Grim start to bear season: three grizzlies destroyed in Edgewood

by Jan McMurray

Three grizzly bears were shot and one was relocated in a rash of incidents involving livestock in the Edgewood area between April 29 and May 3.

Arnold DeBoon of the West Kootenay Conservation Officers said that the three bears that were shot were preying on an Edgewood resident’s sheep, and the one that was relocated was trapped at the local ostrich farm. All four grizzlies were large, mature males weighing between 350 and 450 pounds.

The situation took West Kootenay Conservation Officers by surprise. “We’ve never had to deal with that kind of situation where there are so many grizzlies in one location,” said DeBoon.

“Now one ever thought there would be that many grizzlies so close to Edgewood. Sometimes we don’t kill that many grizzlies in one season.”

DeBoon said two Conservation Officers went to Edgewood on Sunday, April 29, after a call had come in overnight Saturday. At least one sheep had been lost to a grizzly, so officers set leg-hold snares. When the first bear was caught that night (Sunday), Conservation Officers returned and shot the bear. They thought that would be the last of the grizzly problems in Edgewood.

However, overnight Monday more sheep were killed, so Conservation Officers returned on Tuesday and set up more snares. That night, the second grizzly was caught. Conservation Officers gave a local person authority to shoot this bear on Tuesday night.

When more sheep were lost Tuesday night, Conservation Officers realized they had a bigger problem on their hands, and decided to change their strategy. On Wednesday, the third bear was caught and killed, but Conservation Officers also helped to move the sheep to a pasture, DeBoon said. Bear Smart Co-ordinator for the North Kootenay Lake area, Gillian Saunders, came out to Edgewood that same day and set up an electric fence around the property as a preventative measure for when the bear returns.

Unfortunately, yet another sheep was destroyed at the Fauquier pasture overnight Saturday, May 5, this time by a cougar.

The fourth grizzly was caught in a live trap that had been set up at the ostrich farm in Edgewood, and it was ear-tagged and re-located on Thursday, May 3. This bear had been getting into the grain bin at the ostrich farm, but there was no evidence he was preying on the birds, reported DeBoon. The bear died.

“Public safety is our number one priority,” said DeBoon. “If grizzlies come into a community and haven’t created a public safety issue, we try to re-locate them. But if they’ve created danger to people, property damage, or loss of livestock then we have to destroy those bears.”

DeBoon said that when predators prey on livestock, there are no options but to euthanize them. “Once they develop a taste for livestock, they will return for more – they learn from the first one. They have a great memory for easily attainable food.” He said the first bear caught was autopsied, and sheep parts were found in its stomach.

Wayne McCrory, bear biologist with the Valhalla Wilderness Society, however, says these grizzlies are from the endangered Granby Kettle population, and it was not excusable to shoot them on their first incident with the sheep.

“The Conservation Officers should have made them bear-proof their sheep before waiting three days for three incidents,” said McCrory. “Now, the message is: if you don’t bear-proof, we’ll shoot the grizzlies for you and eventually someone might come and put up an electric fence. What kind of message is this after all these years, especially in the Arrow Lakes, where there is a history of problems with grizzlies?”

McCrory feels the Conservation Officers could have used bear aversion tactics with rubber bullets, and should have arranged for the electric fencing right away.

Gillian Saunders has found that electric fencing, when installed and maintained correctly, is very effective in preventing livestock predation from bears. She says she has even stopped existing predatory behaviour in bears through setting up electric fencing with baited wires.

Bear Smart Co-ordinator for the Slocan Valley, Daniel Sherwood, wants everyone to know that programs are available to supply electric fences and to help set them up. “We cannot afford to lose three grizzlies to every farm that has livestock until the farmers learn this lesson. So either they have to learn from the wildlife programs or they have to be fined by Conservation Officers – but we can’t do this throughout the whole valley.” Recent changes to the Wildlife Act give Conservation Officers the ability to issue a $230 ticket or notice for a court appearance to residents who do not secure attractants. Residents who intentionally leave out items that attract dangerous wildlife could also be issued a Dangerous Wildlife Protection Order. Failure to comply with an order carries a $575 fine.

Although grizzly bears are omnivores, they prefer to eat vegetation, explained DeBoon. When they come out of hibernation, they are hungry, and are drawn down to valley bottoms to feed on the new growth. The lingering cold weather this spring would have kept them in the lower elevations for longer than usual. “Hopefully with the warm weather, the grizzlies will disperse from the valley bottoms and head to the upper hillsides, where there will now be food.”

DeBoon explained that there is a grizzly recovery program in the Kootenays – no hunting of grizzlies is allowed south of the Monashee Highway and a very limited number of hunting licences are given out north of the highway. “So we can anticipate the population growing,” he said.

In the West Kootenay zone, there are five Conservation Officers who work in the field, with DeBoon as supervisor. DeBoon said four officers out of five were in Edgewood dealing with these calls at one point or another within the April 29-May 3 period. He added that when responding to calls about grizzly bears, Conservation Officers always attend in pairs. For information on Bear Aware and Bear Smart programs: websites = www.bearaware.bc.ca and www.wen.org bc.ca/wild/bears/mar/bears.mintro.html

The weather turned for the better just in time for Whirlow Water Day on Saturday, May 5. Here, the Nelson Samba Band does the traditional start of the popular Parade to the River. This year’s was the largest parade ever, with over 400 people walking, dancing and roller blading along the route.
Second annual Slocan River Clean-up by rafting company and students submitted

On a cold, rainy, very wet Thursday, April 26, two guides from Nelson Whitewater Rafting Company (NWRC) volunteered their time and teamed up with LV Rogers Secondary School ATLAS students to clean up garbage, litter and debris on the Slocan River by raft. The float took place between Slocan Park and Crescent Valley Beach. The collection filled an entire utility trailer and two large bags of recycling.

NWRC has committed in its management plan to help keep the river corridor and put-in and take-out areas clean and well maintained. Working with the ATLAS students is a chance for NWRC to connect with young people in the community while working together to keep the area looking pristine for locals and visitors to the valley.

Throw bag and general river safety training were conducted in the morning by ATLAS teacher Graeme Marshall. The ATLAS program (Adventure Tourism Leadership and Safety) at LVR is an exciting outdoor leadership program for grades 11 and 12. Students are able to gain a multitude of certifications in the outdoor industry while recreating in the local environment. Students gain high school credit for this course; and, they learn a lot about themselves through a variety of challenging trips and experiences. The program is currently accepting students for 2013. Contact Graeme Marshall for more information regarding the academy at 250-509-1333.

Nelson Whitewater Rafting will be kicking off the 2012 season May 19 on the Shenango Canyon Run on the Salmo River. This section of the Salmo offers class III & IV rapids, stunning scenery and is available until early July. The Slocan River Facchina Rapids Whitewater trips are available July 1 thru Labour Day. On May 19 and 20, the Shenango Canyon will be only $75. For more information go to www.nelsonwhitewaterrafting.com.

BC Lakes Conference updates submitted

The BC Lake Stewardship Society’s (www.bclss.org) 15th annual provincial conference being held in New Denver and Silverton June 8-10 has seen some modest changes to the agenda.

Sunday’s northern choice of field trips, originally to Bonanza Marsh led by David DeRosa, has been changed due to a family commitment and anticipated high water. Instead, renowned local biologist Wayne McCrory has been enlisted to lead a field trip to Bear and Fish Lakes, where participants will see a plethora of spawning trout, unusual flora and fauna, and will learn about their interconnectedness to our watersheds. The early bird $65 registration fee for the entire weekend’s activities has been extended to May 30. The agenda includes a full slate of exciting and informative Saturday presentations, an in-depth panel discussion on Lake Management Plans, Saturday evening’s keynote speaker, some exciting and unusual local entertainment, and of course a full slate of meals catered by Madeleine McCarthy. Then, there’s also Friday evening’s ‘free’ wine and cheese at Hearts Rest, and Sunday’s field trip choices.

Interested? Contact the BCLSS at their website, or locally, Mike Lesnik at mlesnik@hotmail.ca.
Forest Practices Board finds Meadow Creek Cedar’s practices unsound

by Jan McMurray

Local people will not be surprised to hear that a Forest Practices Board (FPB) investigation into Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. (MCC) found failures to comply with forestry legislation and unsound practices.

Al Gorley, chair of the Forest Practices Board, called MCC’s practices “not typical of those we usually see in our audits and investigations.”

Probably the biggest concern identified in the report about the company’s forest practices is that unmaintained roads in the Healy Creek drainage are creating a risk to fisheries resources in Healy Creek and the Larderue River, including the world’s largest rainbow trout species, Gerrard rainbow trout.

The report explains that the Healy Creek area was removed from forest harvesting to protect mountain caribou habitat, so MCC has asked the government to take on road maintenance and silviculture obligations here. The government refuses to do so until MCC deactivates the road, and there is disagreement over who should pay for this. “However, while the parties debate payment for road deactivation, the risk of potentially high environmental consequences increases,” the report points out.

In response to the complaint filed by a Meadow Creek resident one year ago, the Forest Practices Board (FPB) investigated not only the company’s forest practices, but also the appropriateness of government enforcement.

The FPB report states that government’s compliance monitoring of Meadow Creek’s operations was appropriate, but it was not effective in getting the company to improve its performance.

“In cases where there is a continuous and prolonged contravention of a license’s obligations and continuing evidence of unsound forest practices, government needs to be able to act much sooner,” said Gorley. “Failure to do so undermines public confidence in the Forest and Range Practices Act, and the ability of government, tenure holders and the professionals that work for them, to manage the forest resource competently.”

The report, released May 4, notes that Compliance & Enforcement has issued 46 compliance notices and district staff has made five determinations against the company since April 2006. Finally, as a result of one of those determinations, concerns the company’s failure to meet its silviculture obligations, the government suspended the company’s licence in February this year.

“Government tried to encourage MCC to improve its forest practices but, after five years, there was little sign of improvement and government has only now suspended the forest licence,” states the report. The FPB report also notes that there are 11 ongoing government investigations involving Meadow Creek Cedar.

Another concern raised in the report is that MCC frequently did not follow recommendations of professionals. “In recent years, many forest management decisions have been moved outside the regulatory framework and, therefore, outside the direct control of government officials and into the hands of licences... MCC exercised its discretion and decided not to implement some plans, prescriptions and recommendations made by its professional foresters and professional engineers. This resulted in unsound forest practices that put forest resources at unnecessary risk.”

The report reveals that a professional forester left the company when it became clear his advice was not being followed and his concerns about the forest practices were not being addressed. Failure to follow plans prepared by professionals raised two questions for the Forest Practices Board that were outside the scope of the investigation. The report suggests that government and the Association of BC Forest Professionals may want to look into them. The questions are: Did a professional forester oversee the implementation of the plan and did they do so in accordance with the Foresters Act and the ABCFP Code of Ethics? Did MCC remove registered foresters from any role in advising, supervising or assessing the impact of forestry activities, and if they did, were they violating the Foresters Act?

The board makes four recommendations in the report. First, that a qualified professional be engaged to review roads where construction did not follow engineering designs and prepare mitigation strategies if necessary. Second, that government assess the potential environmental risk of the roads in the Healy Creek drainage and coordinate a maintenance/deactivation strategy involving all resource users. Third, government should ensure it can act quickly if there is a high risk to the environment or a forest resource. Fourth, that government should explore options for ensuring outstanding silviculture obligations are met.

The report concludes with: “The Board requests that government advise it of the steps taken, or planned, to address these recommendations by December 31, 2012.”

Spring rains bring slides and washouts: portion of Galena Trail closed

by Jan McMurray

Slides and washouts occurred in the area in late April-early May, due to saturated soil from the significant amount of precipitation this spring.

Three slides came down onto Highway 31 in the Galena Pass area in late April, causing road closures and traffic interruptions. Shifty Bench Road and Jacobs Road, just north of Kaslo, were washed out due to a slide on the night of April 30. An alternate route had to be built on a private property and traffic interruptions. Shutty Bench Road and Jacobs Road, just north of Kaslo, were washed out due to a slide on the night of April 30. An alternate route had to be built on a private property to provide access to some residents in the area, and one resident lost her water. Work is ongoing to repair the roads.

The road filled in on Sandon Road the night of April 24. The ministry reports that this will be repaired as soon as the site dries out. A washout on Galena Trail, discovered April 28, has closed the trail in the Capella Creek area. Capella Creek is in the Denver Canyon, between the cable car and Denver Siding. “The closure is a precautionary measure to determine the extent of damage and to protect trail users from potential danger of the unstable area,” states a press release issued by the Regional District of Central Kootenay. The RDCK is in the process of hiring a geotechnical engineer to evaluate the slide area, according to Joe Chirico, RDCK’s General Manager of Community Services.

CAREERS AT CBT

CBT has two openings:
• Analyst, Planning and Development
• Program Manager, Water and Environment

A detailed description of duties, skills and qualifications can be viewed at www.cbt.org/careers or requested from Debra Stewart at 1.800.505.8998.

Please forward resumes to dstewart@cbt.org by noon (Pacific) May 29, 2012 for consideration.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

The Government of Canada invites qualified applicants to apply online at www.cic.gc.ca/careers to work in British Columbia, Canada. The positions are as follows:

• Pre-arrival services representative for Western region (2)
• Visa officer for Western region (2)

Please visit www.cic.gc.ca/careers for more information and to apply online.

Sierra Canada is currently seeking applicants for a Manager of Operations. Applicants with a college or university degree and five years of experience in a similar role are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should send their resume in confidence to: careers@sierracanada.com.

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1-250-358-7755
Dear Backroad & Pineridge Residents

I’d like to apologize for the ‘kafuffle’ that the guidebook brought about and for the lack of public consultation prior to its release. It was never my intention to disturb anyone’s way of life. I am very passionate about exercise, fitness and trails, and love sharing this with others. I enjoy seeing firsthand how it changes peoples’ lives for the better. I love Kaslo and believe it is the most beautiful place on earth and the best place to raise my five children. Shawn and I moved here for the lifestyle and opened the store to share our passions not because of the limited financial benefits.

We all, as residents of Kaslo and area, are very fortunate to have crown land so close to our houses to recreate in. Let’s work together to find a solution to sharing this wonderful resource. I applaud the efforts of the Trails Foundation for trail use and maintenance they are working hard towards the foundation for trail use and opened the store to share our outdoor recreation in. Let’s work together to find a solution to sharing this wonderful resource. I applaud the efforts of the Trails Foundation for trail use and maintenance they are working hard towards the foundation for trail use and opened the store to share our outdoor recreation in.

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Janis Neufeld
Kaslo

Valley Voice
unjustly accused

In my previous letter in this issue on the smart meter issue, I stated the following:

Gary Diers

Dear Editor:

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to write to you after reading an article in the Kaslo Hotel’s Valley Voice.

Janis Neufeld

Valley Voice
unjustly accused

I read with some amusement the letter in your previous issue from Chris Dawson, who most unjustly accused the Valley Voice of lack of balance in reporting.

Dr. Dawson claimed the Valley Voice covered only one side of the smart meter issue (i.e. the anti-smart-meter perspective) and provided us with a brief lecture on the journalistic principles of fairness and balance. He was hoisted on his own petard.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

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

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Janis Neufeld
Kaslo
Making sense out of BC Hydro

The smart meter program is NOT about conserving electricity or an end to our dependence on fossil fuels producing power and getting more money for it. Clean energy is the new black gold and BC has a lot of it. Over the next three years, BC Hydro will be spending $6 billion. Most of the money will be spent in Northern BC to generate and supply electric power to the mining, oil, and gas projects there. To get the $6 billion for their projects, BC Hydro will need to borrow money. Investors will not lend money if there are no means to pay it back. The smart meter program will guarantee a cash flow through increased rates and better management of power for sales to the US. The vision of the Clean Energy Act for BC to become a leading clean energy producer will be realized. The BC Hydro executives get a bonus and the rate payers pay for the program.

I have read BC Hydro’s business case for the smart meter program. Over 20 years, $1 billion of benefit will be generated by the program. After the costs of the smart meters is subtracted, the value of the benefits drop to zero. After the smart meters last for 20 years, they will then need to be replaced and the value of benefits drop to about $400 million below zero. So much for their business case.

Why do our meters cost $555 each and Ontario’s $233? Any money tacked on the program can be A) discarded if the BC market drop when they apply for a rate increase. Do you get the feeling you are getting misleading information from BC Hydro? Check out our program: Take Back Your Power at: ThePowerFilm.org.

Ed Zakharian
Climate Change

In your May 2 edition Sean Rooney claims that because March 2012 was the warmest ever recorded in North America, we are all doomed because of future climate change. The real problem with that assertion is that experts like David Suzuki and Al Gore have no idea what the temperature will be next week, next year, or 50 years from now. Climate change alarmist James Hansen of NASA predicted in 1988 that today’s climate would be hotter by 3°C to 4°C. He was wrong by a factor of ten. Climate change alarmist, British environmentalist James Lovelock, who coined the Gaia concept in 1972, predicted that he was wrong: “The problem is we don’t know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago, but the temperature has not increased as expected over the last 12 years. All the ‘scientific’ climate change models that have been predicting large global temperature increases have been wrong.

One of the strangest ongoing phenomena is the attacks against Al Gore, the former Vice President. If you listen to Al Gore or Greenpeace, etc., you are led to believe that if the oil sands are exploited to their fullest we will all be doomed by catastrophic climate change. Dr Andrew Weaver of the University of Victoria, and a lead author on the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has found that (February 2012) if the oil sands are fully exploited it will lead to an increase in the world’s climate of 0.36°C, and if you exploit only the commercially viable oil sands it will increase world temperatures by 0.37°C. However, if you burn all of the world’s coal, it will increase world temperatures by 15°C. Isn’t it amazing that there are large protests against the Alberta oil sands, while the US and the US alone is more than 50 times worse? You can add that to the construction of 50 to 100 new coal-fired power plants in China over the last 15 years. A significant portion of China is the most polluted country on the planet. Why are the so-called ‘environmentalists’ picking on Alberta while remaining almost completely silent about the worst polluters?

We are told that due to ice melts, the oceans are rising. However, in September 2010, the European Space Agency’s Envisat monitoring system showed that global sea levels are continuing their decline of about 0.29 mm per year. If you check the Arctic, the area that is projected to decline to 610 by 2011. A recent count located 1,013 bears. David Suzuki claimed that all of the fish farms were wiping out salmon runs. In September 2010 there was a near-record sockeye salmon run. We are continually told that the science is settled, and that a consensus of scientists agrees that global warming is primarily man-made. Not so. For example, in September 2011, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Ivar Giaever resigned as a Fellow from the American Physical Society, saying he could not live with its nonsensical endorsement of global warming alarmism. The European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN, which involves 30,000 scientists in 80 countries and 600 universities has recently demonstrated that solar activity, combined with cosmic rays and the Earth’s cloud cover are far more likely to cause climate change than the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In April 2012, 49 former NASA employees, including seven astronauts, accused the US government of silencing its reputation by making unsubstantiated claims about climate change.

If these so-called ‘environmentalists,’ such as Al Gore, David Suzuki, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, Forest Ethics and famous movie stars, etc., have such distaste for the use of hydrocarbons, oil products, why don’t they use the ultimate protest and stop using them, listen to the experts, buy only solar calculators and cell phones, which are 80 percent plastic, from the oil industry?

Roger Pratt
Perspectives from the Principal’s Office: Defending Public Education

The 2011-2012 school year has been anything but normal and as we head into its last few months, I have been asked to share the perspectives of members of the BC Principals’ & Vice Principals’ Association. These illustrations, while not representative of all schools, are examples of the real challenges that many students and parents have faced this year.

Schools are typically vibrant communities, with a lot of positive interactions both in classrooms and out of them. School culture has been significantly eroded this year by the continuing dispute between the BC Public School Employers’ Federation (the body which negotiates on behalf of school boards with teachers in British Columbia) and the BC Teachers’ Federation (BCTF). The routine and critically important communications between teachers and principals and vice-principals about student progress have not occurred in the normal fashion. As a consequence many students have not had their important academic issues addressed in a timely fashion or at all. This year has seen the cancellation of all district-wide writing and holiday performances and routine student recognition assemblies. Some meetings about students who are having difficulties have not taken place. Meetings with teachers to discuss the direction of school initiatives and goals have not taken place. Parents did not receive first term report cards about their child’s progress. While some parents were able to get information about their child, many did not receive this information. Indeed, some parents reported that they made electronic contacts with teachers but received no helpful response. Students have informed us that they have missed out on numerous scholarship opportunities if they had leadership abilities to be considered.

Surprisingly all of this disruption has not generated as much public response as those of us in the ministry would have expected. Still, principals and vice-principals often hear from parents that they are concerned about vocalizing this issue.

We have now moved into a new phase of this dispute. In many districts, the school days consist of student instruction from bell to bell but little else. If we, as adults, reflect on our student experiences, we know that instruction and formal learning opportunities are only part of the value of school. The interactions with teachers and others, through clubs, sports, fine arts activities, drama performances, field trips and special school activities make our schools special and create unique, memorable and invaluable experiences for students. These enriching and positive opportunities will not be a part of the public education experience for many of our students.

Principals and vice-principals have had many conversations about a new normal that is being established in our schools and they have consistently expressed a belief that this is not a positive direction. If schools lose the energy, character and culture that have been their hallmark, our students will leave their public education years less well-rounded, less prepared for their working lives and less likely to champion public education when they are adults. Principals and vice-principals do not have the answers to the issues facing our schools, but we believe it is important to share the reality as we see it on a daily basis. Our concern, as this school year moves to a close, is that nothing will be different in September and students will be forced to endure another year of disengagement from the system.

There is no sign that a resolution is at hand. If this dispute continues for another year, the negative effects will be long-term and profound. Principals and vice-principals have worked hard this year to ensure that as many as possible of the normal school initiatives and goals are maintained. As a consequence many students have not had their important academic issues addressed in a timely fashion or at all.

This latest phase in our schools will not allow principals and vice-principals to pick up the many pieces of school life that will be lost and in the end it will be the students and families of the public system who will miss out. A respectful and workable solution must be found soon to protect the long-term viability of public education and to continue to give students the opportunities they need to thrive now and achieve in the future.

Jameel Aziz, President of the BC Principals’ & Vice-Principals’ Association

Response to Chris Dawson

About your letter in the last issue of the Valley Voice, specifically concerning your feelings regarding my column: I’m a little ashamed to say this, but personally, in my heart, I believe that all your feelings about everything are right. Extreme right! Seriously though, I am very concerned about your ‘bi-monthly’ periods of wincing. Although I don’t appear to be progress over what I first diagnosed on your face as ‘perma-wince’ when we met in your quiet store, there is still plenty of room for improvement. So cheer up!

Here’s a simple two-step program I always recommend to good folks who wince over my column: 1) Don’t read it. 2) Please eat it! That’s right, simply clip the column, roll it into a small ball, pop it into your mouth and eat it. I’m sure. Newsprint is very high in healthy fibre, and the inks are made of yummy vegetables. Add a squirt of catsup and a pinch of your fave spice, and you’ve got a food group! I believe this will further control your ‘bi-monthly’ wincing attacks. AND it’s FREE! Just like your favourite pussy cat in the Valley Voice! DO IT! You’re going to love it!

Bon Appetite Chris, 
Andrew Rhodes
New Denver, BC

GREAT MINISTER THOMSON

peaceful JUMBO WILD! RALLY
SAT, MAY 26, 3:30PM, KASLO PARK Gazebo
~ POST CARDS, BUTTONS, BUMPER STICKERS
~ BRING: placards, banners, donations
~ sponsored by: West Kootenay Coalition for JUMBO WILD

May 16, 2012 The Valley Voice
Kaslo council, May 8: Langham Cultural Centre to see upgrades

by Jan McMurray

• The Langham building will be informed as soon as the FLIP program is being delivered in Kaslo.
• Resident Rob Moran attended to present a fundraising idea, which would involve placing his coin-operated foot washrooms ($1,629.69), the Moyie Institute ($931.49), and the Water Smart Match Funds will 250 gallons per minute of water. At the May 2 Development Services Committee meeting, Public Works Foreman Glen Walker reported on the water system. The Langham Society will be informed as soon as the FLIP program is being delivered in Kaslo.

Kaslo budget in brief

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s 2012 budget is just over $3 million in 2012.

• Property taxes provide 17.6 percent of the budget at $534,565. The grand majority of taxation in Kaslo is appropriate as this class also forms the largest portion of property tax revenue. This is 2.45 times the residential provincially.

• The Business and Other class provides 9 percent of property tax revenue. Utilities provide 0.33 percent. Light Industry provides 0.05 percent, and consumes the majority of municipal taxable frontage. Sewer rates have been completely revised.

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New Denver council, May 8: Kootenay Rockies Tourism/Bear Smart delegations by Michael Dorsey

• Council entertained two delegations: wildlife biologist Wayne McCroty and Kootenay Rockies Tourism’s (KRT) Wendy Van Paymbrock and Chris Dawson. McCroty spoke about the Bear Smart program and how to deal with bears. Van Paymbrock updated council on KRT tourism strategies and tools. She noted that most of the visitors to the area are Canadiains, with Albertans comprising 66 percent of these visitors. KRT has a $1.2 million budget, and has developed strategies, tools for tourism, and is active in trade activities and shows. She made note of the Connected Travel Programs, including a free application for iPad, iPhone and iPod, with more expected. As that could be downloaded from the KRT website free of charge, and provides comprehensive information for visitors, including the sport schedules, points of interest, accommodation, and more.

• Councillor von Krogh reported that the Public Works crew has removed some bear attracted fruit trees, such as the cherry tree at the children’s playground in the park. Councillor Raynolds added that crews and council have spoken with most residents about the fruit trees, and the Village will remove the trees the residents do not want to remove.

• CAO Carol Gordon informed council that eight new bearproof garbage containers are being installed in downtown Silverton, and another eight are on order for next year. The peaked roof containers in the parks and on the main street will be replaced soon.

• Council decided to send a letter of support to the Valhalla Wilderness Society regarding the petition calling for a return to the humane program for a return to the humane program for bears.

• The Village will write the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) with concerns about pedestrians crossing the highway at New Market Foods, and will request a crosswalk and the installation of appropriate signs at the corner of Highway 31A (6th Avenue) and Kootenay Street.

• Mayor Bunka reported on her walk through the dikes with Ministry representative Dwayne Boyer and the Public Works crew, noting the Village now has a 2- to 5-year plan for flood and vegetation control.

• Councillor Hodsall reported on Recreation Commission #6, noting that Angela Eillennore is the new secretary/ treasurer and Janet Quesnel will be the maintenance person. New members include Jason Clarke (Silverton council rep), Van Puymbroek and Chris Dadson. The Village will also ask MoT to install distance and direction signs east of 8th Avenue, and north of 11th Avenue, to guide tourist traffic past residential areas.

• Mayor Bunka reported that the Public Works crew has ordered new docks for the boat launch at Centennial Park. Council approved taking $4,000 from the Public Works Capital, Works and Equipment Reserve Fund for the purchase of the docks.

• Public Works has been installing more dog waste bag dispensers, and walked the Mori Trail with members of council to assess repairs.

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Nakusp Library now open five days and one night per week

Can we afford to do this? We've had some financial challenges in the past year, and it's meant taking a very, very hard look at what we do. Earlier this year, library board members had to make a difficult choice about where to focus limited energy and financial resources, and they decided to prioritize library hours. Consequently, we've spent a lot of time talking about how to make the most of the staff time we have, and these new hours are the result of those conversations.

One decision we made was to try out different summer and winter hours. So, from May through October, while the library will be open from Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 5, Saturdays from 10 to 5, and Monday nights from 6 to 9.

Why are we doing this? Making our hours more regular means they'll be easier to remember. Being open more hours per week (we're going from 250 to 300, 25 in winter) means we're available more of the time you want to visit and borrow library materials. It makes us more accessible for the kids who want a comfortable place to hang out after school: we have books, computers, good chairs, a free telephone, and friendly volunteers and staff.

New paint and battery recycling depots needed in Nakusp

Studio Connexion launches 2012 season with new artists and more display space

SEEDS
Flower & Vegetable, Seed Potatoes, Onion Sets

SOILS, FERTILIZERS & PLANTING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE NOW!

green教学质量有需要的精品。教材中包括图画、装饰造纸的材料和工具，以及一些基本的造纸知识。这些材料适合初学者使用，并可以作为初学者的入门教材。

Studio Connexion Gallery is participating again in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour and Nakusp's Saturday Art Tour. This year, the gallery offers a Gift Registry Service for all sorts of occasions: marriage, retirement, special birthday or important event. There might be a new life management. A key goal of EPR programs is to shift the costs of waste management off of the general taxpayer and onto manufacturers and consumers of the product. The RDCK’s position is that hosting paint and battery recycling depots at landfills and transfer stations and customers. In some parts of BC, the businesses that host these depots sell BC fine art. Located at 203 Fifth Avenue, Studio Connexion Gallery is proud of the 2012 line-up: Tsuneko Kokubo, who lives in the Silverton Basin, has created as an art boutique with products from Québec (antique reproduction furniture and maple syrup) and local artwork. Now an art gallery, Studio Connexion sells fine art and has exhibitions from mid-May to mid-October. This year, the gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm, but private appointments can be arranged outside of regular hours, and small groups can be arranged along with attendance at the artist’s talk. The exhibitions can be an educational tool for teachers and students.

by Romilly (Call2Recycle) – 1-866-794-6674. Canada: www.rcbc.bc.ca or 1-800-667-4321.

SOILS, FERTILIZERS & PLANTING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE NOW!

 Gardening Centre OPENED MAY 5, 2012!!

PK Nakusp offers special event

Submitted

We've listened. We've debated. We've decided. The new hours for the Nakusp Library begin May 22. It's a pilot project and we invite your responses.

After many hours of conversation and weighing of pros and cons, we decided that being able to accommodate more people – more often and more thoroughly – outweighed all of the possible negatives. Starting May 22, Nakusp May 15-June 2.

Kokubo starts the season’s exhibitions with her new series of paintings, "Vitalitas." Two artists from Kamloops will follow – Cathie Peters and Donna Houston – then local artist Kim Izarovich will have her first exhibition of paintings. Sharon Bamber, a pastel artist who has won numerous awards with her wildlife work, is next, and Brigitte Desbois from Nelson will exhibit her paintings in August. Cathie Peters, Donna Houston and Brigitte Desbois all belong to the Federation of Canadian Artists. Curator Anne Béliveau is very proud of the 2012 line-up. Tsuneko Kokubo's favourite colour.

The Valley Voice May 16, 2012

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Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards celebrated two league banners

by Jan McMurray

There was a lot to celebrate at the Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night held May 1 at the auditorium – two league banners, a new Scrimmage League, and the close of another successful hockey season for Nakusp.

Nakusp Minor Hockey Association President Rusty Reimer welcomed the huge crowd to the event. He asked families to register their children for the 2012-13 season by May 18. “We’re right on the bubble for every group, especially Atoms and up. We need to know the numbers by June,” he said.

Reimer then presented the Coach of the Year Award to Ryan Struck. “This coach gave lots of his time and effort – he gave everything to the team, and the team had lots of respect for him,” he said.

Reimer spoke highly of the Scrimmage League that started this year and thanked the many parents who made it happen: Kristi, Kerry, Chad, Wayne, Mike and Andrea Coates.

The Junior Novice team was next to receive their certificates. This team had twice as many players as last year, and they went to a tournament this year.

The PeeWee team’s head coach, Ken Nishida, presented the awards to his champion team. “They had a remarkable year. They were undefeated all year,” he said. The PeeWees won the West Kootenay Minor Hockey League Banner at the playoffs held in Nakusp in February. Their first game of the season ended in a tie, and after that, they won every game – all 34 of them.

Trophies were presented to Ryan MacDonald (Best All Around Player), Jacob LaPlante (Playmaker of the Year), Kobe Nishida (Most Defensive Player) and Brody Herridge (Goalie of the Year).

Esso Medals were presented to Reese McCrory (Most Sportsmanlike) with an Honourable Mention to Eric Vieira; Raven Atherton and Hailey Herridge (Most Dedicated); and Jacob LaPlante (Most Improved).

The Midget Rep team, which won the West Kootenay League Banner and placed third in the provincial tournament held in Nakusp, was up next. First, Coach Ryan Struck expressed thanks for the Coach of the Year Award. “I appreciate it – it really means a lot,” he said.

Struck said that from the first practice, he knew it was going to be a season he would never forget. “This was one of the easiest teams I’ve ever coached. Anything I asked of them was done.”

Not only did Struck want the players to improve on the ice, but he also wanted them to become better people in general. “I consider them members of my family,” he said. “I wanted to give Most Improved to all of them.”

Trophies were presented to Ryan Bateman (Best All Around), Kellan Nishida (Playmaker of the Year), Levi Cordingley (Most Defensive Player), and Dugan McInnes (Goalie of the Year).

Esso Medals went to Hannah Enns (Most Sportsmanlike), Cole Bendis (Most Dedicated), and Arturs Vilks (Most Improved).

The Bantam Team, a mix of players from Nakusp, Kaslo, New Denver and Summit Lake, was given their awards by head coach, Barry Streliev. Streliev said the season was challenging because they weren’t able to practice a lot as a team with members from Kaslo and Nakusp. However, they peaked in the playoffs and finished third.

Trophies went to Ashlee Herridge and David Faucher (Best All Around), Kira Streliev (Playmaker of the Year), Austin MacDonald and Jordan Deakoff (Most Defensive Players), and Dugan McInnes (Goalie of the Year).

Esso Medals went to Jade Streliev (Most Sportsmanlike), Damin Devlin (Most Dedicated), and Connor Reimer (Most Improved).

Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night held May 1 at the auditorium – two league banners, a new Scrimmage League, and the close of another successful hockey season for Nakusp.

Nakusp’s Midget Rep team won the West Kootenay League Banner and placed third in the provincial tournament held in Nakusp this year.

Ryan Struck, coach of the Midget Rep team, was honoured with the Coach of Year Award.

The undefeated PeeWee House team won the league banner at the playoffs held in Nakusp.
The Lucerne School and Community Writers Festival features an eclectic mix of arts and outdoors

by Jan McMurray

The Lucerne School and Community Writers Festival enjoyed its 11th super successful run this year, culminating in the coffeehouse on May 11. The festival has never been so eclectic because theatre and the outdoors were integral to this year’s program, inspiring students to write poems, haiku, novels, short stories and a play.

“Amazing things can happen when different disciplines come together,” said poet, author and creative writing instructor Stuart Ross, who emceed the coffeehouse on May 11. Ross has returned to New Denver year after year to take part in the festival.

This year, Ross teamed up with local painter and teacher, Donna Hicks, to offer students a four-day workshop, ‘Painting, Paddling and Poetry.’ Many of the students who participated in this workshop read their haiku poetry at the coffeehouse. Sadye Butler’s piece, ‘Children of my Water,’ was the result of an exercise where Ross asked the students to imagine how something would dream, and she chose Nemo Falls. Cypress Hunder-Krookes presented a slideshow of the workshop’s highlights, featuring many of the students’ poems written on their paintings.

George Littlechild, award-winning writer, educator and artist of mixed Caucasian and First Nations ancestry, worked with the students in all schools in the Arrow Lakes School District during the week. Lucerne students who worked with Littlechild did paintings of horses and wrote about the horse’s gift to them. These paintings and writings will be published in a book produced at the school. At the coffeehouse, Littlechild presented a slideshow of his multimedia artwork exploring native and non-native relationships. Many of the grades 2-5 students’ readings were about their horses; others were about the dreams of things such as Sandon and the Molly Hughes; and yet others were the beginnings of novels that were entered into a CBC contest.

Local couple Anastasia and Christopher Love led workshops in creative movement, art and writing, while Lucerne teachers Gary Parkstrom and Scott Kipke took a group of students out hiking and writing each day of the festival.

One group of students worked with theatre instructors Mat Maitland and Jessica Robertshaw to produce a play in four days. The ‘world premiere’ of the amazing performance was presented at the coffeehouse. Maitland has come to New Denver for seven years as an instructor in the Valhalla Fine Arts Society’s summer theatre program, but this was his first time working in Lucerne School. He said they tried to teach the students about every aspect of producing a play, from writing to sound to lights, etc. “You have created wonderfully creative kids and I hope you enjoy the play as much as we enjoyed putting it together,” he said. The audience most certainly did.

Stuart Ross read a piece written by the K/1 class, which he described as “post-modern.” The poem was composed of words elicited from the students by Ross.

The final readings of the evening were by professional writers Stuart Ross, Diana Hartog and Fred Wah, current poet laureate of Canada. Wah, the second poet laureate to come to New Denver’s writers festival, grew up in the West Kootenay and has spent most of his life here. Wah read a poem he wrote years ago in protest of logging in the Purcell Wilderness and Hamill Creek watershed, entitled ‘Hamill’s Last Stand.’ “I read this in support of Occupy Jumbo,” he said. He also read ‘To the Dogs,’ a poem he wrote that was inspired by bears raiding his outdoor kitchen, and ‘The Snowflake Age,’ written for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

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ART in Food Tech Workshops

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Adobe Oven Construction June 10th and 17th • Instructor - Spring Shine

Admission is $22 a day. It is possible to take just one day of the two day courses.

To register or for more information:
Contact Peter Box 1386 Kaslo BC V0G 1M0 Canada 250-353-2575 peterunderbelly@hotmail.com Facebook Page: Underbelly Farm
Luther opens music shop and folklore centre in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Now open in Kaslo is a music shop offering sales of new, used and hand-built instruments, and repairs, restoration and modification to most stringed instruments.

Mountain Fruit Folklore Centre, owned by Luther Jeremy Behn, specializes in stringed instruments, but carries used instruments of all kinds.

Behn trained with Master Luthiers Michael Dunn and Ray Nurse 20 years ago. He recently learned bowmaking from Michael Vann and violin setup from Raymond Schreyer. He has also had some guitar repair instruction at the Summit School of Guitar Building and Repair on Vancouver Island, and is licensed to install Buzz Feiten Tuning Systems.

Since the store opened in August last year, Behn says the reception has been very favourable, with lots of support, encouragement and business from Kaslo and the Kootenays in general. He has met many musicians and their instruments – and two extra special instruments have come in for repair: violins made by contemporaries of Stradivarius. “It was a privilege to evaluate and investigate instruments that were made 250 years ago with hand skills only,” said Behn.

Behn has many ideas for his shop – “more hand-built and world culture instrument inventory, music lessons, instrument building and music playing workshops, finding a business partner who wants to join the vision, establishing a solid web presence including web sales, becoming a true folklore centre that supports and is supported by the community,” he says.

Opening the shop “just kind of arrived in my lap,” he said. “Certainly the notion that following one’s own vision, however risky, can be a fulfilling food for the soul was attractive.”

Behn’s vision of a folklore centre is “a gathering place that inspires a community to celebrate everything about their culture.”

During the May Days weekend, all instruments are 10 percent off at Mountain Fruit Folklore Centre, and there will be live music Saturday and Sunday afternoons between 1 and 3 pm. The store is located in the old provincial building (Kemball Memorial Centre) on 4th Avenue, just off the main street in downtown Kaslo.
12th Kaslo May Days celebration promises to be a weekend of family fun

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo May Days is still going strong after 120 years. “This event has been a part of Kaslo for generations. I’m always amazed by how much of a life of its own it has,” says Mel Bryce, coordinator of the event for the past two years.

Vimy Park is the site of the slo-pitch ball tournament and outdoor market on all three days of the long weekend, as well as live music performances at the gazebo every afternoon. Catch a ball game, check out some music, do some shopping and grab a bite to eat down at the park. There is always a great selection of vendors.

The kids’ races take place on Saturday at the park from 11:30 to 12:30 – they are a joy to watch! On Monday afternoon after the parade, the park is the place to be.

The May Pole Dance takes place around 1 pm, and the Citizen of the Year presentation and other community celebrations follow.

On Saturday, a 5K race for runners and walkers starts at 10 am in front of the Moyie. Sponsored by Kootenay Mountain Sports, the race takes participants through a scenic course and offers lots of opportunities for draws. Entry is $2 for individuals or $5 for families.

Equestrians and horse lovers won’t want to miss the Kaslo Riding Club horse demonstration on Saturday from 1 pm to 4 pm at the grounds on Arena Road. After the show, there will be pony rides for the kids. A concession will be set up on the grounds as a fundraiser for the school’s girls soccer team.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Langham is offering self-guided tours of the Japanese Museum from 9 am to 4 pm. And both evenings at 7:30 pm, the Langham Theatre presents ‘I, Claudius’ – a one-woman play featuring local actress Lynn van Deusen and the masks of local artist Robin Wiltsie.

Sunday is an action-packed day, with Logger Sports, the annual Show ‘n Shine, an antique engine demonstration and a skatepark demonstration.

The Kaslo Logger Sports show is known as one of the best on the circuit and runs on the grounds adjacent to Vimy Park. Competitors from across North America come to take part in a wide variety of events – axe throw, stock saw, tree climb, choker race, underhand chop, log rolling and more. There will be five Canadian Championship competitions at the event this year. It’s always a treat when the kids compete in the boys’ chop – this year, there’s a kids’ choker race, too.

The Logger Sports grounds will have a Burger & Bratwurst concession run by the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department and a Bavarian Beer Garden by the Kaslo Curling Club.

Sunday is a great day for a stroll along Kaslo’s main street to see the antique cars, hot-rods, trucks and motorcycles between 5th and the Moyie (10 am to 2:30 pm) and antique engines on the corner of 4th from 10 am to 4 pm. Most of the engines are around 100 years old, and some are originally from farms and mines in Kaslo.

Check out the skatepark starting at 11 am on Sunday for a competition and demonstration, sponsored by Barren’s Sport Shop. All are welcome to compete.

Monday morning starts up with a pancake breakfast on the Kemball Memorial Centre grounds from 7:30 to 10 am, served by the Kaslo council members as a fundraiser for the City Hall Restoration Project.

The May Pole Dance starts at noon, and the parade will begin – watch out for sea monsters! – and will end up at Vimy Park for the May Pole dance, songs by the Singing Grannies, the Citizen of the Year Award presentation and more. Kids will want to check out the fish pond at Periwinkle Day Care. Other events on Monday include the Garden Festival at Fract Street Park from 9 am to 3 pm and the May Days Tea at United Church Hall from 12:30-3 pm, a fundraiser for the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society.

Kaslo loves Logger Sports

Bruce and Kathy Freeman retired to Kaslo on July 1, 2006 and during the spring of 2007 there were no logger sports. The volunteers were burned out and the enthusiasm had died. The couple had always wanted watching the show on previous visits to Kaslo, so they decided to join up with Glenn Erickson, the guys from Sunshine Logging and a few others to try to rejuvenate the event.

They developed a new sponsorship form where businesses and individuals in the community and area could actually help sponsor a specific event. Everyone loved the idea. It made them feel they were a real part of the show and generous sponsorships started rolling in. The 2008 show was a huge success and Kaslo Logger Sports was off and rolling again. 2009 was another great show, and shortly after that Kaslo entered the TSN/Kraft Community Challenge Contest. Thanks to everyone coming on board and voting for Kaslo Logger Sports, Kaslo defeated rival community Williams Lake and won the contest.

The prize was: a live TSN Sports Centre broadcast from Kaslo Bay with announcers Darren Dutchyshen and Jennifer Hedges; a big BBQ sponsored by Kraft Canada; a whopping $25,000 to spend on the Logger Sports grounds.

The present committee is now in its fifth year of running the event and has made a huge effort to improve the grounds and make the show even better yet. There are two new cedar climbing poles direct from the Kaslo community forest, a “skookum” log rolling pond bordered by huge ferns, and the grounds have been levelled for a better competition area. Last but not least, there is a good plan for seating. Unfortunately, it won’t be in time for the 2012 show – but it will be for 2013 for sure.

“Since sponsorship coordinator, I am constantly amazed at the enthusiasm and support of all my sponsors. They are unbelievably generous and I love them all. I’m pleased to see that more sponsors are coming out to support the show and competing in sponsor events like the Axe Throw and the Stock Saw. We need the organizing committee, we need the competitors, but it’s thanks to the sponsors that we can run the quality show that we do,” says Kathy Freeman.

Every year the stands are packed to overflowing. Logger Sports is putting Kaslo on the map as an event destination. Everyone loves Kaslo Logger Sports.

Log Rolls will be featured at Kaslo Logger Sports again this year, with the Canadian Championships in the Open category.

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Tickets are $10/person. Includes
Music by Good Times Entertainment
8:30 pm -
The Teen Dance
Bosun Hall

For complete details & final schedule
We are now on www.facebook.com/
see www.newdenvermaydays.com

THURSDAY, May 17 2012
7:00 pm  Queen’s Pig Dance
Bosun Hall

FRIDAY, May 18, 2012
7:00 pm  Naming of the Queen
Bosun Hall

Music by Good Times Entertainment

Tickets are $10/person. Includes a Pop & Buffet. Transportation Info:
12:00 am departs from Bosun Hall

For complete details & final schedule see www.newdenvermaydays.com

We are now on www.facebook.com/ndmaydays

Check out the Silent Auction Tent
Limited number of Souvenir T-shirts

The ONLY dogs allowed in Centennial Park over the weekend are Hot Dogs!!

SATURDAY, May 19, 2012
8:00 am  Fish Derby
Register with the Centennial Park Attendant, Info: Jessie Mengler 358-2252
- $25/person
9:30 am  Bike Rodeo
Main Street - Biking basics & road etiquette for young bikers. Must have a bike and helmet to participate. Info: Teresa Steenhof@ 358-2184
Sponsor- RCI Insurance Brokers
10:00 am  Soap Box Derby
Main Street - Registration - $5/entry
Info: June McMullan@358-2372
Hot Dog Roast
Main Street – Post Office
11:00 am  SLGC Golf Tournament
Tee off Slocan Lake Golf Course
Info: 358-2408 Sponsors: Reitmeier Logging & Silverton Building Supplies
12:00 - Grand Opening of The Outlet
12:00 pm Beach Volleyball Tournament
Mix 4 on 4 - $5/player
Info: Sue Yurczak @ 358-6803
1:00 pm  -30 Hour famine Water Collection. Fundraiser relay to collect water for Congo. 3 people to walk the farthest win! $2 entry
1:00 pm  - New Denver Quilt Guild Tea
4:00 pm  Knox Hall – Raffle Tickets $5
Info: Diane Andrews @ 358-7284
9:00 pm  - The Adult Masquerade Ball
1:00 am  Bosun Hall
Music by Wheelhouse. Tickets are $17/person. Live Music, Buffet & Novelty Gift.
Dance Tickets will be available at: NURU, Mountainairb & New Market Foods. Transportation Info: 12:00 & 1:00 am - departs from Bosun Hall.

SUNDAY, May 20, 2012
Fish Derby & Volleyball tourney continues. All events at Centennial Park unless otherwise stated
7:30 am – Pancake Breakfast
10:00 am - Host - Chamber of Commerce
9:00 am  28th Summit Lake Bike Race/ Ride. Start at Summit Lake Day Park - free event Info: Mike & Heather Koolen 358-2690
9:00 am  - 11th Thomlinson Bocce Tourney
10:00 am  Register: Shell @ 358-2456
25th team
10:00 am  Beach Volleyball Tournament
11:00 am  Silent Auction
4:00 pm  Buy a pig roast ticket, a souvenir T-shirt & make a bid. Featuring Erik Renk & Les Weisbrich prints and many more local artisans
11:00 am  Junior Soccer Game - Gr. 6-8
New Denver vs Nakusp
Hot & Cold Booth opens
12:00 - 8:00 Bavarian Gardens
1:00 pm  Dingle Cross. Race a dingle to win a cash prize! Info: Linda Fitchett @ 358-2642
2:00 pm  Drop-in Scrub Baseball game
Free - bring your baseball glove
2:00 pm  Lake Lites and Fishy Tales
4:00 pm Bosun Hall - an afternoon of Slocan Lake stories, music, laughter & prizes – hosted by Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
5:00 pm  - Pig Roast BBQ
7:00 pm  Roasted Pork Dinner - $15/person
12:00 Noon - Bounzy Castle
Fish Pond & Games of Chance
- 30-Hour famine Water Collection.
Info: Sue Yurychuk @ 358-6803
1:00 pm  - 3 people to walk the farthest win! $2 entry
Funraiser relay to collect water for Congo! 
30-Hour Famine Water Collection.

LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC DURING THE PIG ROAST!!!

7:00 pm  Bingo - Bosun Hall - host SLAS
Dark Movie Night – free, rated PG
8:30ish  RV with Robin Williams

MONDAY, May 21, 2012
Fish Derby & Bocce Tournament continues. All events at Centennial Park unless otherwise stated
9:00 am  Hot & Cold Booth opens
9:00 am  Parade Line-up @ Lucerne School
10:00 am  The Parade begins
10:00 am  Silent Auction
4:00 pm  Come check out our tent. Buy a souvenir T-shirt & make a bid. Featuring Erik Renk & Les Weisbrich prints and many more local artisans
10:30 am  Miss New Denver Crowning Citizens of the Year 2011 Awards
11:00 am  Slocan Valley Community Band
11:00 am  - Slocan Valley Community Band
12:00 Noon - Bounzy Castle
Fish Pond & Games of Chance
- 30-Hour famine Water Collection.
Info: Sue Yurychuk @ 358-6803
1:00 pm  - 3 people to walk the farthest win! $2 entry
Funraiser relay to collect water for Congo! 
30-Hour Famine Water Collection.
New Denver holds Mardi Gras May Days celebration May 17-21
by Jan McMurray

New Denver May Days, the longest standing celebration in the North Slocan Valley, begins Thursday, May 17 with the Queen’s Pageant and ends Monday, May 21 with the Duck Race Finale. This year’s theme is Mardi Gras.

The Queen’s Pageant and Naming of the Queen events Thursday and Friday evenings at Bosun Hall always offer community entertainment at its finest. This year, four younger girls are in the program. After the Naming of the Queen Friday night, it’s the teen dance with music by Good Times Entertainment.

On Saturday, most of the events take place on New Denver’s main street, starting with the Bike Rodeo at 9:30 am and followed by the popular Soap Box Derby at 10 am. Hot dogs will be roasting on grills set up outside the post office. From noon to 4 pm, the New Denver & Area Youth Centre, called ‘The Outlet,’ welcomes everyone to drop in for its Grand Opening.

At Knox Hall from 1 pm to 4 pm, the New Denver Quilt Guild will serve tea and hold a raffle. Students from Lucerne School will hold a water relay at 1 pm at Centennial Park on Saturday to continue their fundraising efforts for clean drinking water in the Congo. These students participated in World Vision’s 30-hour fast in April for the same cause.

The fish derby and beach volleyball tournament both start Saturday and continue throughout the weekend. Register for the fish derby with the campground attendant at Centennial Park and call Sue Yurchuk at 358-6803 for information on the volleyball tournament.

Saturday night, there is an adult masquerade ball with music by Wheelhouse at the Bosun. Start the day on Sunday with the pancake breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30 to 10 am at Centennial Park. Outdoor sports events on Sunday include a bike race, bocce tournament, junior soccer game, dinghy races, baseball, and volleyball. The Hot & Cold Booth opens at 11 am and the Bavarian Gardens are open from noon to 8 pm.

Check out the silent auction tent Sunday and Monday, souvenir T-shirts are available for sale, and bids are open both days for Erik Renk and Les Weisbrich prints and more.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society hosts ‘Lake Lies and Fishy Tales’ on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm at the Bosun Hall. Sunday evening, there’s a pig roast and a movie at the park, and bingo at the Bosun.

On Monday, the parade begins at 10 am at Lucerne School and ends at Centennial Park for the crowning of Miss New Denver. The presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award, and other presentations. The May Days Market and kids’ games are set up in the park on Monday afternoon. The kids’ races happen at 1 pm and the Treasures in the Haystack event is at 2 pm. Adults can have a chance at the races as well, at 3:15 pm.

The Hot & Cold Booth and Bavarian Gardens are open Monday, and the Slocan Valley Community Band and other musicians will play at the park.

The Duck Race Finale at 4 pm winds up the weekend.

Lake Lies and Fishy Tales returns

Lake Lies and Fishy Tales, sponsored by Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, is always one of the most popular events in New Denver’s May Days celebrations and it is back again this year. On Sunday, May 20, at the Bosun Hall from 2 to 4 pm, you will be treated to local tellers of tall or true tales, First Nations’ stories, skits, musical interludes and more, all centered on the wet and wavy. You may also hear grizzly of disbelief, even cat-calls, mixed with lots of applause and laughter.

As usual, the line-up is impressive: Al Arnett, Kevin Murphy, Marianne Vanish, Michael Dorsey, Terry Taylor, Eric Faulks, Leah Main, Mathew Fry, Art Joyce, Judy Maltz, the dynamic duo Hank Hastings and Susie O’Donnell, and the Richard, Luce and D.J. Trio, and special guests – Ray Strothers and a Sinixt Nation Storyteller.

Prizes will be awarded by a wise, erudite, incorruptible, and fair panel of judges, for the best web of lies, moving first-hand account, or wondrous mythical tale.

Admission, refreshments, and a good time for all, by donation.

Don’t miss this fun filled event. Be sure to mark it on your calendar!
Shoreline restoration project underway at Kohan Garden

submitted

Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLGS) has started the second stage of their Shore Restoration Project. Last fall, above the Mori Trail and below Bellevue Street, the Village crew, SLGS and 19 volunteers worked together, planting shrubs and trees to repair the damaged degraded rocky slope.

This spring, SLGS is again at work on the shoreline, but this time in the Kohan Reflection Garden. The project manager, along with Village crew and volunteers, will repair and restore areas disturbed by garden maintenance and flood damage. This means removing invasive species more doggie bag dispensers. We are also putting an additional $10,000 into research funds. 2012 is mainly a year for planning to enable us to be ready for projects in the next few years.

May 20-22 was a huge success this year -- much more than last year. Thank you to all who participated. Some of the bags were too heavy for crew (pretty sure I was guilty of that for a few bags). It’s not bad for the guys to lift a couple of heavy bags, but doing it all day for a few days it could cause an injury. There were a lot more of the large paper bags out for pick-up and they are -- they can be shredded with the garden debris for mulch and save the Village (and all of us) money when we don’t have to take plastic to the transfer station. There is still much valuable from our last chipping. Please check at the Village office.

Kaslo emergency teams to do mock evacuation as training exercise

submitted

On May 26, emergency personnel in Kaslo are training in an evacuation exercise. They are working with Search and Rescue, Kaslo Fire Department, public works, and Emergency Social Services are some of the agencies and volunteers that will be involved. In the exercise scenario, lower Kaslo experiences flooding and there will be a door-to-door evacuation of homes in the area. A mock reception centre will be set up in the Kaslo Senior’s Centre for any residents in the evacuation zone who actually want to evacuate as part of the exercise.

The exercise being planned to train agencies, staff and volunteers on evacuation procedures. This is also being done to raise awareness for personal preparedness for residents. This year, Emergency Preparedness Week was May 6 to 12. This is a national campaign to encourage people to prepare themselves and their families just in case they need to evacuate. More information can be found at: www.getprepared.gc.ca. It can be discouraging to receive a notice to evacuate immediately. It is recommended that people gather these items together and have them on hand in case of an emergency: an extra set of keys to house, vehicles, and safety deposit box; copies of identification papers (licenses, birth certificates, health cards); copies of insurance policies; cash and banking information; flashlight with batteries; AM/FM battery-powered radio; medication and prescription drug information; and pet supplies if taking pets; things to keep children busy; some non-perishable food items; bottled water; contact list: family, friends, doctor’s names and phone numbers.

Silverton Gallery presents Jaclyn Guillou May 16

submitted

Jaclyn Guillou returns to the Silverton Gallery Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm.

This Vancouver-based artist has explored printmaking, and their depictions of animals and imaginary creatures will grace the gallery. These students also display self-portraits painted in pop art style and portrait paintings in a Picasso style. In addition, sun-printed prayer flags with a nature theme will be part of the show.

Don’t miss these exciting shows!
When something is as simple and practical as Harvesting Sunshine, it doesn’t have to be “smart” or wireless. Selling vegetable starts & solar energy systems.

www.OsoSolar.com - Elvendal Farm & Greenhouse in Hills, BC. 358-2660

COMMUNITY

It takes a community to raise a rare owl

submitted

When biologists embarked on a study of the endangered Western Screech-owl in 2009, they were not aware of how much the success of their project rested on the hands (or ears!) of the public. West Kootenay residents in the area have been integral in finding new territories (four of eight territories monitored last year were reported by local landowners), helping monitor owls and conserving valuable habitat on their properties. Once again, the public are being asked to listen for the calls of the Western Screech-owl. “Because of their nocturnal habits and elusive ways, these birds have a certain allure with people,” says biologist and project manager Doris Hausleitner. “We have really appreciated the leads we have received in the past and we are hoping that we can find a couple of new territories this year.”

Although the Western Screech-owl is listed federally and provincially as an endangered species, their habitat is offered no real “protection” on private land. The Western Screech-owl in the West Kootenay region typically reside in low-elevation areas adjacent to water, precisely where people also like to live. In fact, over 90 percent of locations (collected from owls wearing small radio backpacks) have occurred on private lands. Biologists have followed owls on eight different territories from the Creston Valley to the Columbia River and from the border of the US north to Slocan City.

“For these territories, there are approximately 150 landowners involved,” added Hausleitner. “So far, every single one of them has cooperated positively with the project which we are really pleased about.”

“Getting all the residents of a particular owl’s territory together to view an owl territory has been very successful. A landowner might not think they have important wildlife trees for owls for wildlife when they look within their property lines, but when they see the significance of their property on a larger scale, a sense of collective responsibility sets in. Some have even invited biologists to walk their properties to give them ideas on how to enhance their land and keep important wildlife trees for the owls. This type of habitat conservation will benefit a multitude of species.”

As a direct result of the project, biologists have applied to the province to provide conservation status on approximately one territory on three owl territories. In addition, commercial landowners have been notified of owl use on their properties and are providing spatial data from the project in their official community plans. Together with private landowners, habitat is being conserved for the Western Screech-owl with the Fish and Wildlife Protection Program, Columbia Basin Trust, FortisBC, Habitat Stewardship Program and the Habitat Conservation Trust at Foundation.

Project biologists are still searching for owls to monitor by radio-telemetry in 2012. Not only will this data be used in habitat management of the Western Screech-owl one territory at a time. The Western Screech-owl telemetry project is funded by the Fish and Wildlife Protection Program, Columbia Basin Trust, FortisBC, Habitat Stewardship Program and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

On the Line – a touching film about the proposed Enbridge pipeline

There were astonishing scenes of the rugged coast at Hecate Strait outside Kitimat, where the huge super tankers would be starting off from, having to make three right angle turns amongst the jagged shools and reefs. Wolf said for six hours at a stretch, there can be 70-foot waves, and 100-foot waves for shorter durations are not uncommon.

In the movie, Wolf interviewed a native for their view: “What are they going to do? Where will they take us when the spills happen? What will they feed us – baloney?”

The Scoping Meeting of the Enbridge pipeline will be held at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson, May 30 at 7 pm.

Another foot care option available in Nakusp

submitted

Advanced Foot Care Nurse Rebecca Kessler is now offering her services in Nakusp.

“People tend to ignore their feet, but they are vital to our health, mobility and independence,” she says. “Our feet provide locomotion. They provide shock absorption for the thousands of steps we take every day. The feet experience more wear and tear than any other body part, yet are often neglected. Taking care of your feet helps avoid discomfort which can turn into long lasting problems.

Diabetics and people with circulatory problems have a special need for foot care, she says, because nerve damage may make it difficult for them to feel their feet. This can lead to unrecognised foot problems, causing sores, pain and can even lead to amputation.

Seniors may find that taking care of their feet makes it easier to walk, increasing their mobility and independence, she says.

“About 85 percent of people have foot problems. Years of mismanagement of the feet by choosing shoes for fashion instead of comfort have led to undetected foot problems, for them to feel their feet. This can lead to nerve damage may make it difficult for them to feel their feet. This can lead to unrecognised foot problems, causing sores, pain and can even lead to amputation.

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“The cuts to jobs at Library and Archives Canada are devastating for preservation of Canada’s history, “said Turk. “The cuts to jobs at Library and Archives Canada are devastating for preservation of Canada’s history, “said Turk. “But it is a knowledgeable and dedicated staff that make the difference. We are doing what we can to take care of the materials we have been entrusted with.”

The cuts to jobs at Library and Archives Canada are devastating for preservation of Canada’s history, “said Turk. “But it is a knowledgeable and dedicated staff that make the difference. We are doing what we can to take care of the materials we have been entrusted with.”

The Canadian Council of Archives office will be closed in Ottawa and many summer work projects already planned across the country will be cancelled.

“Canadians must act now to protect our cultural heritage,” said Turk.

Visit www.savenc.ca for updated information and to view the new video by historian Craig Heron on the importance of Library and Archives Canada.

Phone Rebecca at 250-265-3024 for an appointment.
Kootenay Co-op Radio spring drive

Why do you listen to the radio? To hear music? To learn what’s happening in the world? To share ideas and events? Kootenay Co-Op Radio (KCR) is entering its 13th year on the air, entirely supported by the love of its listeners.

Radio isn’t cheap. KCR’s annual budget is over $130,000 – money that goes to staffing salaries, signal maintenance and day-to-day operations. To stay on the air, KCR hosts membership drives to meet a third of its yearly budget.

More than ever, the “little station that could” needs you. Interior Health requires Kootenay Coop Radio to move its radio tower from its home on the Kootenay Lake hospital roof in Nelson. This major move will cost the station at least $10,000. Staff and volunteers at KCR are researching the most feasible option, but the move and investment are inevitable.

Ensure we stay on the air! Become a member during this year’s drive, May 19-26. Start or continue your membership with as little as $5 per month with safe, secure monthly account withdrawals – so you can donate easily to support local radio’s critical community service all year long. Cheque, cash, VISA and Paypal are also payment options.

Your membership ensures KCR continues providing non-profit radio: unbiased news, local and emerging artist promotion and cultural support in your community. As a member, you have a hand in promoting the ideas and art that are important to you.

Look for Kootenay Co-Op Radio at membership booths during the entire month of May in your community. We’ll be at local businesses and venues to make your membership easy to activate.

Need a further incentive? The popular Friends of KCR incentive card provides discounts at KCR’s sponsors – community partners who love community radio. The price of your membership is quickly paid off when you support local businesses who support KCR. We’re proud to announce Cottonwood Kitchens has joined our sponsorship family, along with Kurama Sushi, Secret Service Cycles, Mode’s Brake and Muffler and in Kaslo we now have Sunnyside Naturals and Landmark Bakery, in addition to our continuing Friends of KCR from past years. You can also show your support for KCR by wearing a limited edition T-shirt or hoodie with a $10 or $20 per month membership. You could even win a weekend pass to Starbelly Jam, Kaslo Jazz Etc and Shambala music festival.

There are many reasons to love radio from your community, about your community. Don’t forget Kootenay Co-op Radio. It’s radio from the heart.

Kaslo Minor Hockey hosts annual awards night

On April 19, the Kaslo and District Minor Hockey Association held their annual awards night. The school gym was filled with hopeful hockey players and their proud parents, grandparents, friends and family members.

The Junior Novice team was represented by Coach Ken Austin, with only a few members of the team there that evening. Participation awards went to the Junior Novice players: Mackenna Austin, Mica Hawes, Dakota Hazelwood, Chase McKinney, Alexander Shaw, Evan Steimmann, Mailey Williams, and Avery Wilson. Willie Hofmann and Shawn Wilson, the coaches of the Senior Novice team, had a special award for one of their players who will be moving before next season. Ethan Gray was presented with a Winterhawks jersey, and his parents Tara and Jamie Gray were thanked for their many hours of volunteer service with Kaslo Minor Hockey. Team managers Jennifer Hawes and Tara Gray were given flowers to show the team’s thankfulness for all their hard work. Awards were presented to Senior Novice players as follows:


Atom team Coaches Chad Jones and Lindsay McKinnon presented each Atom player with a framed photo of the team after they won the championship banner and chocolate medals. Chad then went on to present the awards to individual players. The awards were as follows: Most Sportsmanlike - Ember Hartland; Best Forward - Jaden Anderson; MVP - Eljah Havers; Tuddr Rutherford - Julian Ens; Most Dedicated - Devon & Wyatt Petersen; Most Improved - Jacob Chymky & Layla Tyers; Most Defensive Player - Harley Command.

The Midget team coach, Sarah Burns, and team manager, Bill Mackenzie chose to only pass out three awards to their team of 11 players. They had a fun season skill building and working together as a team. The awards were presented as follows: Tuddle Rutherford - Connor Robertson; Most Improved - Azi Morley; Most Sportsmanlike - Jessie Lay.

Dennis Larcombe, Kaslo Minor Hockey’s Referee in Chief, dressed in his referee jersey to present the whistles and awarded Ethan Early the Junior Official Award.

The evening concluded with two awards given to graduating players. The Dallas Benwell Memorial Award, which goes to a player who through their years of hockey has shown a keen attitude and a great heart for the sport of hockey, was presented to Connor Robertson by Dallas Benwell’s niece and nephew, Harley and Hannah Command.

The final award of the evening was the President’s Award, given to a player who has exemplified their dedication to the game. Peter Reimer received the award for his many years of playing minor hockey, officiating games, volunteering as the timekeeper and maintaining a positive disposition.

June 16 dinner with Joy Kogawa in Slocan

On Saturday, June 16, renowned Canadian writer Joy Kogawa (author of Obasan) will be in the Slocan Valley to dedicate interpretive signage at the sites of the Lemon Creek and Popoff internment camps.

It is now 70 years since the first trickle of Japanese Canadians began arriving in the Slocan Valley, unjustly forced from their homes on Canada’s west coast. Joy Kogawa, an eight-year-old at the time, was one of them. Created by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, this signage will inform passers-by that the two empty hayfields they now see once housed thousands of Japanese Canadians in hastily constructed shacks. In pictures and words, the signage will tell the story of what is now considered one of Canada’s darkest episodes.

Following the signage dedication, there will be a public open house at the former Odd Fellows’ Hall on Harold Street in Slocan starting at 4 pm. With information and displays about the internment years, this will be a chance to speak with Joy, other former internees and a few local residents who remember those days.

This will be followed by a reserved- seating dinner starting at 6 pm. The dinner will feature readings from Obasan by Joy Kogawa, personal stories by former internees and local residents, and thoughtful words from current public figures.

Tickets for the dinner are $25 and are on sale now. As seating is limited to about 100 people, it is expected they will sell out quickly – so don’t delay if you are interested in attending. You can purchase tickets at Otter Books in Nelson, Jennie’s Book Garden in Winlaw, Mountain Village Station in Slocan or by calling 1-888-683-7878. The signage dedication ceremonies will commence at 2 pm at the Lemon Creek internment site on Kennedy Road, opposite Lemon Creek Lodge, and the public is invited to attend. You can drive to the site via Kennedy Road – or bike or hike in on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

Kootenay Co-op Radio is holding a membership drive, May 19-26. Why do you listen to the radio? To hear music? To learn what’s happening in the world? To share ideas and events? Kootenay Co-Op Radio (KCR) is entering its 13th year on the air, entirely supported by the love of its listeners.

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There are many reasons to love radio from your community, about your community. Don’t forget Kootenay Co-op Radio. It’s radio from the heart.

Dinner with Canadian author Joy Kogawa - 70th anniversary commemoration of Japanese Canadian Internment Saturday, June 16

Hosted by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society and the Slocan Valley Historical Society

Reserved seating is limited

Dinner tickets are $25 and are on sale at: Jennie’s Book Garden in Winlaw, Mountain Valley Station in Slocan, Otter Books in Nelson, from Gayle Swanson in New Denver (358-7103) or by calling 1-888-683-7878.

(See news article this issue for more information)
Income Plus – GLWB Products – soon to be kyboshed

If we rewind the tape over the last decade, it is easy to recognize that as investors, we’ve had our fair share of stock market volatility. It’s also easy to recognize that many of our retirees have a need for guaranteed income with sufficient growth, to ensure that they have enough to last throughout their lifetimes.

Most Canadians will have their Old Age Security and CPP benefits to count on. Some of our locals have also had the privilege of working for companies such as Zöllner-Celco, Teck-Cominco, School Districts, and Interior Health, etc., where they have the benefit of a pension plan at retirement. Unfortunately, there are many who are multi-employer or self-employed and do not offer such plans and they are forced to save for retirement on their own.

Back in 2006, a well-known insurance company introduced a phenomenal ‘pension-like’ investment product known as ‘income plus,’ which guaranteed a payment over a minimum 20-year period. Not long after, many of the other top insurance companies followed suit and added more bells and whistles to the already existing product. The premise of the plan was to produce an income which could be guaranteed for the lifetime of the contract holder.

This financial product is most commonly known as a Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit Plan or GLWB. These plans have been offered by many insurance companies that promise to pay a guaranteed income for life, regardless of how the actual stock market is performing. Some of the plans promised to ‘lock-in’ gains every three years so that if your original investment grew, then the new higher value would be the new amount to be used to define your income amount.

Most plans offered bonuses rates on the income amount. As an example, if your income amount was $5,000 per year initially (but you delayed taking that amount for six years) then you would get a 5% increase on that income amount each and every year you didn’t touch it.

Wow – too good to be true…!

Finally, there was an investment where you could REALLY have your cake and eat it too!

OK, so brace yourself for some bad news. Yep, fast forward to today and all of this is going by the wayside. We’ve been getting daily email notifications from all of the top insurance companies who are now “suspending further sales” or making radical changes on these GLWB products.

If you’ve already set up a GLWB plan then these changes will not affect your existing contract. There may be limitations or outright restrictions on adding any more money however, so it’s best that you contact your advisor to see how your particular plan will impact you.

So, if these harmonious insurance companies are starting to rein it in, it makes us wonder how all of the other company pension plans are going to deal with things going forward. According to Aon Hewitt, the global human resource consulting and outsourcing business of Aon Corporation, the percentage to which all of the pensions in Canada are “funded” dropped last year to 67% – falling 4% in 2011 alone – and it’s been steadily dropping since 2008. This means that these company pension plans, on average, have about two-thirds of the money that they should, in order to pay the promised pensions. Hmmm, so what does THAT mean?

Chances are, it will require much higher contributions from employers and employees – (perhaps double) – and there is also the likelihood that there could be reductions in benefits. Things like retiree medical coverage and inflation protection will no doubt be the first to go, if your pension even offers those things.

Bring on the wild sockeye. Fish and chips too. Vince procures all his seafood from Albion Fisheries, direct from Vancouver. Each week he brings in buckets of clams. “That’s the sequel. These academy-award winning burgers will be going by the wayside. More and more employers are dropping the liability of offering those expensive Defined Benefit Plans which pay you a certain amount of money per year for life. In turn, more companies are in favour of the looser Defined Contribution Plans, which simply looks like it’s “dollars in and dollars out” and not necessarily those of Assante Wealth Management.
Congratulations to Sam Tibbalt on his graduation from SAT. Calgary in Geomatics Technology Engineering.

A WEEKLY ELECTRICITY BUDGET

Andrea & Auntie for the support!

Olsen born May 4th @ 1:42 am to proud Lisa Sawyer and the nursing staff at Brent & Sarah would like to thank Dr. Audrey James, Brooke Elzinga, Bety L. Fahlman. At the Bety L. Fahlman Studio, 140 Alexander Rd., Nakusp (near Carson’s Corner). Paddy Shacks, May 19, 20, 10 AM to 10 PM.

BURTON PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Burton Community Hall, Victoria Day, Monday May 21 from 8:11 AM. Sponsored by St. Andrew’s Society and the Nakusp Community detachment.

BREWING

A 2012 ASTROLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE with the celebrated astrologer Michael O’Connor at the Gallery in Slocan, Wed., May 23, 6:30 - 9:00 pm. $10 fee, refreshments on site. Private readings available on request - 352-6871 or sunstarastrology@gmail.com.

5TH ANNUAL ART SHOW – Everyone is Welcome. Come and enjoy the artwork of three local artists: Audrey James, Brooke Elzinga, Bety L. Fahlman. At the Bety L. Fahlman Studio, 140 Alexander Rd., Nakusp (near Carson’s Corner). Paddy Shacks, May 19, 20, 10 AM to 10 PM.


TWO DAY SUMMER CAMP – Armed with a love for the outdoors and an eagerness to learn, the children will have a blast! 5th – 7th graders. For more information call 228-5886. June 25th and 26th.

LAKE LADIES & MEN’S FISHY TALES – May Days, Sunday May 20, 2-4 pm - Bous Hall. Nakusp Fish & Game Club.

Bottler Drive Saturday June 2, from 9-12. Pick-up from Slocan City to Slocan Park. Call ahead for large pick ups @ 250-352-2212. Thank you for your support.
**FOR RENT**


**BRIGHT RENOVATED 1 BR HOME** in Slocan City. Wood/tile floors, large kitchen, clawfoot tub and corner shower, located 1 block to Slocan Lake and store. Storage clawfoot tub and corner shower, located 1 block to Slocan Lake and store. Storage


**FOR RENT**

**CUDDLE BUNGALOW** in Slocan City, BC. Wood/tile floors, large kitchen, clawfoot tub and corner shower, located 1 block to Slocan Lake and store. Storage clawfoot tub and corner shower, located 1 block to Slocan Lake and store. Storage

**FOR RENT**

The Valley Voice

May 16, 2012

COMMUNITY

Kootenays for a Pipeline-Free BC transports the people on a moving journey, through ‘Calls from Whales,’ a Forum on the Impacts of the Enbridge BC Oil Pipeline,’ at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson, May 30 at 7 pm.

Caroline Woodward returns to launch Kootenay-inspired novella

compiled by Jan McMurray

Dedicated to the citizens of New Denver and Silverton and inspired by the people of the Kootenays, Caroline Woodward’s new book, The Village of Many Hats, will be launched at the Bosun Hall on Saturday, May 26 from 3:30 to 5 pm.

Woodward started writing the book on January 1, 1999, while she and her partner Jeff still lived in New Denver, running the former Motherlode Books.

The Village of Many Hats is a novella for 7-10 year-olds, told from the point of view of a 9-year-old character, Gina. She and her family live in Silverado, a mountain village which used to be prosperous but which has now fallen on hard economic times. ‘Silverado,’ of course, is a combination of ‘Silverton’ and New Denver’s historic name, ‘El Dorado.’

Gina’s life changes when she steps into the shop of hat-maker Madame D’Oiseaux, who uses the villager’s recycled clothing to make her hats. The muse for Madame D’Oiseaux is the multi-talented milliner, fabric artist and long-time New Denver-Silverton resident, Rosalie Bird.

Locals will also recognize names of other characters in The Village of Many Hats, as a result of an auction that was held during Woodward’s last visit to New Denver. When she was here on her book tour for Penny Loves Wade, Wade Loves Penny, she found out that the New Denver Reading Centre’s provincial funding had been cut. She engaged then-Mayor Gary Wright to be the auctioneer of five characters’ names in The Village of Many Hats as a fundraiser for the centre. Heather Fox, Dr. Jamie Barber, Judi Gardiner, Wendy Harlock, and Francie Oldham were the winning bidders. “However, this is a work of fiction and these ‘real’ names are used in an entirely fictitious manner,” says Woodward. “Bless them all and I look forward to presenting them with a book in front of a cheering audience in the Bosun Hall.”

Because of the auction, The Village of Many Hats now includes a professional dog-walker, a hometown hero, an obnoxious villain, the proprietor of The Antique Junque Store and a bike-riding bird columnist for the ‘Vocal Valley’ newspaper, all sporting the brave and generous names of real New Denverites.

The Village of Many Hats also deals with a sick child who must travel from the BC Interior to the Children’s Hospital in Vancouver for a life-saving operation. The shining spirit of Silverado’s citizens is revealed as they support the family going through a very difficult time. True to her caring form, Caroline is donating a portion of her royalties to BC Children’s Hospital.

Woodward’s Kootenay tour includes a reading for school children sponsored by the Nakusp Public Library on May 25, the official launch at New Denver’s Bosun Hall on Saturday, May 26, a book signing at Jennie’s Books in Winlaw on Sunday, May 27, from 3 to 4 pm, informal signings at the Raven’s Nest in New Denver, Meritxell Books in Nakusp and Otter Books in Nelson, plus classroom visits at schools in Nelson and New Denver. For more information about the new book and the rest of Woodward’s tour this spring, go to www.carolinewoodward.ca.

Trophy Tournaments is proud to present the 1st Annual Nakusp Rodeo

July 27-29, 2012

Major Rodeo Events

Bull Riding
Saddle Bronc Riding
Bareback Riding
Tie-down Roping
Steer Wrestling
Ladies Barrel Racing
Breakaway Roping
Team Roping

Rodeo Stock supplied by

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Jr. Rodeo Events

Jr. Steer Riding
Jr. Barrel Racing

Also featuring

Live Music
Friday Night - Tim Buckley
Saturday - Smokin’ 45s

Ticket Prices

$20.00 per person/day
Children under 7 are FREE!

Weekend passes available at our Nakusp Offices
204 Broadway • Next to Barton Insurance
West Canada Bike Tours to hold open house in Silverton

Klaus Gattner moved his home-based bicycle touring business, West Canada Bike Tours, to Silverton in 2009. By that time, he had already been bringing German-speaking tourists from Europe to the Southern Interior to experience the rugged wilderness on two wheels for 13 years.

Gattner has now expanded to the English-speaking hemisphere and is offering tours to North American bicycle touring fans. He invites people who want to learn more about his tours to an open house at 312 Victoria Street in Silverton on Friday, June 8, from 4 to 7 pm.

It was Gattner’s first wilderness cycling trip in 1990, from California to Alaska, that inspired him to say farewell to his native Germany. Soon after arriving in Canada, the passionate long-distance cyclist learned of the conversion of the famous historic Kettle Valley Railway to the Rails to Trails network, and set out to ride the 750 kilometres of trails on his own. It was on that trip that West Canada Bike Tours was born.

“Since most of our European clients live in heavily congested areas, they enjoy the wilderness experience they get with us,” says Gattner.

And a wilderness experience it is – taking the cyclists over the often-rugged rail beds that make up the Galena, Slocan Valley, Columbia & Western, and Kettle Valley Trails. “This rail corridor is an integral part of the Trans-Canada Trail in BC and in my opinion can be considered its gem,” says Gattner.

Starting in the Slocan Valley, the traditional tour route (Kettle Valley Tour) goes through Castlegar, Grand Forks, Rock Creek, Penticton, Summerland, Princeton and ends in Hope.

In 2011, ‘Canada’s smallest (bicycle) tour operator’ added a tour that includes the Rockies’ Icefields Parkway, called “the most scenic road in the world” by Parks Canada. On the ‘Rockies Plus Kettle Valley Tour,’ Gattner’s tour groups also cycle on the finest sections of BC’s abandoned rail system.

West Canada Bike Tours also offers a self-guided tour. “Cyclists who’d rather bike our traditional tour route on their own without staff, we send on our ‘Kettle Valley Tour self-guided.’ They travel in groups of up to six guests, while our escorted groups have up to 16 bikers,” says Gattner. Over the course of 12 or 19 days, guests stay in accommodations ranging from remote log chalets and B&Bs to eclectic resorts to a few mostly secluded campgrounds (with a choice to upgrade to indoor accommodation). “Together with another guide, cook and driver Vitya Hermanek (Comox), and Doug The Bike Guy (Kaslo), we provide our guests with a fully catered bike touring experience that also includes luggage transportation and other amenities.” For more information, visit www.canadabiketours.ca.

West Canada Bike Tours is holding an open house in Silverton on Friday.