Jumbo Glacier Resort approved despite overwhelming local opposition

by Jan McMurray

Since the Province announced its approval of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Development Agreement on March 20, the many voices of opposition have chimed in once again.

The proposed resort would be located in the Jumbo Glacier Valley in the Purcell mountains, east of Invermere. Potentially North America’s only year-round, glacier-based ski resort, it would include over 6,000 beds, 23 ski lifts, a 3,000-metre-high gondola and all the amenities of a small city in a 6,000-hectare area once fully built out – expected to take 20 years.

In 2004, the BC Environmental Assessment Office reported that 91 percent of locals surveyed opposed the project. The Sinixt and Ktunaxa First Nations oppose the project on environmental grounds.

A press release from the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society states that in making the decision to approve the resort, the Province “has never received a positive independent economic impact assessment for the resort, but has more than one assessment which suggests that the viability of the resort is questionable…” Wildsight’s John Bergenske points out that ski hills across the Kootenays are running below capacity, and the ski industry and real estate markets are in decline. The Province estimates that the “up-to-$900 million in private capital investment could create an estimated 750 permanent, direct jobs upon completion and provide 3,750 person years of construction employment.”

Despite this most recent stamp of approval, the project has one more approval to go – the land must be rezoned. The government press release states that the proponent has requested a ‘resort municipality’ designation for the resort. “The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development will review this application now that the Master Development Agreement has been approved.” Bergenske of Wildsight says this would create a town with zero population and an appointed council. “It’s never been done before,” Bergenske said.

Glacier Resorts Ltd. received an Environmental Assessment Certificate for Jumbo Glacier Resort in 2004, which included 195 commitments to mitigate environmental impacts. The resort master plan was approved in 2007.

Vandals target cherished New Denver monument

The community of New Denver is still trying to recover from this shocking and extremely cunning act of vandalism that occurred sometime between midnight and 9 am on April 1. See story, page 18. Editorial on page 4.

Would saving $700 affect your decision to buy a new catalytic wood stove?

The RDCK has a $350.00 cash incentive to changeout old non EPA certified wood stoves with new ones.

As a Special Blaze King Dealer we are able to offer an additional $350.00 off of the list price of our qualifying stoves. We even have an EPA certified wood Add-on Furnace that qualifies.

For more information, call (250) 355-0088
website: www.kootenayfurnace.com • email: kfurnace@netidea.com

Vancouver Energy is a locally-owned independent newspaper

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**East meets west for Jumbo fundraiser**

by Jan McMurray

Two Kootenay people – one from each side of the Purcells – have come together with a unique and ambitious fundraising project for Jumbo Wild.

Randy Morse from Kaslo and Keith Ligett of Fernie have launched the production of three publications about Jumbo: one will be a very beautiful, limited edition, hand-printed book; the second will be a commercially printed and more affordable version of the same book; and the third will be a multi-media ebook.

“It’s a very spontaneous thing; it’s completely grassroots. We’re doing this because of a mutual love of high places,” said Morse.

Both Morse and Ligett have a lot of experience with publishing, but they won’t be doing it all themselves – they are calling for submissions. They are looking for great photos of the landscape, flora, fauna, people or anything that represents Jumbo. They are also looking for text – articles, poems, one liners, quotes. They invite artists to submit high quality digital images of their work, and musicians to send in MP3s of any song or music they think is appropriate.

Morse stressed that anyone at all can make submissions. “It’s not just for professionals. If you have a heart and you care, let us know with a piece of writing, a photo, a podcast – anything you’d like us to consider.”

The collectible book will be hand-typeset and printed on a 1916 letterpress at Clawhammer Press in Fernie. The ‘regular’ book will be printed at Rocky Mountain Printers in Cranbrook. Morse will produce the multi-media ebook in Kaslo. “The printers have agreed to do the work at cost, and everyone involved is working on this gratis – so every dime will go to the cause,” said Morse.

The pair has not yet decided where to direct the funds, but they will be going to “a group that is going to use them in a transparent way and use them in a way to help preserve Jumbo,” said Morse. “We’ll do that openly and will be soliciting suggestions from the public on that too.”

Once the three books have been completed – and Morse assured that they are going to get them done as quickly as humanly possible – they will launch a tour in the region. “It will be a rolling Jumbo show, with an exhibition of images, samples of text from the book, and some spoken word and perhaps some music to try to reach out to people who may not be as engaged in this issue as we are,” said Morse. “We want to remind people who have never been to Jumbo of the importance of preserving alpine wilderness for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, and the planet.”

Morse says they want to have some fun with the project. “These are very serious issues, but sometimes people on both sides end up taking themselves just as seriously as the issues are, and that turns off people who are not as engaged, so we want to do this with a grin on our face and a skip in our step.”

Submissions can be emailed to randy@netidea.com. For more information, call Morse at 250-353-2853.

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**VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER**

**NOTICE – ARBOR DAY**

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbor Day on Monday, April 30, 2012. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 a.m. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged.

Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Catholic Churches in Fauquier, Nakusp, New Denver & Slocan

**Holy Week—a time of prayer, Easter—a time of joy!**

Around the Easter weekend Christians remember Christ’s journey from the table of the last supper, through his Passion and Death, to the joy of his Rising to new life.

The Holy Week services are beautiful—with the washing of feet at the Maundy services, the reading of the Passion on Good Friday and the celebration of light and life at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday. As always you will be very welcome to join us at this most sacred and uplifting time.

Maundy Service (4th/5th April):
Slocan—5pm Wednesday
Nakusp—6:30pm Thursday

Good Friday (6th):
Slocan—12noon
Nakusp—3pm

Easter Vigil (Saturday 7th):
Nakusp—8pm

Easter Sunday (8th):
Slocan—9am
New Denver—11:30am
Fauquier—2:30pm

Please note that there is no Mass in Nakusp on Easter Sunday morning.

Other local Christian Churches will also be praying and worshipping in a similar way. So wherever you celebrate the weekend, we hope you will feel the warmth of Christ’s light shining on you.

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**Locals rally for Jumbo Wild in Nelson, March 25**

by Jan McMurray

Local organizations for Jumbo Wild responded quickly to the government’s approval of the resort with a rally in Nelson on March 25. 
K Linda Kivi of West Kootenay spoke on behalf of the West Kootenay EcoSociety. He listed all those who are for Jumbo Wild: the grizzly bears and other wild animals (that cannot speak for themselves); the groups who have urged the government not to establish permanent residences in the sacred upper reaches of Jumbo; the thousands of Kootenay residents who have voted, participated in surveys, marched, demonstrated, sent emails and letters; the hard-headed economic majors who say this project isn’t done deal,” she said, encouraging people to continue their resistance.

Sinixt official spokesperson Marilyn James told the crowd that the Sinixt are responsible for the flora and fauna in their traditional territory. “Everything we do at the tops of these mountains affects the grizzly, the wolverine...if we don’t respect them, we will end up paying the ultimate price.”

The Raging Grannies sang a Jumbo song before Kim Kratky spoke on behalf of the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild. He listed all those who are for Jumbo Wild: the grizzly bears and other wild animals; the hard-headed economic majors and shrewd business majors who say this project doesn’t compete economically or financially – especially now, when the ski industry is one of the riskiest ventures into; and the taxpayers and residents of BC, who may be called upon to pick up the tab for some things, such as garbage disposal and road maintenance.

David Reid, Executive Director of the West Kootenay EcoSociety was the final speaker. He said for premier and prime minister seem to think we have to trade our healthy ecosystems for our healthy economies, but here in the Kootenays, we believe we can have both. He also said a trio of French companies is interested in investing $450 million in this project. “We’re interested to know if that’s something the French people support,” he said.
Regional District of Central Kootenay adopts 2012 budget

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK has outgrown its office building in Nelson and has struck a committee to look at options. The Facilities Analysis Select Committee has until July 10 to present a written report to the board with a wide variety of scenarios including site options and staffing configurations,” according to the committee’s terms of reference.

The TOR document explains that the organization is growing because of public demand for expanded services such as water system management, parkland dedication/recreation, and bylaw enforcement. It also states that there is room for only two more workstations in the Nelson office building in its current configuration.

The committee has been asked to look at expansion or reconfiguration at the current location, a new location in an existing building, and a new building or buildings. The committee has also been asked to explore opportunities for efficiencies working with School Districts 8 and 20, CBT, the Cities of Nelson, Castlegar, and Creston, other government agencies, etc.

Members of the committee include Hillary Elliott of Slocan as chair, Area H Director Ramona Faust, Area E Director Ramona Faust, Nelson Mayor John Dooley, and Area G Director Lawrence Chernoff.

RDCK getting too big for its building

Shambhala Music & Performance Hall at Selkirk College opens

The official opening of Selkirk College’s newly invigorated state-of-the-art campus was held on Thursday, April 5.

Formerly known as Studio 80, the previous 80-seat studio has been transformed into a 108-seat state-of-the-art theatre, which has been named after the Shambhala Music Festival, a regular feature of the new facility. The Shambhala Music and Performance Hall at Selkirk College will be the home to all recitals, workshops, clinics and year-end showcases for students of the Contemporary Music program. The theatre will be available to members of the community and touring groups who have not been using it as a learning centre for students.

Thanks to the amazing support of the community, municipal, regional and provincial partners, over $165,000 was raised towards new equipment and a complete renovation of the existing space, about 38 percent of the budget, with user fees, grants, debt financing, use of reserves, etc. making up the rest. In 2012, the RDCK will tax $22,142,607 to deliver its services. In 2011, the RDCK taxed $21,672,513 and in 2010, the figure was $21,408,622. The total 2011 budget was $50,699,828.

“RDCK receiving the board for their effort,” said RDCK Chair John Kettle. “We’ve held the line on taxation and we’ve prepared for the future. That’s a win-win for everyone.”

2012 financial plan direction

• Key administration areas were restricted to an increase of one percent or less in taxation.

• The board acknowledges the economy is weak and taxpayers are very concerned about new taxation.

• The board has asked staff and BC Transit to re-examine transit service delivery models and see if a different model would be advantageous.

• The board will hire a consultant in 2012 and conduct a corporate review of the RDCK.

• The RDCK Resource Recovery Plan was approved in 2011 and starting now, improvements to our recovery of waste can be expected.

• The RDCK has acquired three new waterfront parks that will require resources and management of these new public lands.

• The RDCK continues to be an option for small community water systems. Recently, two additional systems joined the RDCK family of water users.

• The RDCK will undertake a three-to-five year project of software conversion starting in 2012. This project will ensure our computer systems and software are efficient, reliable and able to serve the entire RDCK for many years to come. This project will require a great deal of commitment to reach a successful conclusion.

Projects of note for 2012:

• The RDCK’s online GIS will become more robust and quicker in 2012 as efforts are being made to improve the system.

• A Recreation Master Plan is underway in 2012 for the Greater Nelson area.

• The RDCK transit system is being analyzed and possible changes may be forthcoming in 2013.

• The “new” Nelson Transfer Station will proceed in 2012.

• Environmental improvements to the Creston, Otoshichen and Central landfills are proposed.

• Water system upgrades totaling $3.2 million are planned in 11 different systems across the regional district.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

TUCK, AN INVASIVE AQUATIC ALGA threatening trout streams and rivers around the world, has been identified in tributaries of Slocan Lake. Like other invasive aquatic species transported by humans, its spread is stopped by properly washing boats, boots and equipment.

DID YOU KNOW? 

**Serving the Arrow and Slocan Lakes**

- Professional fitting with a 30-day comfort guarantee
- The official opening of the Shambhala Music & Performance Hall at Selkirk College takes place April 5
- Two local crafters have a display at the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society meeting

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Parent Information Night & Education Fair

**HELPING YOUR CHILD PLAN THEIR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?**

Learn about the post-secondary system and the benefits of starting at Selkirk College. Parents with children in grades 9-12, high school students and adults looking into post-secondary programs will be interested in this session.

**Date:**

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

**Location:**

Mary Hall, Tenth Street Campus, Nelson

**Time:**

Information Session, 6:30-7:30pm
Education Fair, 7:30-8:00pm

Please register for this FREE Parent Information Night in advance by contacting Selkirk College’s Recruitment Coordinator at akinnakin@selkirk.ca or 250.505.1396.

selkirk.ca

Submit

The RDCK adopted its financial plan on March 22. The total 2012 budget is $58,022,994. Taxation makes up two percent of the budget, with user fees, grants, debt financing, use of reserves, etc. making up the rest.
New Denver’s Wet Rock

Much has been written about the New Denver Wet Rock in the pages of the valley Voice. Much of that has been derisive. People have written letters to the editor. Photos of local food editors, who shall remain nameless, have been digitized and imposed over its rugged features. Nothing, however, could be as humiliating as the treatment that this cherished village icon received at the hands of vandals in the early morning hours of April 1.

When the villagers of New Denver awoke on Sunday morning, their beloved Wet Rock was festooned with clownish buffoonery. Not only had the perpetrators defaced... Hmmmm... That’s not it... Perhaps defaced would be a better word. Not only had the perpetrators defaced the rock, but they had mockingly used the features of a well-loved childhood toy to do so. I’ll never be able to look at a Mr. Potato Head Kit again, without remembering this childish prank.

The next time these pranksters decide to engage in their silly tricks, I’d like them to consider the object of their mockery. Think of the rock. Imagine that you’re a chunk of undifferentiated Chloritized Volcanic Lava from the Lower Permian Kaslo Group, or as the mining pioneers who built our communities called it - Garbage Rock. You’ve been sitting on a mountainside for the last 20 million years, not really doing anything, or bothering anybody. You’re garbage rock, and no one is really very interested in you.

But then one day a bunch of people come along and they haul you away to one of their villages and they prop you up at one end of their Main Street in the hot sun. But they drill a hole so that water runs through you and it’s not so bad. They put up a plaque that tells everyone that you’re Chloritized Volcanic Lava from the Lower Permian Kaslo Group, and expect you to draw tourists to their downtown.

So you do your best, but you’re just a chunk of garbage rock that looks a little like a potato. At least you’ve still got your dignity. Beneath that flinty exterior there’s a growing sense of pride (although that may just be the water gushing through). Over time, new businesses locate to the Main Street, and tourists begin to walk by you on the sidewalk. Children sometimes ask their fathers about the funny potato-shaped rock. And fathers often reply by quoting the words on the plaque. “That’s not a funny potato-shaped rock, son, it’s Chloritized Volcanic Lava from the Lower Permian Kaslo Group. It’s 20 million years old.”

To which the children invariably reply. “Let’s go get some ice cream, this is boring.” Sometimes people scratch their heads and ask if you’re supposed to be a fountain, but the water’s not working. You have a stoic nature, and bear these thoughtless comments in silence.

Eventually, you become a cherished institution in the village. Everyone refers to you affectionately as The Wet Rock, and you begin to look forward to the regular visits from local children who like to put detergent into the water supply, just to watch the bubbles come out of the top of your rocky exterior...

Then someone callously and cruelly mocks your body by afixing oversized toy facial features to your exterior. The Wet Rock can’t help being potato-shaped. It can’t defend itself, either.

Now some will say that this is just sour grapes because I didn’t think of the prank first, and they would be correct, but that does not excuse the behaviour. If the perpetrators won’t consider the matter from the perspective of the rock, they should at least have some consideration for the residents. Gales of laughter if the perpetrators refaced the rock, but they had mockingly used the features of a well-loved childhood toy to do so. I’ll never be able to look at a Mr. Potato Head Kit again, without remembering this childish prank.

The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.
It's much more than just an ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’ situation

As you can read more about in the Classifieds, BC Interior based presenter/educator, Belgian-trained electrical engineer, and a member of the Committee for Safe Telco during our meeting coming to our area this week, and again in several weeks. Werner Hofelink, CSTVERNON@gmail.com, has created an excellent one-hour PowerPoint presentation, and can answer your questions on Smart Meters and the Smart Grid.

He’ll be in New Denver April 4, and also April 5 and Trafton April 22. He will return home in between but let’s try and book him for further presentations in the area (Winlaw? Nelson? Castlegar?) on either side of those dates. He will need a small contribution to help with travel, food/bidding, but this is a great opportunity for us to explore the issue more deeply. If you have a group/venue you would like to book for, or want to host him, please contact him directly and he will be in touch with others here as well.

For the truth, and as ever, for health,

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Re: Smart meters and smart grid seem beneficial

I would like to address questions that the audience had raised about the February 22 letter about the capabilities of smart meters and a smart grid. The Smart Meters Program is replacing old-fashioned mechanical meters with a modern, fully integrated, digital metering system. Smart meters are digital meters that capture and record the amount of power that is consumed, or produced, and when. They can provide real-time information about the status of the electricity system, such as voltage levels, current flow, and other data. This information is useful for managing the grid, detecting faults, and improving overall system efficiency.

The new system will support large-scale clean energy initiatives such as electric vehicles, electrification of public transportation, and integration of renewable fuel sources. Smart meters will also provide support for customers generating, distributing, and consuming micro-girds. For example, with a more modern electric system, customers who invest in solar panels, or customers who install an electric vehicle could sell excess power back to BC Hydro, or draw electricity from their electric vehicles during a power outage.

The smart meters that BC Hydro is installing are completely safe. Smart meters communicate using radio signals for less than one minute per day. The total exposure to radio frequency from a smart meter over its entire 20-year life span – is equivalent to the exposure from a single 30-minute cell phone call. BC’s Provincial Public Health Officer, Health Canada and the World Health Organization have confirmed that wireless meters pose no known health risk or reason for concern. Our meters use radio frequency signals that are far below Canadian guidelines. In fact, they are even below the strictest precautionary limits in the world, set by Switzerland.

Planetworks Consulting, a North Vancouver-based telecommunications engineering firm, has conducted an independent engineering study and confirmed that BC Hydro’s new meters are safe. The study confirms that at 20 centimeters from the meter, the average field strength of a meter is 0.3795 per cent of Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 limit. Their reports are posted at bchydro.com/smartmeters.

BC Hydro is committed to providing accurate and timely information about the Smart Meters Program, and all current information about the Smart Metering Program can be found at bchydro.com/smartmeters. We also encourage individual customers with questions about the program to contact us directly by email at smarthometesters@bchydro.com, or to call 1-800-224-3378.

Mary Anne Coulis
BC Hydro Community Relations Representative

Arrow Lakes tunnel would bring prosperity

In response to Mr. Barney’s statement during the council meeting under Arrow Lakes, I would like to kindly remind him that the original concept (Burton Tunnel) was the brainchild of Mr. Ted Rhodes and take him to task for failing to mention other great financial opportunities during the boring of the tunnel. We all know that the underground lakes and valleys in the West Kootenays are loaded with valuable minerals. History has definitely proven that fact. With slight alterations and re-routing sections of the tunnel path, a jackpot of gold, silver, zinc, galena, granite and all other valuable minerals await. As a cost saving measure, the boring machine tail could be used for the extraction and transportation of these valuable minerals to the surface.

I would also like to suggest:

- The expansion of the mining shafts in all directions for additional mining
- A new Tim Hortons’ in the centre of the tunnel for the workers’ coffee breaks and morning necessities.
- A publicized underground hotel with a giant shopping mall would be a great tourist attraction for high commercial value.

The valley’s story: Jumbo as a missed opportunity

BC Hydro is committed to protecting our natural environment. We in the Interior have been concerned about our watersheds for over 40 years. We have been lied to, ignored and threatened, while at the same time we have researched the scientific facts. These facts are now indicating, overwhelmingly, that we are wrong.

I know perfectly well your kleptocratic government will not remedy this because it is too busy donating our natural resources to foreign corporations while slashing programs to health care, education, justice and environment.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Mungall’s letter to constituents about Jumbo

For over 20 years, Kootenay residents have been keeping Jumbo Glacier wild. Through petitions, letters, rallies and your elected representatives, you have shared your vision of protecting the area when they released the Oat’mik Declaration. Businessmen and hockey legends alike have asked the BC government to reject the proposed resort in favour of protecting grizzly bear habitat.

Local businesses, whose owners live in our region, have also said no thanks, preferring to build a locally based tourism industry that celebrates our natural environment rather than destroy it.

All of this was ignored on March 20, 2012 at 11 am when the Liberals announced that they would approve the Master Development Agreement for the year-round Jumbo Glacier Alpine Resort.

Like many Kootenay residents, I was disappointed to learn that the Liberals chose to ignore us and our vision for our region. A decision was finally made, and it was the wrong decision. However, at times like this, I hold Jack Layton’s words very close. So when it comes to keeping Jumbo wild, “don’t let them tell you it can’t be done.”

We still believe that a year-round luxury resort housing over 6,000 beds for staff and visitors on a glacier is not suitable for our area. We still strongly feel that it is not in the public’s interest to foot the $200 million bill for road construction to the proposed site. We still feel strongly that our vision of building a diverse local economy in conjunction with protecting our natural environment

continued on page 6

Rowena Eloise
Argenta
West Kootenayconstituent for Jumbo Wild
continued from page 5
deserves respect.
That does not change despite the Liberals making a jumbo mistake.

In the days ahead, we will learn about ways we can keep Jumbo Wild. To start, please go to CBC’s online forum and tell us why you do not support the Jumbo Glacier Resort. You can stay updated with news on this issue by visiting my website, www.michellemungall.ca. And continue talking with your neighbours and friends. It is essential that we are all aware of the need for a Jumbo wild!

Along with Adrian Dix and the entire NDP team, I will continue to hold Christy Clark and the Liberals accountable for their decision. We will ask questions in the legislature and speak out wherever we can, and we will be working with you on the ground to protect the region’s interests.

Together, we will refuse to be ignored.

Keep Jumbo Wild!

Michelle Mungall
MLA Nelson-Creston

Tar sands, yea or nay?

Lots of letters have been published on the issue of tar sands “oil” in Northern Alberta, most arguing against further development and the building of pipelines to get the product to market.

A recent scientific paper (the Nature Climate Change paper) by a couple of noted climate scientists, Andrew Weaver and Neil Swart of the University of Victoria, addresses this question and while it is concluded that further development of the tar sands is a “bad idea,” the media spun it 180 degrees.

For example, according to Time magazine, “Pipelines Politics: Are the Oil Sands ‘Game Over’ for the Climate? One Study Says No,” the good news from the Nature Climate Change paper is that, should environmentalists lose their battle, the consequences might not be quite as bad as they’ve made it out to be.

Except that’s what the study finds. Indeed, the final paragraph states, “If North American and international policymakers wish to limit global warming to less than 2°C they will clearly need to put in place measures that ensure a rapid transition of global energy systems to non-greenhouse-gas-emitting sources, while avoiding commitments to new infrastructure supporting dependence on fossil fuels.”

In short, if you care about the 2°C (3.6°F) target, building something like the tar sands pipeline is a really bad idea (the “2°C target” is what the scientists are telling us we’d better hold on to if we hope to avoid some very serious consequences).

James Hansen, America’s leading climate scientist, put it this way: “The argument that the currently known amount of carbon in the tar sands pit is small compared to the total fossil fuels burned in two centuries is fallacious and misleading – every single source, even Saudi Arabia, is small compared to the total. If we once get hooked on tar sands and set up infrastructure, the numbers will grow as mining capabilities increase. Tar sands are particularly egregious, because as we get them, we have to develop the energy per unit carbon emitted and there is associated environmental degradation in the mining.”

Mr. Hansen has also described the tar sands as a “climate time bomb” owing to its massive store of carbon and the loss of such a vast swath of boreal forest in mining it – forest that acts as a carbon sink. We’re talking 50,000 square miles here.

There’s enough carbon in the tar sands to push the atmospheric concentration of CO2 up by 200 parts per million (ppm) if burned over a 50-year period. That would be enough to increase the atmospheric concentration of CO2 by 300 ppm from its current density of 390 ppm (already 45 percent above the pre-industrial norm) … and that’s not to mention the temperature change that could push so significant the consequences are almost unimaginable, and certainly unthinkable to sane humans.

The stakes in this are gargantuan; any other issue we face pales in comparison.

In other related news recently, we learned (through leaked documents, normally referred to as “the horse’s mouth”) that the Heartland Institute, a so-called “think tank” in Chicago, has been secretly spending millions a year to sow doubt and confusion about climate science and the anthropogenic global warming (AGW) hypothesis. It has plans to develop a K-12 curriculum for American schools that would teach children to “debate” among climate scientists about the veracity of AGW, an idea that’s given the lie by the fact that every scientific institution on the planet is convinced of the significant contribution of scientific professionals in the world has publicly stated that the AGW hypothesis is scientifically valid, and that 97 percent of those working in the field of climate science agree.

We are being led down a merry path by this invisible, sector of the Heartland Institute, acting as it does as a mouthpiece for the $10 trillion a year fossil fuel industry, and by our clueless politicians in Ottawa, whose rallying cry seems to be “economic development at any cost,” even if that cost includes my life and yours and our children’s and grandchildren’s, oh, and all your kinfolk and friends too.

The planet is warming, there’s no shred of doubt about this, and it is on a trajectory that will see it rise to somewhere between 3°C and 8°C over the pre-industrial norm within the coming 70 to 80 years, as driven by the massive amount of CO2 and other greenhouses gasses we are emitting, now at a level of some 28,000 gigatons per year. With no let’s not kid ourselves … further development of Alberta’s tar sands is a very bad idea and should be brought to a halt ASAP (as soon as possible).

If you live in Alaska, you need intelligent and developing renewable energy sources and learn to use less juice and use what juice it does consume more efficiently.

Otherwise, we are toast.

Seán Rooney
Community social services matter

No one knows the importance of really good social services and support net better than the thousands upon thousands of British Columbians who rely on it.

It provides victims’ assistance, childcare, substance abuse counseling, group homes, support programs for people with mental illness, transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, infant development programs, as well as services for new immigrants, First Nations families and youth at risk.

Every single one of these services, and many more, help make people who don’t fall through the cracks when they have a special need, or when they are facing a crisis in their lives.

But while the problems they help solve are often in the news, the services themselves are rarely in the public eye. Most of us may not know they are there until we absolutely need them.

That’s why your community social services workers were shining a spotlight on this critical, but often invisible, sector of our society during the month of March, Community Social Services Awareness Month.

We want you to know the vital role these services play in making our communities healthier and stronger for all citizens, including our most vulnerable.

And yet, many of these services are suffering from cutbacks and inadequate funding. Behind the scenes, waitlists are growing. Programs are being cut back. Organizations are stretched to the breaking point.

As front-line workers, we are doing our best to meet growing demands with insufficient resources. We know that maintaining stable, quality support services for all those who need them is only getting harder. But we also know that without them, many individuals and families will be at risk.

If you or someone close to you needs a safe place to escape from an abusive relationship, or quality care for your child, or help settling into a new community as a recent immigrant, you require services that are easily accessible.

If you are an adult with a developmental disability who needs ongoing support to live safely and participate fully in your community, you cannot be left to languish on a lengthy waitlist.

For you, losing the services you need to keep safe is not just a personal issue. For you, you need mental health support, substance abuse counseling, community rehabilitation, or help dealing with the impact of a violent crime, you need services that can respond quickly.

Every day, in every corner of the province, we are working to help people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds deal with challenges like these.

But as budgets shrink, and decision-makers focus on other priorities, we’re asking for your support.

Join us in calling for a stronger community social services support net, one that can make sure all people, especially our most vulnerable, get the support they need when they need it.

For more information about how you can support our call for action, urging government to increase investment in BC’s vital community social services, visit www.cssmatters.ca.

James Cavalluzzo, B.C. Government and Service Employees Union

Michael Lanier, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Tasha Whynham, Hospital Employees’ Union
Jody Moore, Health Sciences Association

Galena Ferry fiasco

On March 28, I was travelling for the noon ferry run from Revelstoke, and I ended up at the tail of the line of cars and semi-trucks. I was told the larger ferry landing ramp had broken down at about 6 am that day, and the small “back-up” ferry was in operation. It took four hours and 25 minutes, due to loading delays. It loaded only one semi and was so weighted down that the semi had to move back and forth to clear the ramp. At around 1 pm, I counted 12 semi trailers, and at about 2 pm, the ferry line-up – the estimated waiting time was therefore more than 12 hours the way it was going. The ferry crew members were wonderful, well organized, but they can only do so much.

The broken ferry needed a special part that I was told could take several days to get.

Two women were searching for a washroom, which was closed for the season. No food, no shelter, no orange juice.

I would like to invite all who oppose the fixed link to go and sit in that line-up for 10 hours, on your time, on your money. Cold, hungry, miserable, no washroom, no phone.

I would like some explanation on how the proposed new larger single ferry will operate with no back-up. If we have to wait several days for a part, what will happen to the stranded people and cargo?

Here is the lowdown. Even the present small ferry does not provide a viable back-up, and it is not even the busy season.

I imagine that some bureaucrats came up with the ‘cost saving’ idea of running just one ferry. How about closing the service completely… wow, this would save even more money, or, how about real cost savings by constructing the fixed link?

Will we let this community die in a slow death? The Music Festival died for one and only reason – people could not get here. Simple as that. My friends from around the coast, who were here for the regular hours on the ferry, did not attend Sunday performances which they paid for last year, but went back on Sunday morning, feeling enthralled instead.

Sunday performances which had been waiting for years to get a washroom, which was closed on how the proposed new larger single ferry will operate with no back-up. If we have to wait several days for a part, what will happen to the stranded people and cargo?

Tourism! The ferry has been on the mind of every visitor I ever spoke with, always the concern how long it may take, and whether the service may be interrupted. So they are not coming.

The connection to Highway 1 is essential. It is also a disaster emergency route, and it should not be interrupted by the ferry ‘service.’

We pay the taxes, we are entitled to that service. I would gladly pay a toll for 10 years on the fixed link, because the losses encountered by this ferry ‘service’ is much larger than what a toll would be.

Few people oppose the fixed link, and those who do lack the resources.

We need people with skills to come back here, more job opportunities. Nakusp needs to grow a bit, just to the sustainable size. But without young people, with children, we need a spirit of new life and renewal here.

Vladimir Stuchlisk, P. Eng.
Nakusp
CA$H FOR YOUR SILVER COINS AND OLD GOLD!
Assessed and paid for - right on the spot!

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SILVER COINS - PAID OUT AT 10 TIMES FACE VALUE!
Canadian Coins: 1967 and earlier - 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and $1.00 x 10 PAID
(Only exception Canadian 1967/68 25¢ and 10¢ x 5 PAID)
U.S. Coins: 1964 and earlier - 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ (1935 and earlier for $1.00 coins) x 10 PAID
Bring in $100.00 face value of the above silver coins and leave with $1000.00

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

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

“IF YOU HAVEN’T USED IT IN YEARS COME DOWN AND CASH IT IN”

*We reserve the right to adjust payouts according to market conditions.

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at the MEETING/YOGA DOME at VILLA DOME QUIXOTE
602 6TH AVENUE, HIGHWAY 31A
(one block east of the PetroCan Station)
NEW DENVER, BC • 11:00am - 5:00pm

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Kaslo council, March 27: Community Recreation grant received for arena and curling rink

by Jan McMurray

• Kaslo has received a $188,666 grant under the provincial Community Recreation Program for the arena and curling rink. Councillor Lang reported that a further $50,000 has been set aside by the arena and curling organizations for the project. The grant application valued the project at $235,832 and included a new compressor and chiller for the curling club, a new compressor and defumidifier for the arena, electrical upgrades, fire exit doors, exit door shelters, acoustic conditioning, and concession upgrades.

• Wendy Van Puymbroeck from Kootenay Rockies Tourism (KRT) made a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the organization’s regional destination marketing initiatives. She outlined cost-sharing funding programs offered by KRT. Kaslo developed a tourism plan in 2008 under KRT’s Community Tourism Foundation program, and KRT reps Van Puymbroeck and Emilie Cayer-Huard met with Kaslo stakeholders earlier this year.

• Mayor Lay and the Chief Administrative Officer were authorized to sign the Columbia Basin Trust Water Smart Community Match Funding contribution agreement. The CBT is offering a maximum of $20,000 towards water smart initiatives in Kaslo. Kaslo’s three top priorities are a leak detection and repair program, public education on water conservation, and water metering. Development of a plan of action was referred to the Development Services Committee and the Public Works Foreman.

• An email from Janice Sinclair regarding Viny Park ring road was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council. The email is in response to a letter from Councillor Hollan, which suggested two roundabouts as a possible solution for the road. Sinclair outlines liability issues with roundabouts. She also points out that the purposes of roundabouts are to reduce crashes at stop signs and traffic signals, and to enhance intersection safety — which are not issues on the ring road. Sinclair states in her email: “A simpler and more properly approved solution is some paving and signage.” She concludes by advising council to “let Ring Road be as it is.”

• The Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society applied for a $350 grant to assist in dust control on the road from the golf course to Kaslo Bay Park. Council agreed to provide the grant if the society applies dust control prior to the festival weekend.

• A letter from MP Alex Atamanenko regarding a community development grant for Kaslo has been sent to Front Street businesses to remind them of Village policy to keep any sidewalk obstructions within two feet of private property.

• Council received minutes of a Kaslo Community Economic Development Committee meeting held March 8. Mike Stolte, Executive Director of the Organization for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership in Nelson, attended the meeting to discuss different approaches to a community economic development plan. The committee decided to invite people to a full-day economic summit, tentatively set for April 21.

• A memo from Michelle Leathwood opened the meeting, advising council has the final report and two plans developed by the Water Street Select Committee last year. “So what can we do this year? Which one of the two plans will we adopt, or a combination of both?”

By the end of the meeting, Development Services Committee members had essentially decided on option 1, where the walking path is on the lake side of the street. Option 2 had the sidewalk on the other side of the street, with crosswalks leading to green spaces on the lake side.

Following the recommendations as prioritized in the final report of the Water Street Committee, members had essentially decided to go underground. Development Services Committee decided to deal with encroachment first. Letters will go out to the owners of the properties backing onto Water Street informing them that encroachment onto the road right-of-way, asking them to deal with the encroachments by September 1.

Plans begin to implement Water Street development in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Water Street was the only agenda item at Kaslo’s Development Services Committee meeting on March 29.

Committee Chair Molly Leathwood opened the meeting, saying council has the final report and two plans developed by the Water Street Select Committee last year. “So what can we do this year? Which one of the two plans shall we adopt, or a combination of both?”

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Silvertown council, March 20: Red Mountain Internet service to improve by Jan McMurray

- Council received an email from Red Mountain Internet Society President Larry Lavam on March 14, announcing that they would soon have an increase in bandwidth. This will speed up their service considerably. If they have a large enough customer base that they do not anticipate having to raise rates. Lavam also announced that in four to five weeks the society will end its connection with the Parasun server and manage the server themselves. The company that bought out Parasun is a cable internet company and is not interested in the wireless internet business. Finally, Lavam notified the Village that Dave Burgess is the society’s local technician and installer.

- Mayor Provan reported on the 2012 budget. She said three leases would be paid up this year, and five year leases are being prepared. The increased bandwidth will cost the society more, but allows. Although the increased charges are the same for the Broughton and the Slough, and the Operation Lake Management Plan. Also, a new $78,000 Public Works truck (2012 Dodge Ram 5500) will be purchased, which will be in service in three months. The Municipal Finance Authority has said it will be in use before the old one can be sold.

- Mayor Provan reported that the Village received a letter from the Halesys, who along with the Broughton Lake Management Plan have been replaced. The letter will include a stainless steel hydraulic sander, a plow and a dump box. The old truck will be advertised for sale with information about the repairs needed and the date it can be released. The new truck must be in use before the old one can be sold.

- Close to 20 people came out for the council café on March 31 in New Denver, led by Councillors David Hodsall and Heather Fox. The hot topics were soil security, bears, reducing garbage and energy self-sufficiency. Resident Dave Burgess opened up discussion on food security by suggesting that the Village of New Denver could grow food. Vaccancies for 40 local families take advantage of the food hamper program, and that he forsees issues with getting food into our stores.

- Councillor Fox is particularly interested in food security, and she shared some of her ideas. In England, people grow food on any available public land – on roadsides, etc. – and anyone can help themselves to it. Fox also spoke about farmland trust, which takes land off the market and becomes public, and can be leased to farmers. She suggested that the Barker property on the way to Denver Siding would be a good candidate property for this. “How can we pull together, fundraise and make it happen?” she asked.

- Yet another of Fox’s ideas is to organize a worker co-op and make products such as jam from excess fruit in the village, using the commercial kitchen at the school. “We can make muscle meat from trees and solve the bear problem,” she said.

- A community garden was also discussed. Resident Elly Scheepens suggested that the Village-owned property along both sides of Carpenter Creek would be a good location. Peter Roulston pointed out that it would have a good sun exposure and the sloping soil is very good for a garden. Gretchan Perk mentioned the old dump property owned by the Village in Denver Siding, and she said mushrooms have been effective in recycling organic material.

- Some residents felt it was unnecessary to use Village land for this purpose when there is so much arable land on private property in the town. Hank Hastings suggested that residents who pay people to mow their lawns could consider paying people to garden on the properties instead. Councillor Fox suggested that the Village may be able to create a database of properties where owners would like a garden.

- Barry Wep added that backyard chickens are very easy to take care of and well worth it. Some residents wondered what was happening with the greenhouse at the school. Councillor Fox reported that Kevin Murphy, the lead on that project, has just arrived back in town and there would be a committee meeting soon. She said the facility must be educational – not a community business – because of the conditions of the grant funding used to build it.

- Councillor Hodsall reported that the Village has done an inventory of all the fruit trees in town and has just sent a letter to everyone with fruit trees on their properties or close to their properties. The letter asks property owners how the trees are being picked and informs them of the Harvest Share project in town. The letter also asks if owners are willing to have the trees picked or if they are willing to replace them.

- Hodsall also reported that council has decided to replace some fruit trees on Village property, particularly cherry trees, with flowering trees. He said council is making sure that the campground contractor will discuss the bear situation with all campers, and is producing a written checklist for campers. If they do not comply, the contractors are authorized to ask them to leave. Councillor Fox added that there are a couple more bearpaw garbage containers in the budget.

- The idea of exploring other alternative energy sources, such as geothermal, also came up. It was pointed out that the Village of Silverton has had a study done on a geothermal system using the lake, and Hodsall said he was very interested to read the report.

- Hodsall asked the group for ideas on reducing the cost of garbage pickup in the village. Some suggestions were to hire people to sort through the garbage and sell the useful items, and to look at new programs on ways to reduce garbage.

- One local couple has set up a wormery in their house, and highly recommended it, saying it is “simple and wonderful.”

- Hodsall reported that Silverton has an electronics recycling depot, and the Villages of New Denver and Silvertown have agreed to contribute to the cost of operating the facility. “People from New Denver are welcome to take their electronics to the Silvertown depot,” said Hodsall.

- Councillor Fox said more than once that the frustrating roadblocks to implementing a lot of these ideas is a lack of money to hire someone and a lack of volunteers. “The 20 percent already volunteering are maxed out, and there is no money to hire people, so how do we do this?” she asked.

- Councillor Hodsall feels very strongly about taking care of each other. If a fruit processing business was set up, for example, he would distribute the monies from the products of the before selling them outside the community. “We can’t call ourselves a community unless we are taking care of our own,” he said.
Nakusp council, March 26: Hot springs footbridge to be replaced

by Jan McMurtry

• Mayor Hamling announced that the Village had received $340,000 from the provincial Community Recreation funding program to replace the hot springs footbridge.
• The Hot Springs Commission has been dissolved and replaced with an advisory committee.

First annual March Madness Fishing Derby attracts 100+

submitted

Nakusp Esso hosted the first annual March Madness Fishing Derby on the Arrow Lakes March 16-18. Over 100 people came from Nakusp, all over the Kootenays, the Okanagan, and as far away as the coast, Alberta and Washington.

The derby was created to make a fishing event that would bring all the communities together that enjoy the adventure of fishing on the Arrow Lakes, as well as to attract new anglers to the area. And of course, a bit of friendly competitive rivalry is part of it, too.

This year’s derby saw 11 fish 10 lbs and over weighed in. Two of those were caught by lady anglers Sara Huffington of Nakusp and Doreen Romano of Trout Lake.

First prize ($1,600) went to 13-year-old Jayden Maidia of Nelson with a 14-1b 10-oz dollly. Second prize ($1,000) winner was Tom Neid of Edgewood, who caught a 14-1b 3-oz dollly. Third prize ($500) was won by Ralph Dachwitz of Nakusp, with a 13-1b 7-oz dollly.

The derby was a fundraiser for Summit Lake Ski Hill and the ski/snowboard teams in Nakusp. The derby and 50/50 ticket sales raised a total of $845 for these groups. The winner of the 50/50 was Carol Hall of Nakusp, who walked away with $290.

The winner of the early bird draw for a set of custom-made planer boards by local craftsman Michael Lagore valued at $150 was Dick Devocht of Nakusp.

 Derby organizers thank all the businesses of Nakusp that donated door prizes, as well as Rory’s On Main in New Denver, Barren Sports in Kaslo, Woodbury Resort and Jones Boys, and the Gill & Gift in Balfour. A big thank you to Glen and Gail Olson for the use of their building at the marina for the derby weigh-in station. Glen and a couple of buddies also sanded the boat launch on Sunday morning, after the snow/ice the night before, for the safety of the boats being launched.

Next year’s derby is being planned for March 22-24. Look for ongoing updates on the March Madness Nakusp Fishing Derby Facebook event page. There will be a special 15 and under prize for a girl and a boy next year to encourage families to come out for the derby and reward the next generation of Arrow Lakes anglers.

Rodeo comes to Nakusp this summer

by Jan McMurtry

A rodeo will likely be held in Nakusp July 27-29 this year, on the former mud bog racing site. BRuvall said local people are looking for a new rodeo and want to see their efforts going somewhere.

• Berg Naqvi Lehmann was appointed as Village of Nakusp auditors for the 2011-year-end audit.
• The Hot Springs Commission has been dissolved and replaced with an advisory committee.

Texas Hold’em

April 14

Nakusp Legion

$50 buy in

$5000 in chips

Starts @ 7 pm

Karaoke by

Shirley - 8 pm

Tickets available at the Legion Lounge or Call office@265-3033 and leave a message

Prizes: 75% of gross income/1st prize-36%, 2nd-25% and 3rd-14%

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TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012

2011 Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award

Saturday, April 28,2012

at the Legion Hall

Tickets are at Hub/Barton Insurance

$15.00

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Dinner served by the Legion Auxiliary at 6:00 pm.

Sponsored by the Nakusp & District Rotary Club

Nakusp Citizen of the Year

Kelly Roberts

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WELCOME TO SIGN UP FOR THE RODEO, AND PENNING COMPETITION WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY.

The rodeo will be sanctioned by the BC Rodeo Association and will probably have seven senior events and one junior event, including bull riding, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, and steer riding. Three additional events are planned to encourage local participation. The Rabbit/ Pig Catch on Friday evening for adults only will provide comic relief; the scavenger hunt on horseback, on a course set up on trails surrounding Nakusp, will happen Saturday morning; and the penning competition will also take place Saturday.

Bravull said local people are welcome to sign up for the rodeo, and are guaranteed to get in. He also said there would be a limited number of vendors on site, hopefully local.

These rodeos usually attract anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 cowboys, cowgirls, their families and supporters, according to Bravull. As there are no other sanctioned rodeos in BC during the July 27-29 weekend, Bravull said he hoped this would provide the best opportunity to attract a decent number of visitors to Nakusp – he is hoping for 4,000.

“We’re dedicated to making this family event a good opportunity for local businesses,” he added.

To apply for a boundary expansion during public time, Mayor Hamling explained that the three-year strategic planning process made it clear that Village staff needs to be more empowered. The commission was doing a great job, but was far more operational than intended. Hamling said council determined that the commission’s strength is its business acumen, so the committee’s job will be to look at different areas of the hot springs and make recommendations.

The CAO and the hot springs manager will run the facility. The hot springs marketing contract with Marilyn Rivers has been extended until the end of April.

• Council began the process of applying for a boundary expansion to incorporate a Village-owned, 165-acre parcel at the hot springs into the municipality. This is the property where the source of the hot springs water is located.

• An Outdoor Café policy was approved, establishing the application process for cafes on Village sidewalks. Also, the Fees and Charges Bylaw has been amended to include fees for outdoor cafés.

• Mayor Hamling stated that this would have no impact on the farmer’s market.

• Council received a letter from Lynda Gosse, asking that a new location be found for the farmers’ market. Gosse believes the market has outgrown its current location.

• Mayor Hamling reported that she had spoken with the organizers and they are happy with their current location. Despite rumours, Hamling said the Village has no intention of moving the market from the present site. She said the CAO would have to meet with them to remind them they cannot use the KSCU parking lot or park on the sidewalk.

• A letter from the Cultural Community of Nakusp and Area Society asks if council would consider helping out with costs to complete the sound room and serving kitchen projects at the arena. As the society did not provide a dollar figure, council referred this back to staff to find out how much money would be needed.

• There was much discussion on an application by Kim’s Kustoms for a variance to relax the side parcel setback from five meters to zero metres to accommodate an addition to the existing building. The matter was referred back to staff to work on a solution with the property owner and the building inspector. The CAO pointed out that maintenance on the outside wall would have to be done from the neighbour’s property. Even though the current neighbour may have no problem with this, their neighbours might. She said the building inspector may not allow the zero setback.

The rodeo will be sanctioned by the BC Rodeo Association and will probably have seven senior events and one junior event, including bull riding, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, calf roping, team roping, ladies barrel racing, team roping and junior steer riding. Three additional events are planned to encourage local participation. The Rabbit/Pig Catch on Friday evening for adults only will provide comic relief; the scavenger hunt on horseback, on a course set up on trails surrounding Nakusp, will happen Saturday morning; and the penning competition will also take place Saturday.

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If you are interested in giving Minny a home, please call (250) 265-3635.

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MY ALLPAGE.CA
BC Hydro partners with CPC on Nakusp wharf project, to begin next year

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro has partnered with the Columbia Power Corporation to build the Nakusp, Edgewood and Anderson Point boat ramps.

“This is a beneficial partnership,” said BC Hydro’s Jesse Brown, who attended the March 26 Nakusp council meeting with his colleagues. “We’re always sending people from Vancouver to check out the ramps, so this is a win-win, and it allows us to work with our sister Crown corporation in a partnership.”

Nakusp’s new wharf project has been ready to go since spring 2010, but the reservoir levels haven’t been low enough to allow construction to commence. Council recently contacted Hydro to find out if there was any way to get the project going in high water conditions.

Essentially, the answer is yes. “The ramp can be built in stages, which will allow us to install it in higher water levels,” said Brown. He expects the reservoir levels to be high for the next two years.

Because of Nakusp’s anniversary celebration planned for this year, Brown said they would not rip out the old ramp this season. The plan is to start in January or February 2013. The launching ramp would be built the first year, and the parking area beside that would follow the next year. Brown said a further phase may be necessary when reservoir levels get low again, to build a ramp that would be suitable in lower elevations.

Brown explained that the work has to be done over two or three years because the annual construction window is short – between January and April, when levels are at their lowest.

Audrey Repin of CPC said there would be a tender process through BC Bid this summer for the Nakusp project, as well as separate tenders for the Edgewood and Anderson Point projects to give local companies a better chance at the jobs.

Because the project will not start until next year, Repin said she would work with council to see if they would like to install signage in the meantime. She said she would be back to Nakusp to set up the process with key stakeholders, “so when the sign goes up or the equipment comes in, there will be no surprises. Everyone will know.”

Audrey Repin at Columbia Power Corporation and Jesse Brown of BC Hydro celebrate the partnership of the sister Crown corporations to complete the new wharf project in Nakusp.

Improved Kootenay Rideshare site up and running

submitted

Looking to head to Nelson? Need to just drop something off or pick it up down the valley? Why not use the new and improved Kootenay Rideshare.

Road transportation is responsible for 46 percent of the average Canadian’s greenhouse gas emissions. The average yearly cost of operating a vehicle can be as high as $8,600 a year or $23 a day. Travelling together and sharing the movement of goods not only saves money and is more environmentally sound, but can help your neighbours and possibly connect you with new friends.

With CBT Community Initiatives grants from New Denver and Silverton, the North Slocan’s Healthy Community Society teamed up with the West Kootenay EcoSociety to enhance the Kootenay Rideshare website. The improvements have made the site more user friendly for everyone, and it has some specific elements for North Slocan residents.

Several features have been added, as follows.

It is now possible to arrange for the transport of goods, saving yourself a trip to pick up or deliver that special item or to help someone out by picking up something on your trip.

The Add a Journey page has a map to help you find out exactly where to connect with your rider/passenger.

There is a filter in place to eliminate inapplicable rides. It is no longer necessary to read through the long list of people going everywhere.

There is a North Valley Forum where messages pertaining to the community can be posted. For example, if you want to arrange a trip to the hot springs or to a special event, just write to see if others are interested. The General Forum is also available for all users to comment on the quality of your ride or to share other pertinent information.

Check out http://kootenayrideshare.com. Be sure to read the Tips for Trips before traveling to educate yourself on the safety and etiquette of sharing trips.

Improved Kootenay Rideshare site up and running

Are you building this year?

New construction within the Regional District of Central Kootenay requires a building permit. A building permit is required before commencing any building construction, addition or alteration project including placing manufactured homes and installing swimming pools, as well as modifying or adding to plumbing systems. All building permit applications are reviewed for health and safety related design details, as regulated by the BC Building Code. This can save time and money through the construction process.

Applications for building permits are also reviewed for compatibility with land use regulations relating to the Provincial Agricultural Land Reserve, floodplain management, and Regional District zoning bylaws.

Applications for permits and other information can be obtained at the Regional District of Central Kootenay Building inspection office nearest you, or online at www.rdck.bc.ca. For further information, please contact Building Inspection Services Regional District of Central Kootenay Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive NELSON, BC V1L 5H4 Phone: (250) 352-6155 Toll Free: 1-800-266-7326 Fax: (250) 352-6300 email: bidspec@rdck.bc.ca

Easter Brunch & Dip
$20 incl. taxes

Easter Brunch will be served Sunday, April 8th, 8am - 5pm
1.888.689.4699  HALCYON-HOTSPRINGS.COM
32km North of Nakusp on Highway 23
Whole School open house will highlight fruit tree planting project in Africa

submitted

The Whole School has some exciting projects underway and exciting plans for next year, and is opening its doors to the community once again to share all this at an open house on Wednesday, April 18 from 2 to 5 pm.

There will be some Earth Day related activities for the children in the first hour and staff will be available to hand out information and answer questions for the entire time. Registration for Kindergarten is happening now. Families interested in the school are welcome to call anytime to set up a visit.

Whole School students have taken advantage of the winter season by getting out weekly to ski, ice skate, snowshoe and build ice caves. As part of the larger theme of our community, the students are studying local resources and the differences between renewable and non-renewable. In small groups, the students have investigated different methods of logging and their pros and cons. There were many divided views, so the class honed their debating skills and had some wonderful discussions on the issues. They also investigated hydroelectric power and took a field trip to Little Slocan Lodge to look at its hydroelectric system.

Just when we are starting to think about spring and planting and pruning and the return of the sun, Whole School principal Pierre Kaufmann has gifted the students with an opportunity to share their love of nature with students at a school in Africa. Every year the students choose a Generosity Project as part of their Circle of Courage program and this year they have chosen to support a reforestation project in Zambia, Africa.

Through an organization called Greenpop, the Whole School has already raised funds to donate 12 fruit trees to be planted at Mukamusaba Basic School in Livingstone, Zambia. Greenpop will be planting these trees as part of the Dambwa Forest and at schools around Livingstone. They will also set up workshops at schools and with local farmers on planting between 5,000 and 10,000 indigenous and fruit trees within the Dambwa Forest and at schools around Livingstone. They will also integrate that care into the lifestyles they choose for themselves.

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**Correction to Valley Voice Ad of March 21**

**Area H CBT Community Initiatives Program**

**Public Input Meeting**

1:00-3:00 P.M.  
April 14, Winlaw Community Hall

**COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST**

Projects for this area include setting up workshops at schools and with local farmers on sustainable living and conservation issues. This will be the start of an ongoing campaign to make Livingstone a greener and more sustainable environment.

The kids at the Whole School will be able to exchange stories and knowledge with pen pals at Mukamusaba School, where the fruit trees are being planted. The students are so excited about this project that they are creating unique mosaic pieces for sale in addition to the rest of their artwork on display at their annual art exhibit at the Cedar Creek Cafe from April 26 to May 11. All proceeds will go towards fruit trees.

One parent says, “As a parent of students at the Whole School I am so heartened to see my children learning so much about what I feel is one of the most important challenges of our time. The teachers at the Whole School have found a way to present these issues in such a hands-on way that the students really understand the subject and the relevance of these issues in their daily lives and in their community. They will grow with and into this knowledge throughout their schooling. As they reach adulthood the hope is that caring for their environment will become second-nature and they will integrate that care into the lifestyles they choose for themselves.”

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**Be Green Irrigation makes watering easy**

by Jan McMurray

Seven years ago, Gord Schneider sold his turf farm in Lavington and moved to Nakusp. “I do all jobs, from repairs to small residential installs to ball fields.”

The underground irrigation systems that Schneider installs operate automatically on a timer, so they save water and are very convenient for customers. Be Green Irrigation offers free quotes. Schneider will come to your property, do a water pressure test, look at the water main connection to the property, and measure the yard. “Then I take it from there. Anyone can call for a free quote.” He says a residential system takes up to a week to install.

“Look forward to serving new customers – and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all my past customers,” he said in conclusion. See the advertisement on this page for Be Green Irrigation’s contact info.

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**The Whole School students have connected with these students from Mukamusaba School in Zambia and are fundraising to plant fruit trees on the Mukamusaba school grounds.**
submitted

A group of 36 people from the Slocan Valley ranging in age from babies to 60 made their third pilgrimage to Melaque, Jalisco, Mexico for two weeks. Soccer players ranged in age from 14 to 60 and this year the team also included two players from Crawford Bay. This is the third time the group has been to Mexico in eight years. There are now three generations making this journey. Only a couple of the Valley folks are fluent in Spanish, but the highs and lows of the games are shared between Slocan Valley soccer players take it to Mexico families. Typically they play indoors in the winter and move outside as soon as the fields are ready. A smaller group plays indoors at Soccer Quest in Nelson. In the summer, they usually play outdoors twice a week. They can also be heard yelling and thumping in each other's homes or at local restaurants when any international soccer is on.

If you are a lover of soccer and would like to play with the group, give Jerome or George a call (250-226-6927 or 250-355-2473 respectively).

Serving the Slocan Valley

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Bibliobus on the road again!

Kaslo
April 19, Kaslo Hotel, 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Silvertown
April 21, Cup n’ Saucer, 10:30 am to noon

Bienvenue à tous!

Info: 250-352-3516
The type of bird feeder used can be critical. Carol Pettigrew, Mother Superior of the Bird Emergency and Kare Society (BEAKS) in Castlegar, says tray feeders are disease carriers because birdseed is mingled with feces. Salmonella—a deadly killer of birds—is transmitted by feces and saliva. “Many of the birds have salmonella, they’re all going to get it,” she warns. Tube feeders are just as bad, because birds put their beaks up to the feeder and the parasites feed off the host bird. “I do get one or two. In one week we’re getting more than we used to get in a month.”

Pettingrue encourages people to prune their trees early in spring before the snow goes so that nests aren’t inadvertently felled. “I do get one or two. In one week we’re getting more than we used to get in a month.”

As my friend Luke the Prospector commented, “They are stripping the assets from an unsuspecting community.”

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COMMUNITY

The Osprey Foundation and Teck Cominco last year contributed to BEAKS’ annual budget, which amounted to about $40,000 – still $20,000 short of costs. Two years ago a total of mealworms were $60 and that price has since doubled. Pettigrew says some seeds and grains have also doubled in cost recently. Supporter donations are increasing, but the poor economic climate is helping.

What keeps Pettigrew going? Clearly it’s a passion for her. “I love the birds, I look into their eyes and that’s it for me,” she says. “I’ve done this since I was five years old and I’ll be 66 in May.”

BEAKS has a Facebook page at Birds Emergency And Kare Society (BEAKS). Donations can be sent to 318–103 Street, Castlegar, BC V1N 302.

Argenta hosts smart meter meeting

Argenta is hosting a community-sponsored informational meeting, “SMART METERS and YOU: on BC Hydro’s Smart Meter program in the Argenta Hall, from 7-9:30 pm on Wednesday evening, April 4.

The meeting begins with brief panel presentations, followed by questions and an open discussion. The panel includes MLA Michelle Mungall, Area D Director Andy Shadrick, and Citizens for Safe Technology Kootenay Chapter representative Cliff Paluck.

Mungall will address the $1 billion price tag for BC Hydro to install smart meters, and how the BC Utilities Commission was prevented from the standard oversight of this project.

Shadrick will discuss the options available at the RDCK level in relation to the public’s sentiments regarding new electromagnetic frequency exposure, as expressed in the RDCK Area D Official Community Plan.

Paluck will present an open letter to BC Hydro regarding a moratorium on smart meter installations until the devices are proven safe by independent research.

The BC Hydro Smart Meter Team has declined repeated invitations to address the public on their smart meter program, stating, ironically, “As smart meter installation is carried out across the province, we look for opportunities to talk to our customers – directly when possible – to provide accurate information about the program.”

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As my friend Luke the Prospector commented, “They are stripping the assets from an unsuspecting community.”

As a trusted jeweller in Nelson for 30 years, Giving you 66% of the spot price protects me from market swings, allows a small profit through lower cost material for my custom jewellery work, AND KEEPS THE VALUE CIRCULATING LOCALLY.
Lorne Elliott returns to Nakusp

by Cedra Eichenauer

Lough until you cry! Is there a better way to spend an evening? Lorne Elliott makes it happen every time. Elliott came to Nakusp on St. Patrick’s Day, filling every seat in the Bonnington with laughter.

Hailing from Montreal, Elliott started performing in Eastern Canada as a folk musician in 1974. He was also writing fiction, songs, monologues and one-liners. This developed into a stand-up routine, which he performed all over North America. He is an award-winning playwright as well. A few examples: The Night the Raccoons Went for an Ice Cream, Culture Shock, and Tourist Trap. Lorne Elliott was also the host of CBC Radio’s ‘Madly off in All Directions’ for many years.

A couple of years ago, a heart attack caused him to take a break from performing. Now he’s back on the road. What fun that he decided to return to Nakusp.

Lorne Elliott’s mix of political commentary, stories from his own life, and interaction with the audience about local details was peppered with original songs, which he played on a small electric guitar. There was also the indescribable and unexpected way he moved his body – an exaggeration of the gestures we all make. Some of his songs and stories were already known to some of the audience, and some were new to everyone.

One highlight of the evening was Elliott’s explanation of numbers in French. He captured perfectly the frustration and confusion felt by any English speaker learning to count to 100 in French: “four-twenty, ten-seven” is the translation of 97! In honour of the date, we were also treated to his rendition of Danny Boy in “Gaelic;” No translation necessary or possible there.

If you were unable to attend the show, sincere condolences. If you were present, chances are you’ll take every future chance offered to see Lorne Elliott.
Another marijuana grow-op bust in Slocan Valley likely to result in forfeiture of property

COMMUNITY

The Slocan Valley has been the subject of yet another cooperative enforcement effort by the Nakusp and Slocan Lake Detachments to combat illicit drug activity in the Slocan Valley. Officers sought and obtained a Property Restraint Order for a property that contained a commercial marijuana grow operation.

The accused and property owner, Jean Yves Murray (36 years old), has been formally charged for offences stemming from the judicially authorized search of his property on February 3. It is alleged that Murray was operating a commercial-style marijuana grow operation comprised of 396 plants, and that he was in unlawful possession of a shotgun that was found to be stolen out of Edmonton.

Murray faces four charges as a result (production of marijuana, possession of a firearm, unsafe storage of a firearm).

The Property Restraint Order prevents the property owner from selling or transferring interest in the property that contained a commercial marijuana grow operation comprised of 396 plants, and that he was in unlawful possession of a shotgun that was found to be stolen out of Edmonton.

For the second year, no new numbers are in the advertisement. For more information and background, search for Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund on Facebook or email svcls.chair@gmail.com. Contact phone numbers are in the advertisement.

The board would like to thank Martha Nichols for facilitating the annual board elections.

Stuck On Honey folk group to perform in Silverton regularly in the Salmon Arm area and belongs to an array of groups, bands and projects, from jazz to blues to country.

As a folk music aficionado, organizer of the Revelstoke Coffee House, and host of Revelstoke Folk Music Radio, Denis Severino’s comfort as a lead with his depth of repertoire and uptake of the claw-hammer style banjo make his partnership with co-lead vocalist Maggie Davis a comfortable fit.

Maggie’s natural talent as a singer is evident with her every breath. A deep powerful voice that can simultaneously compliment another’s with her ranging harmonies.

The trio stuck together and are known as Stuck On Honey.

Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund: April 25 AGM

For more information and background, search for Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund on Facebook or email svcls.chair@gmail.com. Contact phone numbers are in the advertisement.

The board would like to thank Martha Nichols for facilitating the annual board elections.

Stuck On Honey is a new trio emerging from Revelstoke and is embarking on its first tour this month, making a stop in Silverton.

Over the past month the group has been bringing a diverse repertoire of folk music to audiences across the BC interior. Drawing from a broad landscape of singer/songwriters and old-time Americana, the group strives to keep folk music and its traditions alive, while leaving their own mark as ambassadors.

The trio consists of Jacob Verburg, Denis Severino and Maggie Davis. As a multi-style guitarist virtuoso, Jacob Verburg brings to the group his vast experience and well rounded musicality. Jacob plays

COMMUNITY

Slocan Valley Historical Society AGM: poor attendance raises doubts about sustainability

The Silvery Slocan Historical Society AGM was held on March 20 at the Hidden Garden Gallery. In attendance were Chairman Webb Cummings, Secretary-Treasurer, Agnes Emary and Directors Gordon Butt, Colin Moss and Michael Brown. Past members Trevor Harrop and Stan Wilson, as well as Martha Nichols, who was there to facilitate the annual board of directors elections, also attended.

The annual financial statement was presented by bookkeeper Claudia Jupp.

Chairman Webb Cummings gave his yearly report and announced he would not be standing for reelection.

The election resulted in an acclaimed board consisting of Gordon Butt as chair, Agnes Emary as secretary-treasurer and Colin Moss, Michael Brown and Webb Cummings as directors.

The donations have already started arriving. The Kootenay Savings and Heritage Credit Unions have provided a permanent endowment fund of over $135,000. The society expects to issue a call for proposals later this year in order to begin the granting process.

The museum will open again this summer under the direction of the Silvery Slocan Historical Society.

For more information and background, search for Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund on Facebook or email svcls.chair@gmail.com. Contact phone numbers are in the advertisement.

The board would like to thank Martha Nichols for facilitating the annual board elections.

And, of course, a very large and heartfelt thank you to Webb Cummings for his 20+ years of service to the society and the community. Well done, Webb!

For more information and background, search for Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund on Facebook or email svcls.chair@gmail.com. Contact phone numbers are in the advertisement.

The board would like to thank Martha Nichols for facilitating the annual board elections.

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Maggie’s natural talent as a singer is evident with her every breath. A deep powerful voice that can simultaneously compliment another’s with her ranging harmonies.

The trio stuck together and are known as Stuck On Honey.
New BC RCMP contract empowers Province, municipalities

submitted

The Province has reached a final agreement with the federal government for a new RCMP contract, a milestone achievement that reflects the Province’s vision for a new partnership based on transparency and accountability.

The agreement has a 20-year term and features historic changes to management and financial transparency provisions. Provincial, federal and municipal governments will now jointly oversee how services are delivered and costs are managed over time – with a five-year review planned to ensure the contract is achieving the needs of the communities policed by the RCMP.

In addition to the enhanced Contract Management Committee, which will now include an associate local government member, the Province has also established a new BC Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee. This new committee of Union of British Columbia Municipalities’ representatives will help local governments throughout BC influence cost and service decisions in an ongoing and coordinated way throughout the life of the new contract.

In the new contract, the basic cost-sharing formulas remain the same, while the ability for municipalities to monitor and plan for costs has been substantially improved. In addition to clearly defined roles in contract management discussions, local governments will see increased financial reporting from the RCMP that will empower them to plan for costs in coordination with municipal planning cycles and also assess value for money.

The agreement will support continued progress in enhancing public confidence in police and modernizing the justice sector and marks a higher standard of accountability to the Province and BC communities than ever before.

In 2011, the Province reached agreement-in-principle on this new RCMP contract, created the new civilian-led independent investigations office (IIO) and introduced new provincial policing standards that address conducted energy weapons, use of force, training and video surveillance in police buildings. The RCMP has supported both the IIO and the new standards. In addition to a new RCMP Commissioner and a new Deputy Commissioner in BC, the new contract is one of the important steps in creating more transparency and accountability.

COMMUNITY

Join CBC host Grant Lawrence for a reading and slide show featuring his bestselling book Adventures In Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound ($26.95, Harbour Publishing) at the Kaslo & District Public Library on Thursday, April 26 at 10 am.

Grant Lawrence has become a well-known voice across Canada for his CBC Radio 3 Podcast and his appearances on CBC Radio One programs such as DNTO, Spark, All Points West and On The Coast, and fans of independent music still turn up an old song from a record by The Smugglers, Grant’s Defunct rock band. Grant’s first book, Adventures in Solitude, has become a national bestseller and literary award-winner. In 2011, he took home a BC Book Prize, and was nominated for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction, along with the prestigious Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

In Adventures in Solitude, Grant shares how Desolation Sound shaped his life in music and the history of Canada. Young Grant’s father bought a piece of land next to West Coast BC’s Desolation Sound marine park in the 1970s, just in time to encounter the gun-toting cougar lady, left-over hippies, outlaw bikers and an assortment of other characters. It was these early experiences, many alongside an influential hermit named Russell, which led Grant to a life of music and journalism far away from Desolation Sound. In his book, Grant returns to regale us with tales of “going bush,” the tempting dilemma of finding an unguarded grow-op, and other laugh-out-loud stories from this unique place.

For more information about this free event, call the Beaver Valley Public Library at 250-358-2942 or visit www.harbourpublishing.com.

In addition to his radio appearances, Grant Lawrence hosts many major music events, such as the Polaris Music Prize Gala, the Western Canadian Music Awards and various festivals around North America, and conducts music industry seminars and keynote addresses on music and media-related topics. He still spends much of each summer at his cabin in the Sound. He lives in Vancouver, BC with his wife, Canadian folk singer Jill Barber.
New affordable housing initiative for Columbia Basin submitted

The Affordable Rental Housing initiative (ARH) will soon be available in the Columbia Basin region for households in need. Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has partnered with the Province in this initiative to deliver essential affordable rental housing.

Through the Canada-British Columbia Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing 2011-2014, the federal and provincial governments are providing a combined investment of $3 million over three years to support new affordable rental housing projects in communities across the Columbia Basin.

This is a wonderful announcement for our region," said Bill Bennett, MLA for Kootenay East. "Columbia Basin Trust is such an important player in all of our communities and it is gratifying to see the Province working so well and so collaboratively with CBT on such an important issue."

Details on how to apply for the Affordable Rental Housing initiative and request for proposals for the procurement of potential affordable rental housing projects will be available in spring 2012.

"Hopefully the nationals will go well, and that will show me where I stand," she said.

McDonald, who learned to snowboard at Summit Lake Ski Hill, has raced in three competitions so far this year, winning first place in two of them and second place in the other.

"I am just trying to get back into it and see if I can cope with the pain," she said. "This is a trial year."

Last year, McDonald also made an attempt to return to the sport. She took two gold medals at a BC Snowboard Association Provincial Series event, but she experienced so much pain that she did not go to the nationals.

Relief measures take effect to help families buy new homes submitted

British Columbia families buying a new home may take advantage of new housing relief measures that took effect on April 1, 2012.

Newly built homes purchased as a primary residence are eligible for a provincial rebate of 71.43 percent of the provincial portion of the HST to a maximum amount. For new homes where the HST becomes payable on or after April 1, 2012, the maximum rebate amount will increase to $42,500. Before April 1, 2012, the maximum rebate amount was $26,250.

First-time homebuyers of newly built homes may also be eligible to receive the BC First-Time New Home Buyers’ Bonus of up to $10,000.

"The $10,000 bonus for first time homebuyers will enable those buying their first home to make that giant step," said Doug Wittal, president of the Canadian Home Builders Association of BC and Kamloops builder. "Each new home built because of this bonus will create 3.8 person-years of employment and over $60,000 in spinoff spending, a true economic bonzer."

In addition, purchasers of newly constructed secondary vacation or recreational homes outside the Greater Vancouver and Capital regional districts may be eligible to claim a provincial grant of up to $42,500. The HST does not apply to resale housing.

Beloved New Denver monument vandalized by April Fool’s Day pranksters by Jan McMurray

The community of New Denver is still trying to recover from this shocking and extremely cunnig act of vandalism that occurred sometime between midnight and 9 am on April 1.

The top suspect, Andrew Rhodes, has an iron-clad alibi – he was asleep the whole time. His neighbour confirmed hearing his snoring all night. The next suspect on the list, Rob Oschendorf, was genuine when he said he could not take credit for the job even though he dearly wished he could.

Once the community recovers from the hysterical laughter and belly stitches this has caused, a meeting of the Mr. Potato Head Committee will be called and we’ll see who shows up.

Mayor Brunca was called as soon as the vandalism was discovered, and was on site immediately. She says she witnessed an out-of-province vehicle slowing down to have a look. “It truly does encourage folks to come into our town,” she said. After polling several residents on the street, she concludes, “The overwhelming reaction is that it should stay that way.”

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Be Wise! Advertise... in the Valley Voice
Thai massage for health and wellness

Submitted

The oriental bodywork style called Thai massage is now recognized internationally as an effective form of therapy for body, mind and spirit, and it is available locally. Tyson Bartel lives in Winlaw, and offers house call Thai massage by donation.

Thai massage originated in ancient India as a massage based on the science of yoga practice. It came to Thailand 2,000 years ago and became part of its traditional Thai medicine. People in Thailand still visit ‘massage doctors,’ who use natural methods to assist the person to heal from within.

Tourists, health professionals, athletes and artists were the first to recognize the value of Thai massage. More and more people are realizing that it is good preventative healthcare for anyone willing to make the time to receive regular treatments, especially if yoga is practiced in between. And Thai massage is playfully called ‘yoga for lazy people’ and gives the same benefits of yoga in a focused way.

Thai massage is done fully clothed and usually performed on a padded floor or low, wide table. It is a unique form of going inwards to experience oneself in a deeply relaxing and healing way. It is a wonderful way to relieve tension release; gentle re-alignment of spine and joints; pain relief; performance improvement; promoting inner self-healing powers; enhanced creativity and sense of peace and well-being.

The modern world is abundant with materialistic experiences of life. With its origins in the ancient tradition of yoga, Thai massage is a unique form of going towards self-realization (the original goal of yoga), commonly recognized benefits of Thai massage may include: physical, mental and emotional tension release; gentle re-alignment of spine and joints; pain relief; performance improvement; promoting inner self-healing powers; enhanced creativity and sense of peace and well-being.

Therapists are recommended to reserve tickets well in advance of the event. The agenda is just now available online at the website www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca – for full event details closer to the date of the event. It is forgotten, vanished and never was.
New Denver council, March 27: Smart meter opt-out plan supported in principle

by Michael Dorsey

• Resident Art Joyce attended to speak regarding the BC Hydro smart meter program. Joyce asked council to follow up on its request for a moratorium on the program, and would like council to write the NDP Energy Crisis in support of an opt-out plan. He noted that several provinces and states have put opt-out plans in place. Council resolved to write a letter of support in principle.

Joyce said at least 200 residents have expressed refusal to have the meters installed at their homes, and noted that the “locking” of meters could be construed as a criminal offence. He said the EMF dangers have expressed refusal to have the letter of support in principle.

• The new RCMP corporal, Ryan Fehler, attended as a delegation. He informed council that two constables will be leaving the detachment, with the changeover to occur in May or June. The detachment will attempt to address local community policing priorities, which include speeding, noise and bylaw enforcement, with emphasis on traffic safety.

Fehler noted that the community was “not too bad” in terms of crime statistics. Since January 2012, 25-30 calls have been addressed, with only one charge being laid. The majority of calls are traffic related, and Fehler noted that the Slocan Lake communities would like to set up a traffic speed board and watch. Council has been considering requests to close off 8th Street to the highway, and Fehler agreed to support local wishes when a decision is made. He said that the RCMP would be watching for people taking “shortcuts” by way of side streets around the school.

• Councillor Raynolds reported attending a Human/Bear Conflict Workshop, and noted that grizzlies – not black and brown bears – are the priority for conservation officers. For the over 2,000 complaint calls per year, the area has only five officers – which works out to 400 calls per officer per season. The main emphasis of the workshop was on reducing bear attractants (residential garbage, compost piles, and fruit trees) and asking residents to call the RAP (Report All Poachers) line. Raynolds noted the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation has funding opportunities for bear-proof garbage bins. She also noted that the Harvest Share Society is applying to be a Bear Aware Society.

• CAO Carol Gordon reported the resignation of Web Cummings as president of the Silvery Slocan Historical Society after 27 years of volunteer service. Council approved sending a letter of thanks as well as a mention in the Valley Voice.

• Reporting on the West Kootenay Climate Change Summit, Mayor Bunka stated the discussions concerned water, street management and lighting options, community gardens and composting. She noted that Fortis BC had helped the City of Castlegar acquire new LED street lighting with low-light dimmers as a pilot project, and she suggested that councils take this to the AKBGL Conference – perhaps if the municipalities work together, they can get a bulk deal from BC Hydro.

• Councillor von Krogh reported on the wharf project. Adding another section to the old wharf is challenging because the two sections would have to be the same height above the water surface to successfully connect them together. Council will look at this and determine whether to add a section or completely rebuild the existing wharf.

• Mayor Bunka reported that the Youth Centre will now be in the former Panini building and will be open by May Days. Councillor Raynolds reported that the Chamber of Commerce is working on one- and five-year plans, a membership drive, and a website re-design. The Visitor InfoCentre will be open from May 21 to September 3. Raynolds noted that the Province provided one-time funding of $7,500 to all Chambers that had to be spent by March 31, so the Chamber is hoping to acquire computers and a booth that can be set up at events such as May Days and the Garlic Festival.

• Councillor Fox reported that the Carbon Neutral Committee is setting up a five-year plan to review garbage rates and routes; the BC Hydro Energy Audit; water pumping and piping; the Barren wood stove burning education campaign. Mayor Bunka asked that a Carbon Neutral Newsletter go out with the tax notices, and will post an item in the Valley Voice about Drinking Water Week in May.

• Council approved a Development Permit application from Jeff George and Caroline Woodward for a new roof on their building on the main street, where Community Services is located.

• Lucerne School Principal Natasha Miles wrote to council to express concerns for the safety of schoolchildren if a portion of 8th Ave. is closed. She noted that the street could be increased traffic allowing Columbia, which runs along the upper playground at the school. Council directed staff to get pricing on additional warning signs with flashing strips and stop signs on adjacent streets.

• Council decided not to support a joint resolution with Grand Forks regarding the Conservation Service.

Exploring Mother Culture: grow mushrooms!

submitted

This Mother’s Day, join Peter McAllister from Underbelly Farm and Kootenay Agroforestry Society in a mushroom cultivation demonstration, slide show and discussion.

This educational event is a money and awareness raising gathering for the Kootenay Spawn Bank. Part of the proceeds also go to the Kaslo and Area Youth Centre.

This all ages event welcomes those interested in growing culinary and medicinal mushrooms indoors and outdoors, for fun or for profit. The workshop begins with a demonstration of simple methods to start mushrooms using spores, stem butts and commercially prepared spawn. The second portion of the workshop is a slide show and discussion on how to grow and maintain mushroom cultures such as yoghurt, miso, tempeh, beer and wine yeast, shiitake and oyster mushroom spawn, kombucha, amasake, sourdough cultures etc. Exploring Mother Cultures is for those wanting to work with mushrooms for culinary, medicinal, spiritual, nature craft or gardening enrichment.

The Kootenay Spawn Bank (KSB) would be a network of people wanting to save, multiply and share spawn. If everyone takes on culture to nurture, our lives will be richer. For more information on KSB, contact Peter 250-353-2575 or peterunderbelly@hotmail.com.

To celebrate mothers, there will be child minding for ages 4 and up. The children of Mother Culture attendees will have the opportunity to go on a guided nature walk up to Kaslo’s best-coloured bridge spanning the Kaslo River.

Pre-registration and payment is required for organizing child minding, carpooling, handouts and door prizes. There are a few volunteer positions available in exchange for admission.

The Mother Culture Workshop takes place in Kaslo at the Scout Hall (Kasco and Area Youth Centre) at the butterball toss at the Kootenay Model Club in May 13 from 1 to 4 pm rain or shine. $20 per person or $30 per family. Refreshments will be available at the booth that can be set up at events such as May Days and the Garlic Festival. Mayor Bunka asked that a Carbon Neutral Newsletter go out with the tax notices, and will post an item in the Valley Voice about Drinking Water Week in May. The Fire Service Contract has been put out to tender, as agreed to by all parties, including a listing of all equipment provided, and a change to the use of the Silvertown Fire Hall. New Denver Street Fair will rent the truck bay only, and the Village of Silvertown will retain control and responsibility for the rest of the building.

• Council gave three readings to Bylaw #670, 2012 - Building Bylaw Amendment, which meets requirements of the provincial building code and changes the duration of permit renewal from three years to one year.

• Council will hold a public budget meeting on April 31 at 2 pm in Knox Hall.

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Garden workshop to focus on mushrooms

submitted

On Earth Day, get close to the earth by studying practical ideas and materials. Everyone is welcome to this “by donation” event, “Enlivening Your Relationship with Mushrooms,” hosted by Larder Valley Seed Savers.

April 22, 1-3 pm at the Larder Valley Hall, local mycologist Peter McAllister will present a slideshow and discussion of his successes and failures with wild and domesticated species: culinary, medicinal and garden mushrooms. Discussion will include identification of local wild species in the Kootenays, and particular emphasis will be on the benefits of mycorrhizal fungi in the garden.

This workshop is the last in the winter series presented by LVS, Kate O’Keefe says, “We’ve had fun while learning new ways to enhance our gardens through nutrient recycling and pollinators.” We hope avid gardeners to learn how mushrooms help, or just come to identify the species out there. At each of our workshops we’ve taken away practical ideas and materials. We may take some fungus from this one.”
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ETHAN, TREVER and SARA** would like to announce the arrival of Jonah Christopher. He was born on March 16 in Nelson and weighed in at 7 lbs, 1 oz. We would like to thank Dr. Jeanette and Andrea for their delivery. And our wonderful local support contingent of Kaye, Nadine, Marlene & Sandy, Joe & Francis, Dave & Nils, and Cathy & Andreas. (BCAS, thank you all!)

**ANYONE INTERESTED** in bringing Kootenay Carshare Co-op to New Denver / Silverton? Please contact Susan Yurychuk @ 860-840, syurychuk@gmail.com. Learn about all carshare at: http://www.carsharecoop.ca/

**SLOCAN VALLEY FOOD GUIDE**

Get your free copy at your local grocery store. $26 millions are spent yearly on food in the Kootenays, with only 5-10% on locally produced products. http://slocanvalleyfood.com/

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG** at Willow Home Gallery! Colourful quilts, quality sheets, duvets, covers, cushions, pillows, curtain, towels, downpour... All amazing! pieces! Kaslo 250-352-2257.

**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 & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nkxup@futures.bc.ca.

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

**BUSINESS for sale.** Visit businesssellcanada.com listing #02616003.

**THE SLOCAN VALLEY FOOD GUIDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION TO PROSPECTING COURSE** - Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC. 215 Hall St., Nelson. April 23-29, Monday-Friday 7 p.m to 10 p.m, review Saturday, field trip Sunday. $250 includes textbook and supplies. Please register at the Chamber weekdays 9-4 or call 250-352-3242. chamber@nelson.com

**RECYCLING**

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY STATION**

**BOTTLE Depot**

**265-6281**

**OPEN MON - SAT 9-5**

Your “Bottle Drive” Specialists

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**NEW DENVER HOSPICE SOCIETY**

AGM – Monday, April 17 at 7:00 pm. Hospice Office. Everyone welcome.

**STUCK ON HONEY Trio** playing their old folk music, and more at the Silverton Gallery Thursday. April 12. 10:00 door, 7:30 showtime.

**VANGUARD CREDIT UNION**

is having a Hot Dog BBQ at the Edgewood Boat Launch! Date: April 15. 2012. Time: 1-4 pm. All proceeds are going to help support the Edgewood Elementary School with their field trip to Victoria in April. Come on out and show your support!

**THE NEW DENVER GARDEN FESTIVAL** is Saturday May 26th. Vendors of garden-related items please contact Donna Jean at 352-9173. Tables are $10. All profits to SLUGS who maintain the Kootenay Lakes.”

**SILVERTON GALLERY**

APRIL EVENTS:

- Stuck on Honey folk trio on Thurs, April, 12th, showtime 7:30, $10 at door.
- “Coming out of the Closet-III” Coffee House Thurs, April 12, showtime 7:30, $10 at door.
- “Stuck on Honey” folk trio on April 21, 2012 at 7:30 pm, by donation.
- Mirror Theatre presents ‘The SHIFT IA Chill’.
- “Myofascial, Swedish, Lymphatic, Joint Play, Craniosacral, Visceral, Somatoemotion, Chakras, Nutrition etc.”
- “Consulting – Repairs”
- “Help us help you”
- “Helping you maintain YOUR lifestyle!”
- “Free consultations in the West Kootenay”

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24 hour towing

BCAA, Slocan, BC

353-2032

**NAKUSP TAXI**

**250-265-8222**

Pick up and Delivery

Let us get it for you

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- 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

**BAVARIA'S BREWING**

**201 Broadway**

265-3252

**BAVARIA'S GLASS & WINE**

**265-4406**

**EQUIPMENT RENTALS**

HEATERS (PROPANE & ELECTRIC), PLATE TAMPER, JUMPING HOE, REPAIR BENDER, JACQUINNERS, HAMMER DRILLS, CONCRETE MIXERS, CONCRETE BASIN, TRACERS, BLOCKS, KNOCKERS, CRANES, WALK-ALL, TYPES, LV ROTARY LAZER TRANSIT, GENERATORS, WATER PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, INSULATED HATS, PRESSURE WASHERS, ROOTO TILLER, LAWN COMB, AERATOR, PROPERTY PIN LOCATOR, GAS POST, HOLE DIGGER, CONCRETE FLOOR GRINDER, CONCRETE AND MUCH MORE.

PHONE 353-2632

1-888-353-2632

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358-7269

For right outside of the Wild Rose Restaurant in Kaslo

**HEALTH • WELL-BEING • FITNNESS • ENVIRONMENT**

**MASSAGE THERAPIES**

- Swedish Massage
- Deep Tissue Massage
- Watsu
- Swedish, Shiatsu, Thai, Nirvana etc.

MTA rates (low income consideration) also: MFR, WCB, ICBC & care plans

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**STUCK ON HONEY TRIO**

Thursday April 12. $10 door, 7:30 showtime.

Hospice Office. Everyone welcome.

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For right outside of the Wild Rose Restaurant in Kaslo
FOR RENT
SHARED OFFICE SPACE available in Winlaw at healing co-op. Open Mon - Fri 8-5 pm. 2nd apt available immediately. $750/month. 250-358-2389

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
All facilities, bands, etc. Comes with mic and back-up to start. Reply with brief resume to: Home Support Worker Specialist: 250-265-1247. New Denland 250-513-2733

FOR SALE
Alpine $18,000.00 Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 10 am to 5 pm DAILY APRIL 10-5 DAILY JUNE - OCT. 226-0008

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FOR RENT
3 bd 1.5 bath, 2,000 sq ft. $600/month. 1 bd 1 bath, 1,100 sq ft. $350/month. Ilona, 1-250-358-2698.

FOR RENT
3 bedroom - 2 bath, 1,100 sq ft. $600/month. 226-0008.

FOR RENT
2 beds, loft. Quiet, sunny, near Winlaw. 226-0008.

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Penthouse suite. 2 beds, 2 baths, 1350 sq ft. $700/month. 226-0008.

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5 BD, 3 BA, 2300 sq ft. $900/month. 250-265-1247.

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530 Fifth St., South Slocan 226-7705.

FOR RENT
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For your free estimate, Call Curtis Rie at 250-260-9087.

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MP Atamanenko comments on Conservative budget plan to “gut Canadian institutions and prop up big business” submitted

Alex Atamanenko, MP for BC Southern Interior, is not impressed with the direction taken by the Conservative government in the 2012 federal budget. Atamanenko says the government’s plan to raise the eligible age for Old Age Security from 65 to 67 will force seniors to work two years extra while denying jobs for younger workers longer. It also forces low-income seniors in BC to live two more years on degrading rates of social assistance. The budget also short changes the Provinces by $31 billion with unilateral changes to the funding formula for federal health transfers, changes the Provinces by $31 billion with unilateral changes to the funding formula for federal health transfers, and $400 for 48 hours will be sure to hurt businesses in border communities.

“It’s a gift to American retailers and it undermines our tax base further,” said Atamanenko. “It is shameful that this government in the 2012 federal budget. In conclusion, Atamanenko said, “It seems the government’s only plan to prop up big business friends while completely ignoring the growing inequality that is plaguing this country.”

In conclusion, Atamanenko said, “New Democrats have called for a reduction in the small business tax rates, real protection for retirement security and stable Health Care funding for the provinces. Instead, we are seeing the reckless gutting of Canadian programs and a budget that actually plans for unemployment to grow.”
Columbia Basin Culture Tour calls for entries

Registrations are currently being accepted for artists/venues in the Columbia Basin to participate in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour (CBCT). The CBCT is a two-day celebration of culture taking place August 11-12, 2012 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The CBCT is a self-guided tour showcasing local arts, culture and heritage, offered at no charge to the general public. Full colour tour directories will be available free of charge to the public as a guide to visit studios, exhibitions, museums, art galleries, cultural centres or heritage sites throughout the Columbia Basin during this special weekend event. Artists include visual, written, performing, media and inter-arts. Visitors love this event and are anticipating this fourth year.

Participating as a venue allows artists to really connect with locals, develop a wider audience, educate the public about their work, market their activities, and attract visitors to their communities.

The CBCT allows visitors to meet the participants “behind the scenes” and allows them to: visit artists studies that may not regularly be open to the public, purchase works directly from the artists, visit art galleries, museums and cultural centres to view special interpretive displays, archives, demonstrations or performances. It is also a chance for them to meet people such as artists, curators, historians and volunteers that are such a vital part of our local culture.

Final registration deadline is April 15. The $50 registration fee includes: inclusion in printed directory, web page profile, placement on online interactive map, event signage, province-wide promotional campaign.

Participating individuals and venues must be located in the Canadian Columbia Basin, the southeast corner of British Columbia roughly bordered by the communities of Valemount, Golden, Elko, Creston, Rossland, Arrow Lakes and Revelstoke. Although not in the Basin, the communities of Grand Forks and Christina Lake are again invited to participate this year.

For information or to register visit www.cbculturetour.com. The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust which delivers social, economic and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. Information: CKCA at 1-250-955-5905 or toll free at 1-877-505-7355.