FWCP reps present plan for Lower Duncan River Conservation Properties

by Jan McMurray

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program’s John Krebs made his final appearance in Meadow Creek as FWCP crew lead and senior wildlife biologist on March 14. He was there to present the draft five-year management plan for the Lower Duncan River Conservation Properties.

Krebs told residents that the management plan would be completed by March 23 – which is the last day of work for all seven employees of the Columbia region’s Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). FWCP staff has been laid off as a result of a government review that recommended cutting 1,200 BC Hydro jobs. A new program manager, Kevin Megale, has been hired and will be the only FWCP employee in the Columbia region going forward. Megale was in attendance at the Meadow Creek meeting.

“There are a fair number of changes going on inside our program, but the commitment is still there to fund and deliver the program,” said Krebs. “It will be a different approach – there will be less people available to champion the projects – so it elevates the importance of getting this plan done and getting your input on it. It’s a good plan, it will help to deliver it in an effective way.”

A member of the public said local residents had gotten to know the FWCP team over the years, and wondered, “Where do we go from here?”

Krebs replied that new FWCP Program Manager Kevin Megale would be the community’s ‘point of contact after March 23. Megale said, “I can’t do the job of John and his crew, but I will do my best,” Krebs added, “We hope there will still be some contractor support. It won’t be as big and comprehensive as it has been.”

Krebs also emphasized the importance of the local advisory committee. “It’s necessary to continue having an ad hoc or formal advisory committee because it helps us to be effective on the ground. It’s needed to continue effective implementation.”

Krebs explained that the old 1999 management plan for the conservation properties is being re-vamped because additional properties have been purchased, and because there is a need to clarify conservation and human use goals within the properties. The management plan is for the 11 properties co-managed by FWCP and The Nature Trust (TNT) in the lower Duncan River Valley.

The plan identifies eight biodiversity targets for conservation, severalthreats to those targets, and actions to address the threats. The eight targets are: forested ecosystems, non-forested ecosystems, elk, grizzly bear, waterfowl, Bobolink, painted turtle and kokanee. The threats are: invasive plants, motorized use, human-wildlife interaction, water flow/level management, wildfire and disturbance, agricultural land management, mosquito control and knowledge gaps. Some of the actions described in the plan include invasive plant treatments, riparian habitat restoration, access management (gates and signage), and mowing and mowing on parts of the agricultural lands.

At highest risk are non-forest habitats and the painted turtle, and at medium risk are grizzly bears, Bobolink and forest habitat. The most significant threats were considered to be from invasive plants and unmanned motorized access.

Krebs said there were issues with the agricultural use of the lands and the area’s mosquito control program. He said the use of the conservation lands for agriculture will be supported where it relates to conservation goals only. “We won’t pursue agriculture for agricultural purposes,” he said, adding that the haying subsidy will be phased out. “We are happy to provide the opportunity [to hay on the lands] where it matches conservation goals, but we are not going to be able to pay to have that done,” he said.

As for mosquito control, Krebs said it would be supported if it was being done for health and safety reasons, but not for nuisance purposes. He explained that The Nature Trust requires an Integrated Pest Management Plan before spraying can be done on conservation lands. A resident said the mosquito problem in the Larder Lake goes beyond a nuisance problem, and said a study done this year found a large number of species that are carriers of West Nile virus. Rob Neil from TNT replied, “If a public health officer determines there is a West Nile virus threat, we want to do something about it because human health is pre-eminent. Mowing might be effective as well – there are other options we want to pursue before we get into larvicide application.”

The 2012/13 budget for the Lower Duncan River Conservation Properties has been approved for $41,500, a small increase from last year. It is broken down this way: invasive plants ($13,500); access management ($3,000); habitat restoration ($13,500); prescriptions ($10,000). Krebs said The Nature Trust is asking Columbia Basin Trust to supplement the budget.

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program compensates for the impacts to fish, wildlife and their supporting habitats affected by BC Hydro’s generation facilities. The FWCP is delivered through a partnership that includes BC Hydro, the Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Mungall grieves loss of Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

Cranbrook MLA Michelle Mungall spoke in the legislature last Wednesday about the gaping hole left by FWCP and The Nature Trust (TNT) in the Lower Duncan River Conservation Properties co-managed with BC Hydro.

Mungall grieved about the loss of seven jobs and the plan that had been approved by government and the public for the protection and remediation of non-forested ecosystems, elk, grizzly bear, waterfowl, Bobolink, painted turtle and kokanee. The threats are: invasive plants, motorized use, human-wildlife interaction, water flow/level management, wildfire and disturbance, agricultural land management, mosquito control and knowledge gaps.

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Mungall grieves loss of Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program submitted

Recognizing that this week will see the staff of BC Hydro’s Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) leaving their Nelson and Cranbrook offices, MLA Michelle Mungall spoke in the legislature last Wednesday about the gaping hole that the loss of these seven jobs will leave in the Kootenays. Decades long experience and knowledge in wildlife protection and remediation of BC Hydro dams’ effects on fish and wildlife in the region will be lost.

“When so many species, including the endangered northern leopard frog found in the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, have benefited from this program over the years. After cutting the program, the Liberal government has no plan in place on how to continue work that is legally mandated through the licenses BC Hydro holds,” says Mungall.

Twice last fall, Mungall asked the minister responsible for BC Hydro to immediately rescind cuts to the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. She noted that FWCP biologists provide substantial benefit, not only to the restoration and conservation of species habitat, but also to research, education and communication in the region.

Cutting the FWCP was done without public consultations. BC Hydro has not developed a plan on how the work will continue past March 31, nor are they now conducting community engagement with the public as implied by Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett in a statement he made in the legislature.

Visit www.michellemungall.ca to view the original letter and video transcript from her request of the minister.

“Too many times have the Kootenays been blindsided by distant decisions on the electrical generation capacity of our region. Too many times has our natural environment been the casualty,” said Mungall in her statement, “The fish, the wildlife, the people of the Kootenays deserve better. We deserve the expertise of the fish and wildlife compensation program.”
Kootenay Rockies Tourism reaches out to local communities

**by Jan McMurray**

Kootenay Rockies Tourism (KRT) representatives are touring the region, making presentations to Village councils, Chambers of Commerce and other local tourism stakeholders. KRT’s Wendy Van Puymbroek and Emilie Cochrane have been to Silverton and Nakusp, and are scheduled for Kaslo next week.

KRT was established in 1978 to deliver marketing programs in the southeast corner of BC, and operates out of Kimberley. Its mandate is “to enhance the regional visitor economy for the benefit of businesses and communities through the delivery of destination marketing initiatives and the facilitation of connected travel.”

Canada’s tourism marketing structure was illustrated in the presentation with the Canadian Tourism Commission on top, Tourism British Columbia underneath them, followed by Kootenay Rockies Tourism, which works with communities, as well as tourism businesses and consortiums. Van Puymbroek said the Canadian Tourism Commission’s objective is to bring visitors from all over the world to Canada, while Tourism BC’s objective is to bring those visitors to BC, and KRT’s objective is to bring them to the Kootenay Rockies. “The key message here is that we are talking to each other and working together to enhance tourism,” said Van Puymbroek.

Tourism in Canada is worth $73.4 billion, and is responsible for 395,000 jobs or nine percent of total employment in the country. On a national level, this is equivalent to agriculture, forestry and fishing combined. In BC, the value of tourism is $13.4 billion, and is responsible for 127,000 jobs (one in 15).

The Kootenay Rockies region brings in $1.3 billion in tourism, which is ten percent of BC’s total tourism dollars.

Van Puymbroek said Kootenay Rockies region’s high percentage is due to the high cost of tourism products we have here, such as cat skiing and heli skiing.

Looking at accommodation revenues, the Kootenay Rockies region brings in six percent of BC’s total income from the accommodation industry, while the coast brings in 57 percent, the Islands 15 percent, the Okanagan 13 percent, the North 8 percent and the Cariboo one percent.

A graph showing Kootenay Rockies room revenues from 2000 to 2010 shows a steady increase, a spike in 2007 and 2008, and a decline in 2009.

Room revenues from 2000 to 2010

vanpuymbroek said that the economy slowed down, leveling out in 2010. “We are hearing they have done well in 2011,” Van Puymbroek said. “There are signs the tourism economy is picking up.”

The majority of visitors to the Kootenay Rockies region are Albertans (66.2 percent), followed by other British Columbians (28.2 percent), people from the Prairies (4.25 percent) and visitors from other countries (2.3 percent). In contrast, in other regions of the province, the majority of visitors come from British Columbia. Van Puymbroek said marketing strategies have been done in an attempt to attract the targeted market, like to capture the Alberta market, “so we will have some stiff competition.”

Approximately seven percent of our tourism business is from overseas and 15 percent is from the US.

Funding programs offered by KRT are mostly cost shared (50-50). The Tourism Partners Program offers 50 percent of advertising costs. Under this program, planning sessions take place and she receives about five calls per month about this program and advises them to read about the program and contact the program manager Tim O’Doherty for more details specific to their business situation.

The Delivery of Benefits program is made up of several programs – the Community Initiatives program being “probably the longest and most successful” one, she said. She indicated that Nakusp’s voting process is an exemplary way of adjudicating these grant applications.

A newer program is the Community Directed Youth Funds program, which provides $100,000 over four years. Lafleur noted that Parkour (PK) Nakusp was working on an application under this program as they are interested in developing a youth activity centre in Nakusp.

She said there had been some confusion, and wanted to clarify that successful applicants to this program are still eligible to apply to CBT in other program areas.

The Community Development Program is “an open and flexible program” and allows communities to contact her to determine the eligibility of their projects. Applications for the small grant program (up to $10,000) and the large grant program ($10,000 and up) are posted on a web forum so that CBT advisory committee members can provide their input. Nakusp projects that have been funded are drawn up that must be approved by the Community Tourism Foundation or consortium, and a business plan is required.

“to find the marketing mix that works” for a particular community, business or consortium, and a business plan is drawn up that must be approved by Tourism BC.

Community programs include the Community Tourism Foundation Program (CTF) and the Tourism Partners Program. The CTF is designed to assist communities to develop a tourism plan, and the Community Tourism Opportunities Program, where projects are undertook to implement the tourism strategy, the cost to the community for the development of the tourism plan, whereas the implementation projects are cost shared 50-50.

KRT also attends many tourism shows worldwide with Tourism BC, and has media relations representatives who write articles to promote tourism in the region. In 2010, 1,000 articles were written, with an estimated value of almost $5 million. Van Puymbroek said that these journalists will come to communities to write articles about them if the communities host them at no charge. KRT also produces nine print publications, which can also be accessed online.

The Kootenay Rockies travel app, easy to download onto any mobile device, has 1,200 pages of information about all communities in the region. Local businesses can contact KRT to get a listing on this online marketing tool.

The KRT website is well worth a visit: www.krtourism.ca.
Citizens for Safe Technology will appeal BCUC decision on smart meters
by Jan McMurray

The Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) have announced that they will appeal the BC Utilities Commission’s decision to dismiss their complaint about smart meters, filed on their behalf last December by Nelson lawyer David Aaron.

“While it is disappointing that the BC Utilities Commission, once our public protectorate, does not feel this is a serious issue, it must be noted that thousands of British Columbians disagree,” states a press release issued by the CST and Coalition to Stop Smart Meters shortly after the BCUC made its decision. “In fact, the Union of BC Municipalities has now been joined by 34 individual municipalities voting to uphold democracy, calling for a moratorium and/or opt-out choice for those who oppose the current process of smart meter deployment. There are multiple transgressions to democratic process, civil and human rights, and the public has the right to know given the risks to everyone and our environment.”

In the complaint, the CST argued that BC Hydro must seek BCUC approval for the smart metering system it has chosen because of its wireless and domestic interface capabilities. They argue that these two capabilities are outside the scope of the Clean Energy Act.

The CST’s position is that BC Hydro does not have to install a wireless system to meet the requirements of the legislation. They point out that that hard-wired options are available and being used in other jurisdictions.

BC Hydro’s response to this was that the legislation does not specify the type of equipment to be used for the smart metering system, and that the legislature gave BC Hydro the authority to decide on the equipment needed to meet the requirements of the legislation.

The BC Utilities Commission found that “there is insufficient evidence to substantiate the Complainants’ argument that the legislation intended BC Hydro to use a specific type of equipment, wired or wireless, to fulfill its obligations.”

Similarly, the commission found that the domestic interface capability enabled by the Zigbee Radio Chip in the smart meters chosen by BC Hydro is not beyond the scope of the legislation, but rather meets the requirement of the legislation for BC Hydro to install a system with the ability to communicate with an “in-home feedback device.” The in-home feedback device tells people how much electricity they are using at any given time.

HEAVY DAMAGE to lakes most often results from incremental modifications and gradual shifts in land use. This silent “Cumulative Effect” is the single greatest threat to the long-term health and beauty of Slocan Lake.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
SlocanLake5S.wordpress.com

March 21, 2012 The Valley Voice

March 21, 2012

The Province is focusing on economic development with the BC Jobs Plan, and is reaching out to communities in our area to get on board.


“My job is to work with partners to attract investment to the region,” she said. “We support the building of infrastructure, you don’t have to – you just have to make sure we’ve got all your information. Not that hard-wired options are available and being used in other jurisdictions.

The main conclusion of the first roundtable was that the Canadian health system is not for sale and under no circumstances should Canada sign a free trade agreement at the expense of our public system.

“The federal Conservative government has not demanded a Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).”

The federal NDP is holding a roundtable series around the eight key sectors – forestry, mining, natural gas, agriculture, food, technology, tourism, and community development goals and priorities? Where is your capacity? Who have investors – having land available, for example.”

She encouraged Kaslo to assess its business and investment readiness and capacity. “What are your economic and community development goals and priorities? Where is your capacity? Who are your partners? Is there an economic synergy/Corridor? You are strong on tourism. You have tourism partners. We should profile you and your partners as a corridor,” she said.

Brooks explained that the BC Jobs Plan is built around the eight key sectors that drive export growth in the province: forestry, mining, natural gas, agriculture, food, technology, tourism, international education, and transportation. “I want to identify with Kaslo which of these eight you want to work on,” she said. “I can’t focus on all eight – we want quality, not quantity. I have key in on bioenergy, light manufacturing and international

NPD concerned about CETA’s impact on health care

Submitted

The federal NPD is holding a series of roundtables on the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union. The goal of the discussions is “to make up for the lack of debate in the House of Commons on the agreement.”

The main conclusion of the first roundtable was that the Canadian health system is not for sale and under no circumstances should Canada sign a free trade agreement at the expense of our public system.

“The federal Conservative government has not demanded a clear, straightforward exemption for health as they are negotiating this agreement. At the roundtable, we were told that the European Union is trying to pressure Canada to require provinces to negotiate specific exemptions for health. This is contrary to the fundamental principles of the Canada Health Act as outlined by Roy Romanow,” stated BC Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko.

According to Atamanenko, other concerns with CETA involve deregulation, generic drugs and the effect of CETA on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Similarly, the commission found that the domestic interface capability enabled by the Zigbee Radio Chip in the smart meters chosen by BC Hydro is not beyond the scope of the legislation, but rather meets the requirement of the legislation for BC Hydro to install a system with the ability to communicate with an “in-home feedback device.” The in-home feedback device tells people how much electricity they are using at any given time.

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Federal Fisheries Act gutted

Stephen Harper’s government has been massively eliminating federal scientific staff, muzzling them, purging the enforcement of environmental laws, and rewriting laws to gut them of any effectiveness. While lying to the Canadian people about the impacts of environmental destruction and pollution, the government has been lobbing verbal grenades at environmentalists, labeling them as eco-extremists and threatening the staff of environmental charities just for opposing the Enbridge pipeline and strip mining the tar sands.

Now, without public consultation, the government is secretly preparing to gut the Fisheries Act of its habitat protection. This information comes from secret documents leaked to a respected federal fisheries biologist, Mr. Otto Langer, who publicly released them on March 12. See http://thecanadian.org/component/32/itemlist/user/78-ottolanger.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) had already been greatly reduced to serving corporate agendas. It was successfully sued by environmental groups for violating the Environmental Assessment Act in the case of the Red Chris Mine. More recently, it has come under intense fire from environmentalists for suppressing information about the role of fish farms in spreading viruses that are killing salmon.

“Fish habitat is a major issue in Canada’s biggest environmental controversy, the tar sands and the Enbridge pipeline,” says Anne Sherrod, a director of Valhalla Wilderness Society, New Denver. “We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

The government’s ransacking of protection agencies and laws is placing paramount at the foundation of Canada’s environmental health and the survival of future generations. Every concerned Canadian should write the federal government immediately and protest this outrage.”

Valhalla Wilderness Society 
New Denver

Galena-Shelter crossing needs a tunnel

I would like to heartily thank Brian Barney for his letter to the Valley Voice urging the BACA (Beaton Arm Crossing Association) to get in touch with the “engineering wizards” and “design and construction geniuses” that conceived of, organized the construction of, and forged into reality THE BURTON TUNNEL. It is Brian Barney’s stance that the planners and builders of the Burton Tunnel might be valuable consultants in the event that the BACA is capable of “thinking outside the box” in its endeavours to create a direct route from Shelter Bay to Galena Bay.

In short, Brian Barney suggests that a tunnel may well be the best solution. He is absolutely correct! As original (and still full-time) Burton Tunnel Liaison Officer and creator of the Burton Tunnel Support Association, and chairman of the first Burton Tunnel ad hoc Shovel Selection Committee, I can confidently state that with cohesive community support and unbridled enthusiasm, a tunnel could indeed be constructed connecting Galena Bay to Shelter Bay (and vice versa). The Burton Tunnel is now a little more than 17 years old. In the January 20, 1995 issue of The Valley Voice, we announced the completion of the tunnel and our intention to construct a spur line to the Kerguelen Islands (relatively close to New Denver’s antipodal point). We’re still DEEPLY involved in that project.

I am hoping that a tunnel from Galena Bay to Shelter Bay will soon be emerging as a distinct possibility, thanks to Brian Barney.

Andrew Rhodes
New Denver

Disappointed in the NDP

Alex Atamanenko, MP, I’m writing to express my complete disappointment that your party appears to be capitulating to the Conservatives by going along with their promise to give Elections Canada more power in six months! Is your party made up of fools?

What’s more, you are basically demonstrating your intention to construct a spur line to the Kerguelen Islands (relatively close to New Denver’s antipodal point). We’re still DEEPLY involved in that project.

I am hoping that a tunnel from Galena Bay to Shelter Bay will soon be emerging as a distinct possibility, thanks to Brian Barney.

Andrew Rhodes
New Denver

The NDP should be relentlessly fighting for the people. You may not win those byelections. You may not win those things, but by fighting for them your party would be winning over the mass of Canadian voters by not taking a firm stand. You should be demanding Mr. Harper make the changes NOW! What’s more, you should be going out of your way to demand they cooperate fully with any investigation, demanding a public inquiry to find out who is responsible for the suppression, and advocating ferociously for by-elections. You may not win those things, but by fighting for them your party would be winning over the people.

What your party appears to be doing right now is wafting. And that is not going to serve your party or the country well at all!

Will Webster
New Denver

Editorial / Letters Policy

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

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

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

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake. Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

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Make education a priority

I would like to respond to E. de Boer's letter, "Hurray for teachers," and I would like to commend her for her support of teachers and students alike, as well as her concerns about the government’s position on such issues. My experience as a teacher and special needs student support.

I am a retired teacher who taught for 34 years in Alberta. I don’t believe there is a vast difference between the Alberta situation and BC’s predicament.

Conflicts, it seems, always revolve around money. I am in favour of inclusive education, provided that proper support is provided.

In my experience there have always been students who came to school hungry, not properly dressed and often with very little support from the home.

Where I disagree with E. de Boer is that an education can be measured in letters and figures she quoted. It is correct that 40 percent of the population is functionally illiterate. Let’s define that term: "Having reading and writing skills insufficient for practical ordinary needs." This means that 40 percent of the population does not have a college degree, but not an adequate level to say fill out forms, including tax returns (who can’t?), possibly job applications, etc.

Research has found that 12 percent of the Canadian population is totally illiterate, meaning that they can not recognize letters of the alphabet, road signs, read menus, etc. We have to keep in mind though that we also have a large percentage of new immigrants as well as older immigrants who never learned a language other than their own.

My second exception is to the statement that discipline has been abolished. This simply is not true. Now, if E. de Boer implies that there is no discipline, then she is correct. Teachers, fortunately, do not spank or administer the strap like they did in her and my younger days, “Don’t you just Johnny, stop that?” This does NOT mean that students are not held accountable for their actions, they certainly are.

Third, why is there such an increase in ‘problem’ children? There are several reasons in my opinion and experience. There are a lot more chemicals in our food and environment than there were 20 or 30 years ago. Many of these chemicals have been linked to an increase in ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and many others. More and more families are struggling to make ends meet and don’t have the energy or will to help their children with homework. Low wages is one of many factors.

Governments and others demand perfection of both students and teachers and want schools rated on these (Fraser Institute, for example). Teachers do a lot more than teaching subjects, they have become surrogate parents, counsellors, confidantes etc. Could schools do a better job? Absolutely! However, it is going to take a commitment, by everyone, including governments, to make education a priority. How? We, the people, have to demand it. Remember, we are the employer, the government is our employee!

Hans Sparreboom

Response to Eric Faulks ‘Against a fixed link’

I am appalled by your obvious disgust of the “Nakusp businesspeople and their Village Council.” Unless you are a career criminal, your food and shelter is paid for with income from a business, or from a public sector job that is paid from taxes on business and/or the taxes that you collect, social support/retirement that is paid from taxes on business and their employees. These businesses work long hours and weekends to create the real value before it can be taxed; your income cannot come from thin air. If you over-tax businesses, you get recession. If you drive them out, you may end up in China and you have world economic crisis.

The “sticky, dangerous” trucks are about 10 times less polluting than they were 20 years ago. Zn emission technologies are being developed and are improving dramatically (thanks to innovative businesses), and will likely be the standard within 20 years from now. I am not happy with how some of the vehicles are operated, but this is a matter of proper incentives to the drivers. You can’t control the vehicles.

Many drivers race the road to catch the ferry; the fixed link will remove that excuse for speeding.

Now, when we call a truck to deliver products to the west or the east, they cannot go to Revelstoke to re-load. They have to go south via Hills, re-load in Castlegar before reaching Hwy 1 again, which uses tons of extra fuel, costs more, and it takes an extra day to get there.

With a fixed link, the overall traffic will not increase but decrease, as the infrastructure will gain significant optimization throughout the region by shortening the distances. You cannot do this by creating obstacles to the traffic.

Presently, during a wait of one or more hours on each side of the ferry crossing, many drivers do not refine their vehicles to keep warm most of the year, adding hugely to the pollution, time lost, expenses – from which there is less gasoline than for Climate Change. Also, less tax to pay for your income, whatever your income is.

The now proposed new ferry will eliminate one ferry from the operation, so traffic will depend on just one ferry that may break down, and will need regular maintenance. On top of it all, the new ferry will limit traffic because of the dangerous current. Several times I have had to return and go via Hills instead, so I don’t even bother using the ferry, and I go via Hills each time I need to get back to Revelstoke after realizing they would not make it on time with an extra one-three-hour wait each direction. The new ferry does not even bother to visit Halkcyon – this 65-km trip takes so long they are unable to come for an evening bath.

The fixed link cost is significant – the taxpayers is paid by the taxpayers. It creates pollution, idling its huge engine at the loading ramps about 20 minutes each hour, and it has disturbed and killed the fish. The ferry causes accumulation of traffic, and when discharged, slow vehicles slow down all traffic, causing increased pollution and sometimes unsafe passing.

By my calculations, the whole fixed link can be built for much less money than is now being presented, and I offered to volunteer my engineering and organizational knowledge to this cause.

Vladimir Stuchlik, P. Eng.

Closing of Canada’s High Arctic research station

Recently we learned that our country’s northernmost research laboratory is shutting down due to lack of funding. Harper’s got loads of cash for new prisons we don’t need, but can’t keep a crucial lab up and running doing exceedingly valuable scientific research that’s important to all Canadians.

The Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) in Eureka, Nunavut, which made key measurements last winter used to detect and analyze the largest ozone hole ever found over the Arctic, will cease year-round operations on April 30.

The station has been tracking ozone depletion, air quality and climate change since it opened its doors in 1969 while on a paddling trip down the Athabasca River, we stopped by the then experimental tar sand extraction plant called GCOS, near Fort McMurray, Alberta. If I’d have guessed then what a gigantic, environmentally destructive operation that place would turn into, we should have stayed and barricaded them right then and there. Hundreds of thousands of acres of boreal forest gone, dozens of creeks destroyed, the Athabasca River poisoned eventually all the way to the Arctic Ocean through the Slave-Mackenzie river system, the atmosphere polluted halfway around the globe, etc.

Reasons enough to stop any expansion of this juggernaut, which is financially so addictive to various levels of government and to many corporations. The scale of this operation is already so stupendous and the consequences so horrendous for present and future generations, even more so if expansion of tar sand mining is going ahead as planned.

We need to stop this oil / money gravy train. We can’t afford to allow the growth of this operation, and assess its true costs and impacts to human, environmental and yes, economical health of this nation, not just for this moment, but for generations to come. It is easy for you politicians to promise jobs, balanced budgets, health care and secure pensions, including your own platinum plated ones, with this idea of continual expansion.

But, with the steady expansion of tar sand operations on the planet comes the forever more massive detrimental impact on the globe. The one thing we should be doing is scaling back. Presently, the climate NOW is to further the exploration and utilization of alternative energy sources, like solar, wind, geothermal, wave, etc. not subsidize oil, coal and gas industries. This would be a courageous act to pursue.

Henry Hutter

Mt. Sentinel students walk out in support of teachers

We, as students, walked out of school on behalf of both our teachers and our future, on March 2. My friend Riana and I have both been told that we need to do more, not only for the school as a whole, need sufficient funding for several things, including the arts department, and physical and visual arts. It’s not only the arts departments that are experiencing difficulties due to lack of funding, however. The rest of our academic courses seem to have fairly unbalanced funding, with some having less than a dollar a student, and others having substantially higher amounts.

We also feel that legislation against the teachers forbidding them to strike is more than a little unfair, and is essentially removing their right to make the necessary movements to make change for the better. Continuing on the subject of legislation, we as students would like to see legislation put into place for a law on class size. Where there are over-crowded classrooms, there are students who are not getting the help they need and learning problems are not being noticed. We want schools where everyone can learn to the best of their abilities, where we can get the amount of supplies we need to learn with, and for everyone to have an attitude of being respectful.

All we are asking for is a better future for our teachers and our fellow students, all over our province, and across our country. The bright future of BC could be dimmed if the leaders of tomorrow don’t get the education they need today. Fund our Future, because the world is watching this.

R. Stella Skeete and Sylvan Gourey

Open letter to Prime Minister

Stephen Harper

In 1969 while on a paddling trip down the Athabasca River, we stopped by the then experimental tar sand extraction plant called GCOS, near Fort McMurray, Alberta. If I’d have guessed then what a gigantic, environmentally destructive operation that place would turn into, we should have stayed and barricaded them right then and there. Hundreds of thousands of acres of boreal forest gone, dozens of creeks destroyed, the Athabasca River poisoned eventually all the way to the Arctic Ocean through the Slave-Mackenzie river system, the atmosphere polluted halfway around the globe, etc.

Reasons enough to stop any expansion of this juggernaut, which is financially so addictive to various levels of government and to many corporations. The scale of this operation is already so stupendous and the consequences so horrendous for present and future generations, even more so if expansion of tar sand mining is going ahead as planned.

We need to stop this oil / money gravy train. We can’t afford to allow the growth of this operation, and assess its true costs and impacts to human, environmental and yes, economical health of this nation, not just for
Thanks to Kip Drobish

Thanks to Kip Drobish for his letter in the March 14 issue of The Valley Voice. I appreciate his business, which needs all of our support, but told us the reason why BC Hydro is being forced to do the things it is doing. People who live off the grid near Edgewood for six years. We have a 1.6-kW system and it costs us approximately $200/year for our generator when the valley cloud prohibits us from topping our batteries.

The ideal system, in my view, would be a grid tie system of 2.0 kW or greater. I sold solar components from the early ‘90s, but for the past five years have watched the steady decline in the real cost of the technology.

As Kip says, if BC Hydro and this Liberal government were serious about energy self-reliance, then they need to do what they want to use for Site C and put it toward renewables. It would not only produce energy self-reliance, but would promote the employment of anyone who wanted to work – carpenters, electricians, plumbers, college students, researchers, electrical engineers, etc. It could also result in production facilities right here in BC, but we must not fall into the trap of mega projects like Kimberrly is presently engaged in. ‘Small is beautiful’ when it comes to solar. It is better utilized where it is produced. Bravo Kip for keeping us well informed.

Leon R. Pendleton

Edgewood

Addressing concerns about smart meters

The rally in Trail against potential smart meter installation in the FortisBC area was a great success, with 50 plus people bringing the awful roads and weather that day to get there. We gave the town a nice little ‘high’ that comes with gatherings of that type, and townspeople walking around greeted us with a “Thanks!” There didn’t seem to be any opposition, probably because this issue seems to be wrong on many counts, especially, for most people, the cost and privacy issues. (Also, it could hardly be called environmentally friendly to take out all of our fully functioning meters, and replace them with meters that don’t last as long.)

But, to be sure, we would really love to feel that what is ‘newer’ is better, that those new things have been looked into conscientiously by the latest and best in technology. Unfortunately, we know that this is not always necessarily so.

My wife and I think that can be made for sure at this time to help understand the potential impact of the meter is contained in the following remark by Dr. Daniel Hirsch, the nuclear scientist who was asked in January 2011 to review the report on ‘smart meters’ prepared by the California Council on Science and Technology. He concluded that: “... the cumulative whole body exposure from a Smart Meter at three feet appears to be approximately two orders of magnitude higher than that of a cell phone, rather than two orders of magnitude lower.”

A smart meter, which could become the new hydro meter on your outside wall, unlike your cell phone, however, cannot be turned off at night while you sleep. If you have a cell phone and are used to keeping it on all night, why not try turning it off for a few weeks and see if you notice that you sleep better.

The WHO standards are based on what causes cancer (i.e. what is carcinogenic). Regarding the various categories, Group 1 is ‘definitely’ carcinogenic (e.g. radium, benzene, asbestos). Group 2A will ‘probably’ cause cancer (androgenic steroids, lead compounds). Lead is in group 2B. Group 2B contains ‘possible’ cause cancer (Lead is a ‘poison’ – in other words, it kills you before you get cancer.) In this group 2B also now is ‘radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as those generated by such as, but not limited to, those associated with wireless phones.”

This information comes from WHO as of March 2, 2012.

We know that these hundreds of items in these categories will change often, typically becoming updated as new scientific research and industry permits. These categories are of course extremely important, as what comes with the different groups is law and regulations based on them. The trick is to catch it as early as possible with the regulations, before the toxin is so entrenched in either our communities or our personal habits, after which removal / deletion becomes prohibitively costly and/or complex (like finding an alternative to an out-of-control addiction or having to take out our sewer pipes).

Regarding European smart meters – they are no doubt like ours, and unless they are wired in, they will be causing health problems. I know that in the schools in France, they are taking out WiFi and wiring in their internet. There are strict rules for use on public transit, etc. which we don’t have.

This awareness results in key differences to be exemplified, for example, in Sweden, hyper-electric sensitivity (EHS) is classed as a disability if it means the person can’t work anymore, etc. The reason for this is that the awareness is important and knowing explicitly what these fields can do and are doing to people’s health means it makes me glad that we haven’t had them implemented in our area so far. Here, let us continue learning and sharing our efforts at understanding this complex issue.

If you download the podcasts from Suzie Hamilton’s radio show ‘Eco-Centric’ January 31 and February 21, all these issues are covered, including comments from our MP. To be sure, when wireless technology started to explode, no one suspected there would be problems, not even the scientists. There didn’t seem to be the need for any insurance, and the time it was abundantly clear that there were serious problems, there were upwards of a billion users...

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**Slocan council, March 12: Slocan Lake Stewardship Society requests funding**

by Veronika Pellowski

- Council received a presentation from Richard Johnson on behalf of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. The society has completed water studies and forest and wildlife habitat assessment studies identifying threats and protective measures that were made available to council. Area R RDCK Director Walter Popoff has committed $5,000 towards the society’s proposed $30,000 project to develop the information and prepare a preliminary study and business plan for lake management. The society has applied to CBT for a discretionary grant of $300 towards conference costs.
- Richard Johnson also updated council on projects initiated by the Slocan Solutions Society. He brought along a boat washing station to show councilors – the station needs a gravel bed (10 feet x 20 feet), water and power. Council has not yet decided where the station will go.
- Irene Manley of BC Hydro’s Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program presented results of a multi-year study of western osseaux in the West Kootenay. One pair of this endangered species has been observed in and near Slocan. Manley recommended council support a wildlife habitat designation.
- The Slocan Lake Heritage Trail Society has received word that Joy Kogawa, author of Obasan, will be taking part in the June 16 dedication ceremony of the new Japanese-Canadian internment heritage signage the society is having made for the Popoff and Lemon Creek internment sites. 2012 marks the 70th anniversary of the internment of Japanese-Canadians in the area.
- Spring Clean-Up Week starts May 14. Information about acceptable items can be obtained from the Village office. Residents are asked to recycle their recyclable items and accommodate all levels in the board Subscriptions.

**Slocan Valley valley soccer season almost here**

**submitted**

The snow will soon be gone and the Slocan Valley mixed soccer league will be up and running. The season typically runs from mid-April to mid-June and has four divisions: Micros – 3 1/2 to 5, Pee Wee - 6 to 8, Elementary – 9 to 10 and Bantam – 11 to 14. Now is the time to register, as there are no guaranteed spots on teams beyond April 1.

Slocan Valley Recreation is working to coordinate opportunities for the older divisions to play against the headlines full of threats pressing in on our democracy all over the Western world. It’s no wonder people are concerned about how best to articulate their views on the stresses and strains our society is experiencing.”

The Convergence Writers’ Retreat recently received a $1,000 award from the RDCK’s Community Development Fund. Other support has come from the Columbia Basin Trust and Heart’s Rest Retreat Centre. Registration, scholarship application, and information are available at www.convergence-writers-retreat.org.

The first of five youth scholarships for the Convergence Writers’ Retreat in New Denver has been awarded to a young woman from Creston. Kristin Cook, a student at College of the Rockies, was also given a gift certificate from Jennie’s Book Garden (Winlaw) for being one of the first 10 registrants to the retreat. The scholarship, open to registrants between the ages of 18 and 30, was awarded by the organizing committee and covers the $50 per player. If financial assistance is required, please call to discuss possible funding options. All calls are confidential.

**First youth scholarship awarded for writers’ retreat in New Denver**

**submitted**

The snow will soon be gone and the Slocan Valley mixed soccer league will be up and running. The season typically runs from mid-April to mid-June and has four divisions: Micros – 3 1/2 to 5, Pee Wee - 6 to 8, Elementary – 9 to 10 and Bantam – 11 to 14. Now is the time to register, as there are no guaranteed spots on teams beyond April 1.

Slocan Valley Recreation is working to coordinate opportunities for the older divisions to play against teams from Nakusp and Kaslo. Volunteer coaches and referees for all levels are needed and volunteers can have up to two family members play for free. Training and support will be available to those without experience.

**Art by Bryn Stevenson featured at Cedar Creek Café**

Local artist Bryn Stevenson’s current exhibition at the Cedar Creek Café runs until April 16 and features new oil paintings inspired by a summer of backpacking throughout the Columbia Basin.

Stevenson’s work demonstrates his awe and fascination with mountains, and the relationship between light and colour. With his oil paintings receive growing regional acclaim, Bryn is also emerging as a talented mural artist. He has been commissioned to paint the walls of numerous businesses in Nelson, as well as small pieces within private residences. This summer, Bryn will be part of a team that creates a group of youth as they paint a collaborative mural beneath the Columbia Basin.

The New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society is seeking an energetic, motivated, self-directed, multi-task oriented, team player with proven success in interacting with youth for the Youth Centre Supervisor position. This is a part time position with hours in the evenings and weekends. The successful applicant must consent to a criminal records check, and work front line to deliver youth programming, supervise youth participants and maintain a safe and fun environment for youth. Responsibilities include volunteer supervision and guidance, administration and operational duties and risk management duties. Experience working with youth essential and current First Aid certification beneficial. Job descriptions and applications can be picked up at Home Hardware, Silverton Building Supplies and What’s In Store. Applications and resumes are due by Tuesday, April 3 at PO Box 151, New Denver or can be hand delivered by April 3 to any Youth Centre Society board member (see list on facebook at The-Outlet Youth-Centre).
Kaslo council, March 13: Sufferfest prefers Water Street finish line

by Jan McMurray

• Instead of closing Front Street during the Sufferfest event September 28-30, the Kaslo Sufferfest Society has made an alternate proposal to have the finish line on Water Street. Water Street from the Kaslo Hotel to 5th Street would be closed, and there would be parking only from the hotel to 4th Street. A letter from Janis Neufeld, President of the Kaslo Sufferfest Society, asks council to consider this alternate request, which is contingent upon approval of the use of the trail that leads from the Catholic Church to Kaslo Bay. She says in the letter that she has spoken to Front Street merchants and residents about the Front Street closure request, and the Sufferfest board does not want to create any further division within the community. “Kaslo Sufferfest endeavours to serve this community and its needs, and wishes to find a solution that can be mutually beneficial.”

In a subsequent email, Neufeld clarifies that the society’s order of preferred locations for the finish line area are Water Street first, Front Street second, Vimy Park third and Kaslo Bay Park fourth. Council referred the letter to the Development Services Committee and gave the committee the authority to act.

• The Kaslo Golf Club received approval for a change to its liquor licence to allow for live entertainment.

• The fuel treatment project has been granted $90,000 in UBCM assistance of $10,000 to cover the Village’s required contribution. Council directed staff to ask Columbia Basin Trust for funding assistance of $10,000 to cover the Village’s required contribution. Mayor Lay explained that this project involves operational work. The prescriptions for this project have been completed and approved. He said they have until 2014 to complete the operational work.

• Council decided to invite Progressive Forest Management to the April 5 Development Services meeting to discuss the project.

• All public comments on the proposed closure of Vimy Park ring road were received. Council has decided not to proceed with the proposal to close the road to through traffic.

• A meeting to discuss Water Street was scheduled for March 29 at 4:30 pm. Councillor Leathwood asked for this meeting, “now that we have input from Glen.” The foreman’s input is that speed bumps are not practical when plowing snow, and a path should be concrete if it is to be plowed. Councillor Leathwood suggests coming up with a timeline and budgeting accordingly. She also suggests changing the Downtown Revitalization reserve fund into a Water Street Development reserve fund.

• Bruce Freeman will be invited to a meeting of the Development Services Committee to speak to his proposal concerning the Esso property as a downtown parking area.

• Council was notified that an RDCK Community Development grant of $23,000 was approved for the Vimy Park campground washroom project.

• The Village will support an expression of interest by the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society for Columbia Basin Trust Community-Directed Youth Funds (CDYF) for Kaslo and area. The CDYF program provides $25,000 per year over four years.

• A report on the Climate Action Charter was received and referred to budget discussions to explore establishing a Climate Action Reserve Fund.

Kaslo Atoms win the banner at home playoff tournament

Real Estate in Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake

www.century21kaslo.com
Kulik & Kulig Century21
250-505-4722

Kaslo Atoms win the banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games. Spokane was playing for the exhilarating finishes in both banner games.

Kaslo Winterhawks Atom team could not have had the year they did without their great coaches Chad Jones and Lindsay McKinnon. The next Kaslo Minor Hockey event will be the Awards night in April.
People of New Denver and surrounding area, I would like to apologize for being unable to host my Gold / Silver & Coin buying event as advertised on March 8th, 9th, & 10th at the Valhalla Inn in New Denver. An urgent family matter arose the evening before the buying event was to start and I had to leave in a great hurry. To all those people that phoned and turned up to see me, I apologize.

The good news is all is well with my family. PLUS I’m re-doing the buying event this coming April 5, 6 & 7 at the new location of the Yoga Dome Quixote on 6th Avenue just of off Highway 31A in New Denver. Look for up-coming flyers and advertisements in your local newspaper.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Paul Bamber
Okanagan Gold
1-250-460-1550
Having also reported that Dr. Sayed Subzwari will arrive in Nakusp July 3, and that Nakusp's unemployment levels are very low.

Councillor Zeleznik reported that NACFOR's logging operation in Nakusp has begun successfully; contractor Jeremy Bone is now logging Block 5. He also reported that NACFOR will supply a logging truckload of firewood for Nakusp's 120th birthday celebration (still in planning stages – no date yet). NACFOR Manager Jesper Nielsen and possibly one board member will attend the BC Community Forest Association annual conference, to be held in Kaslo May 23-26.

Councillor Zeleznik reported that the Nakusp and Area Development Board is building an online directory for businesses and organizations in Nakusp and Area K.

The Village will participate in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 31 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. All village lights will be turned off for the hour. In CAO Tyan’s report on this agenda item, she states that more than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries participated last year. “Without a doubt, it’s shown how great things can be achieved when people come together for a common cause,” she says.

Bax and Chung played piano at the Bonnington on Wednesday, March 7 – a performance at the Arrow Lakes Art Council’s concert series. This vibrant young couple performs, teaches and wins awards all over the world. Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung are each soloists in their own right. They have come together in marriage and music to create a truly creative and personal experience. When they play a piece, four hands concert it sounds like a single (albeit very busy) person is performing. Their timing is flawless. Chung described the extraordinary level of trust and intimacy required to share a piano, where only one player can control the pedals. They have clearly achieved both. During the course of the evening, they proved they were both comfortable playing either end of the piano, with the person on the left controlling the pedals. They took turns turning pages, and communicated with looks and subtle signs that were mostly undetectable.

The performance opened with Fantasie in F Minor (Op. 103, D 940) by Franz Schubert. Their passion for this piece, and for sharing the piano with the same, is a unique experience. When they played the piece, it sounds as if it were only the second time this piece of “space music” had been performed in BC (the first being the evening before in Trail). They commented that people are usually better able to sit through something new when they have their own place to look. “So we will be playing for approximately 11 minutes.” Bring on new! This music was almost visible, expressing both the violence of collisions and the faint and delicate effects to be seen in the vastness of ‘empty’ space.

We returned to earth for the final item on the program: Four Tangos for four hands (arranged by Bax and Chung) by Astor Piazzolla (Lo Que Vendra, Milonga del Angel, Verano Porteno and Libertango). Bax explained that their score is very simple, which allowed them to improvise, creating a new music, composed for Bax and Chung by Heather Schmidt: Centaureas A. Che (75% of giant centaureas’ fascination with the cataclysmic collision of two galaxies that inspired this piece. As Bax explained, it was only the second time this piece of “space music” had been performed in BC (the first being the evening before in Trail). They commented that people are usually better able to sit through something new when they have their own place to look. “So we will be playing for approximately 11 minutes.” Bring on new! This music was almost visible, expressing both the violence of collisions and the faint and delicate effects to be seen in the vastness of ‘empty’ space.

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KHAOS, a world-class opera grown in the Kootenays

by Veronika Pellowski

Musical history was made in the Kootenays this month with the world premiere of locally grown, locally produced and locally performed KHAOS.

This world-class opera was performed at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson, March 8, 9 and 10. The standard of singing and acting was superlative. The music and storyline were captivating. The stage design and special effects were novel and fresh – and very portable. This production truly belongs on the world stage. According to Charles Barber, artistic director with City Opera Vancouver, “People who attend this show will be astonished... It really is a magnificent community enterprise done to a very high standard.”

KHAOS, which will be touring Columbia Basin communities, showcased the astounding depth of musical talent in the Kootenays.

Don Macdonald, the composer and for whom this full-length opera is a first, currently teaches composition at Selkirk College’s music program. He has composed music scores for many major movie studios, including 20th Century Fox, and has performed and conducted professionally.

Nicola Harwood, a local playwright who worked with Macdonald four years ago, wrote the KHAOS libretto. Harwood is currently co-artistic director of Nelson’s Twin Fish Theatre collective and executive director of the Oxygen Art Centre, another artist-run centre in Nelson.

Macdonald and Harwood used the Greek fertility myth of Demeter and Persephone, adding a contemporary twist: climate change. The sub-theme is subtle and succeeds in co-existing with the main theme of explaining the seasons without overshadowing the original myth.

Allison Girvan is known locally for her directorship of the Nelson Youth Choir Program, but her music career spans performances and recordings with the Vancouver Chamber Choir as well as radio, TV and film. Her portrayal of the character Persephone in KHAOS is exquisite. Her vocal talent is matched by her acting ability.

Audrey Bissett, now a travelling music teacher who lives in Trail, has performed at Carnegie Hall. In an interview with CBC Radio, Opera Canada magazine reviewer Hilary Clark described the Nelson production as “wonderful, an outstanding show” and Bissett’s portrayal of the role of Demeter in particular as “riveting” and “absolutely amazing. She has a very, very beautiful voice.”

The lead baritone, Kevin Armstrong, grew up in Nelson and made his opera debut with the Nelson Community Opera in 1996 before moving on to a 10-year operatic career in Europe. His return to Nelson was fortuitous for KHAOS. Armstrong was perfectly cast as “bad guy” Cerebrus, and gave a stellar performance.

There must be something in the air in the Kootenays that brings such talent together and the local will-power to create and fund a production of this calibre.

KHAOS is now on tour in the Kootenays. If you missed it in Nelson and Cranbrook or want to see it again, it will be in Grand Forks May 11, Trail May 12 and Creston May 13.

Audrey Bissett’s performance as Demeter in KHAOS was extremely powerful.

FUNDING FOR STUDENTS, NOT FOR WAGE HIKES.

The BC Together Fund (BCTF) is demanding a 15 per cent wage hike and other benefits that would cost $2 billion and raise taxes for BC families. Virtually all public sector unions have settled for no wage increases.

It’s unacceptable that schools are disrupted and that students and their families are inconvenienced over an unreasonable salary demand in difficult economic times. The union is making claims and demands that simply don’t add up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCTF CLAIMS AND DEMANDS</th>
<th>FACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The union wants more paid time outside the classroom – sick leave for teachers on call, expanded bereavement and discretionary leave.</td>
<td>The government wants more time for teacher training and to ensure that Paid-EO days really are for professional development.</td>
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<td>The union says all teaching positions should be selected on the basis of seniority.</td>
<td>The government supports seniority but qualifications must also count so that math teachers teach math and science teachers teach science.</td>
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<td>The union says that teachers who perform poorly in evaluations will be dismissed – “one strike and you’re out”.</td>
<td>The government wants to support teacher improvement through a standardized evaluation process.</td>
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<td>The union says that government refuses to negotiate.</td>
<td>There has been over a year of negotiations and 78 full bargaining sessions.</td>
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<td>The union says that class size limits have been eliminated.</td>
<td>Class size limits will remain in place on all grades across BC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The union says that BC has 700 fewer special needs teachers.</td>
<td>2100 new teaching assistants have been hired since 2001. And, with a new $165 million Learning Improvement Fund, we will hire more.</td>
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It’s time to focus on what matters most in education – BC’s students. That’s why we are focused on per-student funding which is at an all time high, not on wage increases.

We all want to do more to make BC’s education system even better. It’s the driving force behind BC’s Education Plan that teachers, parents and students are helping to shape.

Teachers care about their students. Parents care about their children’s future.

LET’S PUT STUDENTS 1ST

BCEDPLAN.CA
The Nancy Green Ski League Summit Lake Racers finished the season at Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson on Sunday, March 11 by participating in the West Kootenay E1/E2/E3 Zone Finals. The Summit Lake Racers placed third in the team event. Solomon Tupper finished with two bronze medals. In her final race as an E3 Nancy Green Racer, Ivy Tourand secured a gold medal in her first race and, despite a fall during her second race, she also won the bronze medal. From the beginning, the day was filled with challenges. First, it was a very early morning start because of the time change. Second, the course was rough. Kiley Waterfield said she nearly missed a gate because of a huge rut. Frances Swan thought that the kids did very well considering the tricky conditions. Beth McLeod said, “Despite the Wh2O conditions. Beth McLeod well considering the tricky conditions. Beth McLeod said, “Despite the Wh2O conditions.”

Ivy Tourand takes home a gold and a bronze medal at the West Kootenay Zone Finals held at Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson.

The Valley Voice March 21, 2012

The Valley Voice March 21, 2012

12 COMMUNITY

Superintendent hired for SD 10 – Arrow Lakes

The board of education for School District 10 – Arrow Lakes announces the hiring of Denise Perry as the new superintendent / secretary-treasurer. Perry is currently superintendent / secretary-treasurer of School District 49 – Central Coast. She will begin her new job in the Arrow Lakes in June.

“The look forward to working with everyone throughout the district,” said Perry. The new superintendent will be moving to our area with her 14-year-old daughter, Chelsea, two dogs, Lady and Abby, one cat, Oreo, and one horse, Stormy. “My daughter and I are excited about the move and making Nakusp our home,” said Perry. “We enjoy the outdoors and are active community members.” Perry brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. The SD 49 website features a message from the board chair, congratulating Perry on her new position. He says: “Denise has provided leadership to our district for the past five and a half years. During that time her focus has been on student opportunities and success. Her sound fiscal management has been invaluable during a time of declining enrolment, enabling the board to keep all five district schools open, maintain core academic programs, add trade programs and even get a new community gym at SAMS. Denise can be proud of her accomplishments in School District 49 and I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all that she’s done for the Board, the community and most of all, Columbia. The three panel members are Chris Trumpy, former provincial deputy minister, Catherine Holt, private consultant, and John King, former senior manager, public transit. Trumpy will chair the panel. Over the next several months, the panel members will be seeking input from local governments and BC Transit. The panel is expected to submit a report to government by the end of August 2012. The Province has advised that it will ensure the report is available to the public and will consider all recommendations.

Panel to perform independent review of BC Transit

The Valley Voice March 21, 2012

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April brings free outreach programs to Slocan Valley seniors

submitted

The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society is pleased to offer two great free programs for seniors.

- Art Therapy and Introduction to Essential Oils – at the Passmore Lodge in April. All seniors are welcome.
  Every Wednesday in April, ‘Art Therapy For Seniors’ will take place from 10:30 am to noon, with Seamus Gray. Art therapy can be a place to have fun, to take risks, to engage in a world of the unlimited imaginative potential, and to relax. Drop-ins are welcome to this program, but pre-registration is recommended.
  On Monday, April 16 and April 30, from 2 pm to 4 pm, master herbalist Colleen Emery of Emery Herbals offers ‘An Introduction to Essential Oils’ for seniors and caregivers. This dynamic two-part workshop provides the basic information necessary for seniors to become confident using essential oils. A limited number of free essential oil kits will be given to seniors who register early for this course. Other kits will be available for a nominal fee. Advance registration is required for this program and caregivers are invited to attend.
  Contact Tamara at 250-226-7136 or email svseniorshousing@netidea.com to register. Funding for these Outreach Programs is provided through the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives program.

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After 13 years of serving the Kootenays, we are closing down our business.
Visit our website and follow us on Facebook for more details.
Thank you for your support.
Audrey MacKenzine

Slocan Community Club

Annual CAR WASH

Saturday, March 24th 10 am - 3 pm

In front of Slocan’s Village Office

Chili • Hot Dogs • Coffee • Hot Chocolate • Pop

The winner of the Slocan Community Club’s annual draw in honour of Christmas by the Lake volunteers was Tisha Becker of New Denver. Armand Lange, main organizer of the event, presents her with the prize – dinner and an overnight stay at the Kaslo Hotel.

Deconstructing Dinner announces 2012 film festival

submitted

This April, Jon Steinman will be launching the 2012 Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival. The festival will feature six fresh films on food spread out over three evenings at two locations. An oyster-themed evening will ensure some good food is shared, as well.

Headlining the festival will be the sneak peek of the anticipated feature-length documentary is a humbling and important insight into the challenges faced by the many young farmers across Canada who have chosen the noble role of feeding the rest of us. ‘To Make a Farm’ reminds us of the importance of supporting young farmers here in the Kootenays and abroad. With the bulk of the diet for most Kootenay residents being of terrestrial origin, it’s easy to forget about our marine food sources and their role in maintaining healthy oceans and a healthy planet. The festival will feature an oyster-themed evening and will open with ‘Shellshocked’ – a short film which follows efforts to prevent the extinction of wild oyster reefs. Also in attendance will be Kaslo resident Brent The Oyster Man Petkau who will share his passion for the oyster and why he cultivates and harvests oysters on Cortes Island. Brent will also be offering a two-buck-a-shuck oyster bar.

The festival’s only Canadian artist Suzanne McLean is now on display at the Bluebelle Bistro in Kaslo.

Original acrylic paintings in varying sizes are available for viewing or for purchase for reasonable prices. Paintings focus mainly on forested landscapes, mountains, and poppies. Come down and take a peek if you’re in the area.

McLean enjoys painting the Kootenay landscape in her own unique style using a vivid palette of acrylics. “I spend a lot of time looking at things, the shapes of trees, re-occurring patterns, how landscape changes in certain light, certain weather. I photograph a lot, to use as a reference, but find memory recall invaluable to the life of a painting, capturing not only landscape, but the energy of a place.”

McLean’s paintings can also be viewed online at www.artistssuzannemclean.com.

April 14 COMMUNITY

Deconstructing Dinner announces 2012 film festival

submitted

The new spring line-up by local artist Suzanne McLean is now on display at the Bluebelle Bistro in Kaslo.

Suzanne McLean’s art on display at the Bluebelle Bistro in Kaslo.

Truck Farm is one of many entertaining and inspiring films filling the roster of the 2012 Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival, to be held in April in Nelson.
New Denver council, March 13: Efforts to reduce bear problems underway

by Michael Dorsey

• Councillor von Krogh reported that the public works crew is proceeding with fruit tree mapping. von Krogh noted that some boulevard trees may need to be removed, and said he would like public input, as the residents would have to bear-proof selected trees to reduce bear attractants. CAO Gordon reported she had spoken with Ray Nikkel of SLUGS, and the group is considering an ornamental cherry tree if the large fruit cherry tree beside the Kohan Garden is removed.

• Council approved sending Councillors Raynolds and von Krogh and one administrative staff to the 2012 West Kootenay Bear Conflict Working Group meeting on March 26 in Nelson.

• Councillor Raynolds and CAO Gordon will meet to draft a shared resolution with the Grand Forks council on the bear issue for the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) convention. The AKBLG executive recommended that the two councils merge their similar resolutions into one. New Denver’s resolution called for increased provincial funding for improved conservation officer services. The Grand Forks resolution called for the Province to develop a wildlife management plan and to address the shortage of conservation officers.

• Mayor Bunka reported that the youth centre would not be located beside Rory’s on Main as planned (new location to be announced); and that a vintage motorcycle touring group would like to stop in New Denver on their tour of the area. The group will be referred to the Chamber of Commerce with the idea of a ‘meet and greet’ event.

• Council approved a recommendation by administration to enter into a contract with Maverick Design for design services for a new Village website, at a cost of $3,000 plus applicable taxes.

• Council will send a letter of support to local artist Nadine Stefan for her project to create an outdoor installation titled ‘Homespun.’ She is applying for a grant from CKCA for the project. Council will speak to Stefan about permission to install the work on Village property.

• The Village will provide a letter of support to accompany the Kyowakai Society’s grant application to produce brochures for the Nikkei Centre. The centre will open May 1, and there will be a small increase in entrance fees. Council, in consultation with the society, approved support for an information guide to provide to visitors.

• Council appointed Janet Quesnel as New Denver’s community representative on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, and John Everett to sit on the committee for CBT Community Initiatives grant funding.

• The Kaslo Sufferfest Society has asked for use of Centennial Park on September 29 as the start of the 2012 100-kilometre bike event, including an area in the park for food/drink services. Before approving the request, council will ask that the society obtain food permits, liability insurance, and information on garbage clean-up within the park. Council will also ask that the society provide a donation to help cover the cost of garbage removal.

• The BC Lake Stewardship Society requested a grant-in-aid of $300 to support the 15th annual BC Lake Stewardship Society conference, to be held in Silverton June 8-10. Council referred this to budget discussions, and noted a need to formulate a grant-in-aid policy, as there is no policy currently in place.

• Mayor Bunka informed council that the RDCK budget is moving ahead, and noted it was “very similar” to last year’s budget, with an estimated 3 percent increase.

Building a brighter future in a stronger BC.

These are challenging times in the global economy. But with BC’s enviable record of strong fiscal management, we can continue to make investments that matter to British Columbians while maintaining low taxes and controlled spending.

This is exactly what Budget 2012 delivers.

• Increased funding for health care, with $1.5 billion in additional funding by 2014/15

• $4.7 billion a year in block funding for school districts, plus a 3-year $165 million Learning Improvement Fund to support teachers aiding students with special needs

• Almost $3 billion in new capital spending in hospitals, schools, post-secondary institutions, roads, and other infrastructure

Budget 2012 also supports families and individuals.

• Families will be able to claim up to $500 – per child, per credit, per year – for any eligible sports or arts program

• Up to $1,000 a year in tax credits for seniors or family members sharing a home, to help cover the cost of renovations that allow seniors to stay independent longer

• A new First-Time New Home Buyer’s Bonus, making first-time buyers who purchase newly built homes eligible for a personal income tax credit of up to $10,000

• Effective April 1, 2012, the current HST rebate threshold for new home purchases increases to $850,000. Purchasers will be eligible for a provincial HST rebate of up to $42,500

Budget 2012 keeps BC’s economy strong in the midst of uncertainty in the global economy.

British Columbia. Canada Starts Here.
April Fool’s Day brunch at Passmore Lodge

submitted

The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society (SVSociety) will be hosting an April Fool’s brunch at the Passmore Lodge on Sunday, April 1 from 10 am to 1 pm. This fundraising event will feature a great brunch as well as door prizes. Admission for adults is a minimum $8 donation and kids can eat for just $4. The ‘fun’ raiser will feature Breakfast Wraps (ham or veggie) with a fruit plate and refreshments. A toast option is also available.

One of the highlights of the brunch (besides a bit of April Foolishness) will be a performance by the Slocan Valley Community Band from 11 am to noon. The 20-member band has been developing an amazing range of music to share with the community, including selections from Fiddler on the Roof to Fireflies and Mambo No. 5. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the musical talents of this great group.

The Passmore Lodge is an independent-living seniors facility, which grew out of intensive community efforts. Because the current level of provincial funding for the facility is quite strained, the SVSociety must fundraise to help the lodge keep operating. This event is one of several the society is offering to help cover the financial gap. The organization is also looking at developing more housing in the Slocan Valley to meet the ever-increasing needs. You can find out more about the society’s efforts at this rewarding brunch. For more information, call the lodge at 250-226-7136.

COMMUNITY

Valhalla Wilderness Program - not just another camping trip

submitted

Imagine studying geography by climbing to the top of a 10,000 foot peak, a PE class that involves 2,000 vertical feet of backcountry skiing, studying local history by freeride biking on an old miner’s trail, or a home economics course that includes meal planning, food purchasing and then cooking on a cook stove in the outdoors.

Since 1994, the Valhalla Wilderness Program at WE Graham Community School in Slocan has provided a unique, year-long educational experience for 14 Grade 9/10 students. As well as maintaining academic excellence, the students develop skills in leadership, group communication and cooperation. The program consists of numerous day trips as well as overnight trips, and students receive Standard Enhanced First Aid certification and Avalanche AST 1 certification.

For more information contact WE Graham Community School at 355-2212.

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Windborn, acoustic alternative music like you’ve never heard before, comes to the Silverton Gallery April 4.
March 21, 2012   The Valley Voice

Adapting permaculture to the climate and ecosystems of the Kootenay region

Kootenay Permaculture and Selkirk College are teaming up to bring more permaculture information and hands-on learning to our area this spring. For those with limited time, there is an evening presentation scheduled, a full-day workshop or a weekend workshop, and for those who have more time, a four-week, full-time permaculture training and time.

Permaculture is a holistic approach to land use planning – by using permaculture design principles and techniques you can create an abundance and diversity of food in your own backyard, using only a small amount of energy, resources and time.

‘Permaculture: Solutions for Community Building and a Fear-Free Future,’ scheduled for March 28 in Nelson, is an evening presentation designed to leave you with a deeper understanding of the issues we face such as climate change, food security, peak oil and economic uncertainty.

A one-day workshop on March 29 in Nelson, ‘Permaculture Design for the Home Landscape’ will cover how to use permaculture to design home landscapes that not only produce food and beauty for people, but also shelter birds and beneficial insects, conserve water and energy, improve soil health, and enhance biodiversity. Toby Hemenway (author of the best-selling book Gaia’s Garden: a guide to home-scale permaculture) and a well-known permaculture teacher from the coast, will deliver both the evening presentation and this one-day workshop.

Local well-known permaculture teacher Greigoire Lamoureux will present a two-day ‘Introduction to Permaculture’ workshop on March 31 and April 1 at Selkirk College in Nelson.

A four-week permaculture training program will be offered April 16 - May 11. This is a full-time course offered by Kootenay Permaculture in partnership with Selkirk College. The goal of this course is to help initiate more permaculture projects in Nelson and the region. Participants will be in Nelson for the first two weeks doing a permaculture design for a property, and at a farm in the Slocan Valley the last two weeks where there will be many hands-on learning activities.

Selkirk College and Kootenay Permaculture will also be offering the 11th annual Permaculture Design Course in Winlaw, June 3-16 (13-day program) and a summer course, which has been scheduled for August 19-September 1.

For more information, refer to the classified ads (coming events) at the back of this paper or contact Kootenay Permaculture at 250-226-7302 or Selkirk College in Nelson at 250-352-6601.

A story of collapse and renewal comes to Kaslo

Since the 1980s, a series of bark beetle epidemics has pillaged North American pine and spruce forests from Alaska to New Mexico. In BC in particular, the outbreak of the beetles has transformed whole ecosystems in many rural areas.

Award-winning author and journalist, Andrew Nikiforuk, will be speaking at the Langham Gallery in Kaslo on April 4 at 7 pm on this subject and more. The author of numerous acclaimed books on a variety of subjects, Nikiforuk gives an in-depth analysis of the Alberta tar sands in his 2008 book, Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent, and says he’ll be talking about the massive development in relation to the beetle epidemic on his tour of the Kootenays.

“They’re different stories that highlight similar themes,” he explains. “They’re stories about complexity, what happens when things get too complex and how complex regimes fall apart. There are improbable characters on the land that bring down these big projects – whether it be an aging forest or an aging energy system. It’s a story about collapse and renewal.”

“Given the social, economic and political implications of the pine beetle and tar sands development, Nikiforuk’s presentation will be relevant to teaching and learning across a number of disciplines,” says Rob Macrae, Selkirk College Instructor of Integrated Environmental Planning Technology.

Nikiforuk will also be speaking at Selkirk College’s Castlegar Campus on April 3. The speaking tour was made possible through sponsorship by the Selkirk College Faculty Association and the Selkirk College Library, as well as Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST), Kootenay Library Foundation, Flame Heritage Library, Wing Creek Resort and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL).

Late Thaw comes to the Langham

Late Thaw is headed by singer-songwriters Warren Murfitt and Kate Main, and backed by some of Vancouver’s best musical talent. Murfitt and Main are both exquisite players (on guitar and mandolin, respectively), and Main’s voice is particularly solid. Drenched in group harmonies, Late Thaw delivers songs so tight and pretty that you’ll wonder if Delaney and Bonnie’s famous friends were snug in on the sly.

Tickets are $15 advance / $18 door (12 and under $5 off); check out www.thelangham.ca for more information.

COMMUNITY

Late Thaw comes

March 31 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Home Gallery.

Late Thaw is brought to the Langham Theatre on Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Home Gallery.

Late Thaw is headed by singer-songwriters Warren Murfitt and Kate Main, and backed by some of Vancouver’s best musical talent. Murfitt and Main are both exquisite players (on guitar and mandolin, respectively), and Main’s voice is particularly solid. Drenched in group harmonies, Late Thaw delivers songs so tight and pretty that you’ll wonder if Delaney and Bonnie’s famous friends were snug in on the sly.

Tickets are $15 advance / $18 door (12 and under $5 off); check out www.thelangham.ca for more information.
Dease Lake Mountain caribou translocated to Purcell herd

Nineteen caribou from the Dease Lake region were released outside of Kimberley recently. Habitat fragmentation has required a committed effort to maintain the endangered mountain caribou of British Columbia’s interior temperate rainforest. The translocation was an important step in augmenting the Purcell population whose numbers have crashed over the past decade to less than 20 animals.

Caribou from a herd of approximately 1,500 animals in the territory of the Taltaln Nation travelled by truck to Kimberley where they were welcomed by representatives of the Ktunaxa Nation. Ktunaxa elder Herman Alpine’s prayer at the receiving station was emotional for all those involved. The prayer in the Ktunaxa language asked forgiveness for treatment of the land that has displaced caribou in Ktunaxa territory and gave thanks to the northern caribou for their help in strengthening the Purcell herd.

The animals travelled from Kimberley to two sites in the southern Purcell in the back seat of a helicopter, either in pairs or individually, always accompanied by a veterinarian. Four experienced wildlife veterinarians were involved in the transplant that prioritized the health and safety of all of the animals. Unfortunately, one animal died during the trip south. Her passing was recognized in a brief Taltaln blessing at the release site. Translocation of wildlife is stressful, but a necessity if mountain caribou are to continue to roam in their historic range.

The objective is to have the Purcell herd gradually rebuild to a sustainable population of approximately 100 animals. Presently three of the resident animals are monitored daily by radio collar.

The transplanted animals will be monitored weekly by GPS collars that download their locations to researchers who are also monitoring wolves and cougars in the Purcells. This project is expected to provide important information on wildlife movements and best practices for future wildlife management.

Success of mountain caribou recovery depends upon many factors. The provincial government has eliminated logging and forestry road building from designated mountain caribou habitat. However, much forest habitat has already been seriously fragmented, increasing predator pressure. Motorized access, including snowmobiles and helicopter skiing have also been curtailed, but restrictions are largely dependent upon voluntary measures agreed upon by snowmobile clubs and recreation operators. Mining and predator management remain unresolved issues.

Representatives from the Ktunaxa and Taltaln nations, the provincial government, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, the University of Victoria, Montana Fish and Wildlife Program, Bighorn Helicopters and Wildsight participated in the release.

“It is an honour for Wildsight and its partners to play a role with the provincial government in this important activity to recover an endangered species and a healthy wild ecosystem in the Kootenay region,” said John Bergenske, Wildsight’s executive director.

**NOTICE TO NEEDLES FERRY USERS**

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WESTERN PACIFIC MARINE WISHES TO THANK THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC FOR THEIR PATIENCE.

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

**SLOCAN LAKE RECREATION COMMISSION #6** will be holding its Spring Grant-in-Aid session on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a grant-in-aid should submit the proper application to Box 293, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

Application forms are available from the Village of New Denver, the Village of Silverton and Lucerne School.

Please note that the appropriate form must be used and the application will not be considered. The deadline for the application to be submitted is Friday, April 13, 2012. Any application received after that date will not be accepted.

**NOTICE TO OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT**

March 7, including changes to the Occupier’s Liability Act, that will reduce liability concerns arising from the public use of resource roads.

Proposed amendments to the Occupiers Liability Act will reduce third-party liability to both the government and forest road maintainers on resource roads, reducing the number of resource roads that are closed due to concerns regarding third party liability.

Other legislative amendments introduced include a proposed Forest Act amendment which will remove the requirement to notify the public of forest service road closures in the Gazette or local newspapers, and instead have the option of using modern media technology and road signage.

Proposed amendments to the Forestry Service Providers Protection Act will strengthen implementation of the act with provisions dealing with how liens and charges under the act will be registered and tracked.

Proposed Wildfire Act amendments will provide additional clarity on the obligations to reduce potential fire hazards when a secondary tenure is issued, typically for the bioenergy sector.

To view a copy of the bill, visit: http://www.leg.bc.ca/39th4th/votes/progress-of-bills.htm
OpenMedia.ca unhappy with crucial cell phone decision

submitted

The federal government made a decision on March 14 that will determine how cell phone pricing and choice will look in Canada’s future. Currently Bell, Rogers and Telus control upwards of 96 percent of the cell phone market, and some studies say that Canadians pay some of the highest cell phone fees in the industrialized world. Independent carriers and start-ups had been pushing the government for new rules that involved spectrum set-asides – crucial infrastructure for cell phone companies – rules that they felt would give them an opportunity to effectively compete in an upcoming spectrum auction.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis announced that he would not set aside new wireless spectrum for independent carriers and start-ups. There will however, be a use-it-or-lose it clause, which means that wireless carriers invited to participate in creating a path to harmony and celebrating diversity in the Slocan Valley. Dinner and dessert will be by donation, with a suggested price of $15. The event begins at 5 pm and discussion follows at 6:30 pm.

There will also be a quick update on BC Timber Sale’s continued plans to extend the road on Perry Ridge to just north of Hird Creek. The Sinixt and the PRWUA stand united against developments that they feel impacts their rights. The organizers are looking forward to an educational and informative evening.

Public input wanted on agricultural waste regulations

submitted

The Ministry of Environment is reviewing the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) and is accepting public comments until March 31.

The ministry intends to shift to a code of practice to replace the current regulation. A code of practice is a legally binding and enforceable set of rules that must be followed by the agricultural industry for environmental and human health protection.

The AWCR describes environmentally sound practices for using, storing and managing wastes, such as manure, byproducts, such as composted materials or other materials used in agriculture, such as wood waste.

The intentions paper and response form for providing comments to the ministry, as well as further information and links to related legislation, are posted at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/index.htm

March 21, 2012 The Valley Voice

A Fairy Tale Crime’ March 14 and 15 at the Silverton Gallery.

Since 1973… Small multi-aged classes in a nurturing, non-competitive, inspiring environment.

Kindergarten Registration & Multi-age Elementary Applications For 2012/13 Now Accepted

For more information call our School Coordinator

(250) 226-7737

Wednesday April 18th, 2012
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
5614 Highway #6, Winlaw

Psst… can you spare an hour?
Earth Hour | Saturday, March 31 | 8:30 pm
You will have a chance to win a weekend at the Manteo Resort and help a local non-profit win a $5000 energy upgrade.

Pledge at fortisbc.com/earthhour

Use your PowerSense

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www.shimmymob.com to download a pledge sheet and order their ‘Shimmy Mob Kit.’ For local information or to contact Shauna, the City Team Leader, visit www.SoulFireDance.webs.com.

Correction
It was incorrectly reported that at the beginning of the ‘flash mob’ event on May 12 that brings the joy of dance to the community and raises awareness and funds for abused women and children shelters in the Kootenays.

Instructional workshops will be led by Shauna Robertson from Soul Fire Dance in Nelson, for those who need assistance learning the moves. Rehearsals will be free of charge and will take place in late April and May. Participants can register online at www.shimmymob.com.

The Lucerne School grades 5-6-7 class did a superb job of the humorous play ‘Law & Order: A Fairy Tale Crime’ March 14 and 15 at the Silverton Gallery.

Be a part of dance history for a good cause

submitted

We broke the record last year and we are doing it again! Shimmy Mob is inviting trained dancers of all backgrounds to participate in a ‘flash mob’ event on May 12 that brings the joy of dance to the community and raises awareness and funds for abused women and children shelters in the Kootenays.

Instructional workshops will be led by Shauna Robertson from Soul Fire Dance in Nelson, for those who need assistance learning the moves. Rehearsals will be free of charge and will take place in late April and May. Participants can register online at www.shimmymob.com.
One of the largest private film collections in Canada, which provides a fascinating document of rural BC, will be housed and preserved by UBC Library thanks to a generous donation from the Halleran family and the support of community partners including Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). The Halleran Collection, valued at $750,000, consists of about 250 nature-oriented video programs produced in British Columbia over the decades—first by Mike Halleran and then by his son Terry.

These shows, known collectively as the Westland series, were broadcast on TV throughout the province. They examine a broad range of topics such as the Okanagan Region, Wallace, and the Okanagan Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The Commission needs representation from Area K.

Wayman has penned more than 20 books that explore boundaries human and beyond through a collection of stories that celebrate the work of the talented writers living in the Kootenay Boundary. Once again, readers from across the region will read and vote for the book they feel all UBC faculty members should read.

The local Kootenay/Rockies branch of the Cascadia Green Building Council has designed a new public washroom building for the City of Nelson, to be constructed at the Art Gibbons Memorial Park in Nelson. The goal of this project is to construct a demonstration net-zero energy "natural building" showcasing local, healthy, low embodied-energy materials and alternative building methods.

Natural building project in Nelson to begin in April

Other community partners that provided funds to support the purchase of the collection include the Okanagan Regional Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Readers are invited to discuss the books, either with friends or online. For more information, go to the Kootenay Library Federation website at obok.ca, where you can find out more about the authors and their books, look for literary events near you, and engage in online conversations or post comments.

Cascadia is providing public education about natural and green building methods through a series of introductory seminars co-sponsored by the Kootenay Association of Science and Technology (KAST). Workshops will be held throughout the construction period, and an open house planned for September 2012.

For more information, contact Shari Herridge Lane, Nelson, BC (info@buildingtree.ca, 250-352-7933). For more information, contact Shari Imada at kr@cascadiagbc.org. Visit www.Cascadiagbc.org for more information on your local green building council.

Area H North TV Society is holding its AGM on March 21 at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver. Over 40 years the TV Society has provided television and radio programming to residents of the North Slocan Valley. Please attend our AGM to observe, comment or become a director!

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
7:00 PM
HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY
NEW DENVER, BC
358-2133 for more information

SUBMITTED

One Book One Kootenay 2012 nominees announced

Readers are invited to discuss the books, either with friends or online. For more information, go to the Kootenay Library Federation website at obok.ca, where you can find out more about the authors and their books, look for literary events near you, and engage in online conversations or post comments.

Balkie boxes will be at Kootenay libraries, including the Kaslo & District Public Library, Nelson Public Library, and Nakusp Public Library from April 1 to August 10. Winners will be announced September 8, on International Literacy Day. OBOK is a public library supported program initiated by the Kootenay Library Federation.


Jennifer Craig's semi-autobiographical novel, which made the London Times bestseller list and sold in excess of 100,000 copies, is a funny, engaging story of a group of trainee nurses in the 1950s in Leeds, England. It's rife with long hours, bodily fluids, good-natured camaraderie, and Craig's trademark Yorkshire humour.

Tom Wayman's Boundary Country is a tour of this neck of the woods and beyond through a collection of stories that explore boundaries human and geographical to which Wayman brings his gift for insightful observation and wry humour. A multiple award-winner, Wayman has penned more than 20 books.

Cascadia is providing public education about natural and green building methods through a series of introductory seminars co-sponsored by the Kootenay Association of Science and Technology (KAST), weekend workshops held throughout the construction period, and an open house planned for September 2012.

Register for seminars and workshops at the Building Tree, 621 Herridge Lane, Nelson, BC (info@buildingtree.ca, 250-352-7933). For more information, contact Shari Imada at kr@cascadiagbc.org. Visit www.Cascadiagbc.org for more information on your local green building council.

Area H North TV Society invites all to AGM and recreational vehicles.

The volunteer board meets occasionally and has work bees from time to time when improvements or upkeep is needed. When complex matters arise, the society’s professional technician is called upon.

Despite the challenges of weather and equipment problems, the society looks forward to many more years of programming delivery to the valley. For more information, call 358-2133 or 358-2714.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANYONE INTERESTED in bringing Kootenay Carshare Co-op to New Denver / Silverton? Please contact Susan Yurychuk @ syurychuk@gmail.com. Learn all about carshare at: http://www.carsharecoop.ca/

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR and LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS for 2011. Rotary Club of Nakusp is looking for submissions to nominate the 2011 Citizen of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Awards in Nakusp and area. Nominations seek people of any age who have made an outstanding contribution to the community. This may include our youth, couples or individuals. Please include in your nomination a few words supporting your candidate. This may include our our community. This may include our our community.

LUNcheon available between 11 am and 1 pm. Celebration and social to follow all afternoon. Edgewood Legion branch 203 pm. Celebration and social to follow all afternoon. Edgewood Legion Community Hall.

MARGARET WILLIAMS 100th

Club of Nakusp, Box 62, Nakusp, BC

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CLiNT and CHiARoLLESToN 40th ANNIVERSARY of marriage. A Luncheon and Social will be held at the Edgewood Legion Hall on March 21, 2012. Edgewood Legion Community Hall.

COMING EVENTS

REDAy SET LEARN is here again! Lila and Julia invite 3, 4 and 5 year olds to join us. Image of children baking cookies. Many activities supporting numeracy, literacy, small and large motor development and kindergarten transition. Special guest community resource people. Wednesday April 11, 14, 28 and May 2 from 1-3 pm. Please call early to register at 358.7768 or 358.7766 over Spring Break.

EASTER HAM BINGO March 25 at 7 pm at the St. Slocan Legion Hall. 925 Harold St. Slocan. $2 per card. Everyone Welcome.

SALES TAX INCREASE: It is with a heavy heart and a full stomach that we announce the recent sales tax increases. The local businesses wish to thank everyone for their support. We hope everyone is able to continue to support local businesses.

ABOUT THE Valley Voice

March 21, 2012 The Valley Voice

TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, especially Bud, Don & Ellis, and Tami and Perry, for the wonderful surprise tea and dinner party. I can’t believe it was a secret for so long. I didn’t know I knew so many people, much less ones who would have come from so far to have tea and dinner with me. Thank you to my grandchildren, who came from so far and had to sit at a slide for hours coming and going. Thank you, Bud, for sending me out on a girls Mediterranean cruise, a trip of a lifetime. Many hugs to you all.

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LAW & ORDER was a success! Once again, the 5-6-7 class of Lucerne says THANK YOU. Thanks to K-1 buddies for starting the evening with Billy Goat Gruff. Thanks to Marlwae for helping direct. Thanks to everyone who came to see the show.

ANNOUNCERS

Slocan Auto & Truck Repairs
24 hour towing
BCAA, Slocan, BC

Nakusp Taxi
250-265-8222
Pick up and Delivery
Let us get it for you
• Auto parts • Groceries
• Pharmacy • Cigarettes
• Take out food
Just let your local business know your needs and we will deliver them to you.
Alcoholic beverages until 11:00 pm.

The Copper Nail Boat Shop
The Kootenay Marina
250-355-0035

AVA'S Hair Studio
OPEN YEAR-ROUND

258-7269
For an appointment call the Wild Bear Restaurant in Castlegar

Winlaw Brew-Op
Wine & Beer Making Kits
to satisfy all budgets!
Take-home Kits, or Brew it with Us!
250-355-3842

Mourning is the business of life.
Brewing is the business of death.
Winlaw Brew-Op

Wax & Dye Shop
48 Front Street, Slocan
250-355-0035

The Gift Shop
48 Front Street, Slocan
250-355-0035

ARTS & CRAFTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY representative offers presentations on Smart Meters. A one-hour power point presentation will give you an alternative view on what your utility company has planned with the installation of these microwave emitting devices that they will be installing in the Kootenays over the coming weeks. This presentation covers the health, financial, safety and security issues involved with the Smart Grid Program and will show you how to protect yourself and your family. For info please contact Cliff at cliffnscliff@shaw.ca or at 250-356-5240.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

UNEMPLOYED and thinking of starting your own business? Community Futures offers the Self Employment grant, business loans, counselling and training in the Arrow Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@communityfutures.com.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY to Margaret Williams from all your friends in Falcowood! SPRING HASprung at Willow Home Gallery! Give your spring cleaning a lift and enjoy a 10% discount on all in spring colours. Kaslo.

www.willowhomegallery.com

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CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU to everyone of Nakusp who made me feel so welcome and for helping me look for a place to rent. A very special thank you to Shirley and Bill for all the time they shared with me. I am very grateful! Looking forward to moving there soon – it’s such a friendly, lovely town.

DANIAK AND NOAH want to thank the community for supporting their music evening to raise funds for Cuba. An extra special thanks to Sophie, the third member of their trio, who couldn’t attend the Cuba trip, and Miranda, their ever helpful coach.

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Garden Gaia's

TOBY HEMENWAY

- 10:30ish. Mixers, door prizes, snacks. Mixed playlist, Latin, smooth, swing 8:00


Road Extension on Perry Ridge Creating a Path to Harmony in our

and Discussion - Truth & Reconciliation:

to a March 24

support.

Slocan Park. Call ahead for large pick-ups

Bottle Drive Saturday March

Avenue, New Denver.

AGM

DARK WATER DRAGONS SOCIETY

22

7381 Avis road, Perry’s Siding

SPECIALIZING IN WOOD/ELECTRIC, WOOD/OIL AND

YOUR VALLEY COMFORT AND BLAZE KING DEALER

Slocan City, BC • (250) 355-0088

e-mail: kfurnace@netidea.com

10-5 DAILY APRIL

COMING EVENTS

SVSHS 250-226-7136.

every Wed. in April 10:30 am-12 noon Instr.

- Passmore Lodge. Art Therapy

250-226-7302; spiralfarm@yahoo.com

two day workshop) in Nelson, BC. April

Lamoureux March 31 & April 1 (one or

PERMACULTURE

Noon. Everyone welcome! A Slocan Valley

Community Band performs 11 am to

Sun. April 1, 10 am to 1 pm. Min. $8

to a March 24

SPACIOUS 2-BDR APARTMENT

in Silverton available immediately. $750

mo. Seeking quiet, responsible and non-

smoking tenants. Studio/loft furnished

$552. Office space for rent $150/mo. Call

358-2177.

SILVERTON GALLERY EVENTS:

Saturday, March 24: Gemantella quarterly 7-10 doors ($10) sweet & savoury refreshments, March 19-23: Kootenay Kids Camp art show Saturday 24 (1-3. April 4 by doted on Assiniboine Arts

Silvertown.ca) - 7:30-9:10. Sunday sites ongoing Community Music program (6-8 pm) by donation. April 21 third annual

Cooming out of Closet' coffee house. Calling for acts. 358-2167.

FOR RENT

2-BDRM house, downtown Silverton, appl.included, lake view, No Sm, No Pet, No Parties, References required, Sec.

$500/month Available April 1st, tenant. 250-265-1149 or 250-675-2661.

SHARED OFFICE SPACE: available in Wallowas at long-term prefered. Call 250-358-2177.

SILVERTON MARCH: 9-11 am. 5th Sun. in March. Come, come on over and get your grin on! www. cuntsbrb.com

TOBY HEMENWAY (author of Gaia’s Garden) at 402 Victoria in Nelson March

SPACIOUS 2-BDR APARTMENT in Silverton available immediately. $750

mo. Seeking quiet, responsible and non-smoking tenants. Studio/loft furnished

$552. Office space for rent $150/mo. Call

358-2177.

YOGA IN SILVERTON!!! Wednesdays

7 pm with Christopher, Sundays 10 am with Anastasia at Hand & Soul. 358-

3773, Learning a Heartful Flow.com

HELP WANTED

DRIVER WITH CAR WANTED


HOMEHELP - General help with household, errands, shopping, cooking. Must follow

precise instructions. Car required. $13/ hour = 15km Kootenay area 250-352-9442.

FOR INFORMATION ON AA OR ALANON MEETINGS contact in New

Denver: 358-7044 or 358-1758; Nakup 265-4924; Kaslo 353-2668; Slocan 355-

2605; Slocan 226-7706.

PROPERTY FOR SALE – 32 acres, febly, serviced, top soil and equipment for construction available. 590 Fifth St.,


235 ACRES SILVERTON – Quarry studio home build on Red Rock, with hydro, in-ground pool and hook up a water

plan in place. Building location with views for large home, a solid investment in area that promises opportunities for adventurers and

nature lovers to enjoy all the activities the Slocan has to offer. Priced to sell $239,500. Call 250-358-2655 for details.

Next Valley Voice Deadline: March 30, 2012

Yoga in the studio –

358-2167.

Yoga in the studio –

358-2167.

The Valley Voice

March 21, 2012
Year-round schooling conversation begins in School District 10

by Jan McMurray

Attracting students is top of mind for local schools, and a balanced school year, or year-round schooling, may be a way to do it. Pattie Adam, chair of the board of education for School District 10 Arrow Lakes, is making the rounds with a presentation on a balanced school calendar.

“We have to look outside the box—which we already do—but with declining student enrolment we have to be even more innovative and offer something that other districts don’t,” she said at a presentation to the Lac des Arcs School Parent Advisory Committee on March 7. At a K-7 school that operates on a balanced calendar in Maple Ridge, Adam reported that there is a waiting list to get in and “staff is really impressed” with it. School starts in September, and there are three-week breaks in winter and spring, with school ending mid-July.

“There are no rules [about the schedule]. If we are interested in this, we can make it look the way we want to make it look,” she said. She explained that the concept is to balance the number of instructional days and breaks that we currently have over the 12 months. Adam said research on the balanced calendar is limited to children at risk, who flourish in this setting. She added that younger children manage a nine-week learning block better than a full term, and a shorter summer can be better, as some children get bored with two months off.

“More evenly spread out breaks may improve student motivation and re-energize them—this goes for staff and parents, too,” said Adam.

Many teachers believe the balanced calendar provides for better quality of instruction, she said. They can plan more regularly for shorter blocks of instructional time, reducing teacher burnout and resulting in higher morale.

“Parents, teachers and students seem to like this system,” she said. However, she pointed out that our tourism-oriented communities offer summer jobs that our students need, and the businesses need the summer student workers.

“This is food for thought,” said Adam. She plans to make the presentation to Parent Advisory Councils, students and staff “to start the conversation.” She suggested that the school district’s existing calendar committee could look at the potential of the balanced school calendar in one or more schools in the district.

Master Herbalist opens up shop in Winlaw

by Jan McMurray

Emery Herbals is a new storefront business in Winlaw, located in the mall next to the Cedar Creek Café. At a K-7 school that operates on a balanced school calendar in Maple Ridge, Adam suggested that the conversation.” She suggested that the school district’s existing calendar committee could look at the potential of the balanced school calendar in one or more schools in the district.

Emery Herbals has an online shop that can be found at www.etsy.com/shop/emeryherbals. Colleen says “local” and “sustainable” are very important concepts for her, as is providing a high-quality, high-vibrational medicine to those who seek it. She carries ethically wildcrafted herbs from the region, as well as herbs from local and regional organic growers and certified organic herbal producers abroad. She prepares the large majority of the tinctures she carries herself, using a traditional, biodynamic method.

Colleen has daily “tea by donation” in her shop, and invites everyone to drop by for a warm cup of tea, conversation and reprieve.

KASLO HOTEL and Brew Pub

Take a scenic drive to Kaslo this weekend to try our New! BRUNCH MENU

Served Saturday & Sunday 8:30am to 1:30pm in our lakeside dining room.

Traditional Breakfast $9.50

- Eggs any style with choice of bacon, smoked ham or sausage. Served with home-style potatoes, fruit garnish, choice of yeast, butter and jam.

Eggs Benedict $11 Half $7

- Poached eggs, back bacon and hollandaise sauce on an English muffin. Served with home-style potatoes and fruit garnish.

Eggs Blackstone $11 Half $7

- Poached eggs, smoked ham and fresh tomato on an English muffin served with hollandaise sauce, fruit garnish and home-style potatoes.

Eggs Florentine $11 Half $7

- Poached eggs, steamed spinach and smoked ham on an English muffin topped with hollandaise sauce. Served with fruit garnish and home-style potatoes.

Smoked Salmon Omelette $13.50

- 2 eggs stuffed with smoked salmon, cream cheese, scallions and asparagus served with hollandaise sauce. Served with home-style potatoes, fruit garnish, toast, butter and jam.

Baked Frittata $12

- Spanish style omelette served with fresh fruit garnish, toast, butter and jam.

The Weeko - smoked ham, fresh tomato, potatoes, green onions and cheddar.

The Veggie - mushrooms, potato, black olives, spinach, fresh tomato, mixed garlic and feta.

Crepes Kaslo $11.50

- Creamy mixed seafood (shrimp, scallops, crab and red snapper) in a wine sauce. Served with home-style potatoes and fruit garnish.

The Meat Lover $14

- 2 Eggs any style with either a smoked pork chop or a local, New York AAA certified Angus steak. Served with home-style potatoes, fruit garnish, toast, butter and jam.

Bananas Foster Hotcakes $9.50

- 3 large hotcakes topped with vanilla ice cream and warm bananas in brown sugar rum sauce.

Praline Crunchy French Toast $14

- Served with battery pecan and brown sugar topping and a smoked pork chop and fresh fruit garnish, without the pork chop $9

Breakfast Burrito $9.50

- Eggs, bacon, brown rice, cheese and scallions in a sun-dried tomato flour tortilla topped with avocado. Served with black beans, fresh fruit garnish and salsa.

Sliders

- Home-style Potatoes $2.50
- Bacon $4
- 2 Eggs (any style) $3

- Toast $2.50
- Smoked Pork Chop $5

Beverages

- All the usual
- Bottomless Coffee $2
- Tea $2
- Orange Juice $3
- Apple Juice $3
- Tomato Juice $3
- After Breakfast
- Caesar $4.50
- Kasko Sunrise $4.50
- Ramos Gin Fizz $5
- Port of Napa ale $4.50

Prices do not include applicable taxes or gratuity. Reservations recommended for groups of 8 or more.

Served Saturday & Sunday 8:30 to 1:30 in our lakeside dining room.