pm & Wed., March 21, 1-3:30 pm.
CPR/C/ AED - Slocan Park Hall Sun., March 25, 8:30 am - 3:35 pm.
Strroller - Slocan Park. Mondays, 10-30 am-11:30 am, starting March 26.
Bellyfit - Winlaw School. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, starting March 27.
Step Class - Brent Kennedy School. Thursdays, 5:10 pm-6:10 pm, starting March 29.
Mixed Soccer - Four divisions to suit kids 3.5-15. Starting mid-April to mid-June. Volunteer coaches needed. Call for information and to register now.

Slocan Valley Market
Slocan Park. Thursdays, 5:10 pm-6:10 pm, starting March 27.

Slocan Village Market
2826 Hwy 6 • Slocan Park • 250-353-2594

Men's & Ladies Clothing
305-2001

Mens & Ladies Clothing
The Clothes Hanger
400 Front St • Kaslo • 250-353-9688

Women’s Institute Week was celebrated across Canada February 19-25

CLASSIFIED ADS

Canada and BC but also to rural life.
Most women were isolated and the monthly meetings provided a social outlet, access to home and farm skills, plus a means to discuss how their communities could be improved.
The women worked to help provide amenities such as schools, hall, local libraries, travelling health nurses and dentists. The list was long and the women were persistent.

Although society today reaps the benefits of the hard work of the early pioneers, Women’s Institute does not rest on its laurels. Today, communities still benefit from the interest and work of the members. As well, groups support BC Children’s Hospital, and Queen Alexandra Centre near Victoria. In step with the provincial organization, branch members have initiated a letter writing campaign to provincial and federal governments regarding resolutions they recently passed on topics such as “no Site C dam in the Peace”, the risk to B.C. of our water supply.

BC is proudly hosting the national convention at Sidney, Vancouver Island in June, 2012 and expects hundreds of members from across Canada. In the past three years, the national body has been focused, in part, on heart health, by challenging members across Canada with ‘Us,’ recording their steps every day during 2011. The winner was Susan Dioron of PEI, and Judy Watson, member of Rock Creek WI in BC placing second. Because the winner is not able to attend the convention, Judy will receive the free registration and be honoured at the banquet.

Socially, members enjoy monthly get-togethers, which also often offer learning experiences through discussion of a variety of topics and/ or demonstrations.

Wis has also moved with the times. Check the provincial website at www.bwi.ca, the national one at www.wfcw.ca and the international at www.acw.org.uk.

Blake Robbins, a certified permaculture educator, shareholder in Mountainview Realty Ltd.

The organization at all levels is summed up in these words: ‘Women interested, informed and involved in building a better tomorrow.’

Women were persistent.

Becoming persistent.

Women’s Institute started over 100 years ago in BC as a means to provide support and help to rural women, who were new not only to building a better tomorrow.'

Blake Robbins, workshop presenter, says participants will discuss permaculture techniques on Saturday, March 24.

The rainy season in the West Kootenay that provides thousands of species of plants a year to the blossoming community garden, garden windows, the May backyard garden design. "Apply permaculture utilizing the mechanical advantage of your local environment," he says. "We will be discussing design solutions you and your community can implement today.”

During the 90-minute workshop, Robbins says participants will hear about how to divert waste streams, reduce water use, deter pests great and small, all while creating abundance and beauty in backyard gardens or expanding farms.

This informal workshop begins at 10 am. Coffee and refreshments will be available at Ellison’s Café.

Permaculture workshop offered in Nelson submitted

Blake Robbins, a certified permaculture educator, shares his winter windowsill abundance.

The Valley Voice Weekly

Women are active in branches of WI throughout BC, helping their members, communities, province, country and world. There are Women’s Institute branches in Edgewood and Slocan. The Edgewood-Inonaukin branch is calling for members – call 250-269-7314.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Canada and BC but also to rural life.
Most women were isolated and the monthly meetings provided a social outlet, access to home and farm skills, plus a means to discuss how their communities could be improved.
The women worked to help provide amenities such as schools, hall, local libraries, travelling health nurses and dentists. The list was long and the women were persistent.

Although society today reaps the benefits of the hard work of the early pioneers, Women’s Institute does not rest on its laurels. Today, communities still benefit from the interest and work of the members. As well, groups support BC Children’s Hospital, and Queen Alexandra Centre near Victoria. In step with the provincial organization, branch members have initiated a letter writing campaign to provincial and federal governments regarding resolutions they recently passed on topics such as “no Site C dam in the Peace”, the risk to B.C. of our water supply.

BC is proudly hosting the national convention at Sidney, Vancouver Island in June, 2012 and expects hundreds of members from across Canada. In the past three years, the national body has been focused, in part, on heart health, by challenging members across Canada with ‘Us,’ recording their steps every day during 2011. The winner was Susan Dioron of PEI, and Judy Watson, member of Rock Creek WI in BC placing second. Because the winner is not able to attend the convention, Judy will receive the free registration and be honoured at the banquet.

Socially, members enjoy monthly get-togethers, which also often offer learning experiences through discussion of a variety of topics and/ or demonstrations.

Wis has also moved with the times. Check the provincial website at www.bwi.ca, the national one at www.wfcw.ca and the international at www.acw.org.uk.

Blake Robbins, a certified permaculture educator, shareholder in Mountainview Realty Ltd.

The organization at all levels is summed up in these words: ‘Women interested, informed and involved in building a better tomorrow.’

Women were persistent.

Becoming persistent.

Women’s Institute started over 100 years ago in BC as a means to provide support and help to rural women, who were new not only to building a better tomorrow.’

Blake Robbins, workshop presenter, says participants will discuss permaculture techniques on Saturday, March 24.

The rainy season in the West Kootenay that provides thousands of species of plants a year to the blossoming community garden, garden windows, the May backyard garden design. "Apply permaculture utilizing the mechanical advantage of your local environment," he says. "We will be discussing design solutions you and your community can implement today.”

During the 90-minute workshop, Robbins says participants will hear about how to divert waste streams, reduce water use, deter pests great and small, all while creating abundance and beauty in backyard gardens or expanding farms.

This informal workshop begins at 10 am. Coffee and refreshments will be available at Ellison’s Café.

Permaculture workshop offered in Nelson submitted

Blake Robbins, a certified permaculture educator, shares his winter windowsill abundance.

The Valley Voice Weekly
Sixth annual North Valley Mountain Film Festival a full house

by Art Joyce

Although typically a standing-room only event, the sixth annual North Valley Mountain Film Festival was sold out to advance this year. Organizers introduced a new feature with feedback forms and a viewer's choice ballot that received 80 responses. Proceeds from the festival will support the North Slocan Trails Society.

True to the festival’s focus on local talent, from the beginning it has worked with student filmmakers at New Denver’s Lucerne school. There were two youth entries this year: Powder Dust by Quade Nicholson Chodak, a ski movie about “the gloriously beautiful shallows reminder us: You have to be able to balance his achievement with family life. Unfortunately athletes are seldom artists. Given the monumental scale of Hill’s achievement, it would have been great to see a film with a more dramatic sense of pacing and a total, professional script. But the visuals are stunning—he’s literally captured himself and Nadine Raynolds riding mountain bikes in the glorious beauty.

For the butakers the white-knuckle ride down a foaming, rocky canyon is more than just an act of bravado. Jacks is seeking to raise awareness of IPPs (microhydro projects) and their potential damage to these wild waterways. The public pushback against IPPs seems to be working, Quebec corporation AXOR has lost its electricity purchase agreement on Glacier Creek due to problems with the environmental assessment, although the company still holds a license on Cooper Creek. The East Creek descent into Duncan Lake was originally a part of the AXOR plan to link to Glacier-Hourer but was abandoned due to inaccessibility.

Unfortunately there are still microhydro licenses held on Kuskanax and St. Leon Creeks. Greg Hill provided a live commentary on his goal to ski two million vertical feet, which has taken him to the peaks of 180 mountains. It takes a special breed of athlete to be part of Hill’s team, since elevation sickness, blisters and exhaustion are all part of the equation—not to mention the considerable risk. “The bonds of trust you form with these guys is amazing; obviously I trust them with my life,” said Hill. He spoke of the additional challenge of having to capture himself and Nadine Raynolds riding mountain bikes in the glorious beauty.

help, which saved his life. “You don’t come back the same way; it’s hard to interact with the world the same way,” he said. The film took the Viewer’s Choice award.

Gary Parkstrom’s film Songlines captured himself and Nadine Raynolds riding mountain bikes in the glorious beauty.

towards the visual beauty.

Close-ups of sunlight reflecting in the shallows remind us: You have to be able to balance his achievement with family life. Unfortunately athletes are seldom artists. Given the monumental scale of Hill’s achievement, it would have been great to see a film with a more dramatic sense of pacing and a total, professional script. But the visuals are stunning—he’s literally captured himself and Nadine Raynolds riding mountain bikes in the glorious beauty.

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The team under Executive Chef Tyler Leeson is expanding and is looking for a motivated LINE COOK to join the team.

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Please send your resume to the attention of: Executive Chef Tyler Leeson

Tyler@halcyon-hotsprings.com

Or call 1-888-689-4699 ext. 118

Mt. Revelstoke offers a number of trails through the forest on the way to the summit, including the 9 km long easy-to-medium McCallum Lake Loop, which is a nice introduction to mountain biking in the Revelstoke area. The 10 km Marmot Pass Loop is a bit more challenging, with elevation gain of about 300 m on a 15 km round trip. There are also shorter options available for exploring the area.

The Chordel Pass Loop is a 10 km round trip that takes you through a forested area with some nice open views of the surrounding mountains. The trail is well marked and easy to follow, with some nice views of the Selkirk Mountains and the Columbia River. The Chordel Pass Loop is a great option for families or those new to mountain biking, as it is relatively flat and smooth. The trail is well maintained and easy to follow, with some nice views of the surrounding mountains.

The Canadian parks service offers a number of guided mountain biking tours in the Revelstoke area, including guided trails for beginners and advanced riders. The guided tours are a great way to learn more about the area and get some tips from a local guide. The guided tours are available year-round, with some options for winter riding on snow-covered trails.

For more information on mountain biking in Revelstoke, please visit the Revelstoke Mountain Bike Festival website at rmbfestival.com.