Jumbo Rally in Kaslo lively despite no show by minister

by Gary Diers

About 300 protestors gathered in Vimy Park in Kaslo on Saturday, May 26 to demand the protection of Jumbo Wild! The rally was organized around the scheduled appearance of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson at the BC Community Forest Association AGM in Kaslo that week.

Thomson had announced in Victoria on March 20 the decision to allow the Jumbo Glacier Resort to proceed. Saturday was the first opportunity for citizens of the West Kootenay to let the minister know face to face that his government’s decision on the Jumbo Glacier Resort issue was unacceptable. Organizers had planned a march to the highway with protestors lining the street as the minister drove by.

In the end, Minister Thomson cancelled his AGM appearance, thwarting these plans. Some protestors were angry and suspicious that the minister was again trying to avoid facing the people he was supposed to be representing. Others felt empowered that they had possibly scared off the minister.

The non-appearance by the minister did not dampen spirits at the rally. Master of Ceremonies and spokesperson for the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild, Kim Kratky, kept the event flowing, sprinkling the rally with news updates. Of particular interest was the ‘resort municipality’ status the government wants to give Jumbo, making it a very undemocratic entity. Jumbo would be a municipality with no residents and an appointed mayor and council.

Speakers and musicians contributed their talents to engage and inspire the audience. Guest speaker Joe Foy, national campaign director of the Wilderness Committee, the largest grassroots wilderness group in Canada, emphasized the special nature of the Purcell Mountains and the need for more park protection in these mountains. Foy sees the “Kootenay spirit” reflected in the Jumbo issue as a spark spreading across the province for protection in other regions as well.

Chairperson of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Anne Sherrod, raked premier Christy Clark over the coals for “bragging about making this decision, which was made by walking over the protests of thousands of people who live here.” Sherrod was then quick to praise MLAs Michelle Mungall and Norm McDonald for their active support of Jumbo Wild!

While Mungall was not able to attend the rally, a statement from Mungall was read in which she confirmed her determination to fight the resort decision.

“People took the opportunity to express their discontent to Compagnie des Alpes, the French investors who are being courted by Jumbo Glacier Resort,” said one of the rally organizers, K. Linda Kivi. Among the messages sent to Compagnie des Alpes was one from a veteran which read, “I’m writing from Vimy Park, named to honour the war dead who gave their lives to protect France from invasion. Please do not repay us by invading our homeland.”

People from all age groups were represented at the rally. Edith Mautner, age 98, and Inger Kronseth, age 90, were honored for their many years of service to the cause of Jumbo Wild! JVH student Gillian McConnell read a letter written to Minister Thomson by LVR student Raven Truth. “Once the animals are gone so are we,” Truth wrote. “We have been sitting around hoping for change, but we can’t wait anymore…”

Argenta’s Red Eyed Souls, in addition to two Kaslo acts, Jan Van Gold and Randy Morse, each shared their own Jumbo Wild! songs with an enthusiastic audience. Hula hoop artist Jen Cookson related a wild dream she experienced which ended with the protection of the Jumbo area.

Ending the rally with a video camera in hand, Joe Foy asked the crowd what they wanted. The chant went up: Jumbo Wild! Jumbo Wild! Foy was heading back to the coast with a message for the minister.

The next event planned by the Jumbo Coalition is a Rock ‘n Blues benefit for Jumbo Wild! at the Royal on Saturday, June 9.

For more information: KL Kivi, 250-354-7939

At the Jumbo Rally in Kaslo May 26, Edith Mautner was recognized for her long involvement with the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild. Edith, 98 years old, as well as Inger Kronseth, 90 years old, were each given a flower and chocolate for their long-standing dedication to the cause. Both women are Argenta residents.
How local forestry business owners have overcome the challenges
Panel discussion at the BC Community Forest Association Conference in Kaslo, May 24-26

by Jan McMurray

At the 2012 BC Community Forest Association Conference and AGM this past weekend in Kaslo, a panel of four local owners of sawmill/manufacturing businesses spoke about how they have kept their doors open during the downturn in the market. Keeping equipment up to date, being adaptable, and moving products to the end user were recurring themes. They all agreed that the best thing going for them in this area is the diversity of wood species.

Panelists were Dwight Smith of Hamill Creek Timber Frame Homes in Meadow Creek; Chris Waters of Vaagen Brothers, owners of the sawmill in Midway; Ken Kalesnikoff of Kalesnikoff Lumber near Castlegar; and Trevor Kanigan of Gold Island Forest Products near Castlegar.

Hamill Creek manufactures timber frame homes and ships them to the US and Canada.Traditionally, the US has been the company’s biggest market, representing 70 percent of its business. During the last few years, Hamill Creek’s business in the US has dropped to 40 percent.

To respond to the downturn in the economy and the resulting fewer customers, the company has had to look at expanding its product line. They now produce pre-built components like wall panels, doors and roof assemblies. “We’re now delivering a package to lock-up stage,” said owner Dwight Smith. The company has also modernized and has focused on finding efficiencies.

Vaagen Brothers has two sawmills – one in Midway and the other in the US – specializing in small logs. The Midway mill is still in start-up phase; the company has replaced old equipment and installed a state-of-the-art saw.

Owner Chris Waters said Vaagen expanded operations to Midway because of the diversity of wood. “Fir/larch is what our customers like,” he said.

Vaagen buys wood on the open market and trades logs with Kalesnikoff. Waters said the Midway Community Forest is still forming, but probably less than 40 percent of the profile sawn at Vaagen mill. “We’re going to have to work with them to try to develop markets for the wood that won’t work for sawn,” he said.

Vaagen’s customers are in Australia. “They want premium product, and the small wood in this area is fine grain and very strong.” He explained that Australians save on metal framing when they build trusses with wood.

Wood waste from the Midway mill can be sold to Celgar and Kettle Falls because of an existing contract Vaagen had with the two companies. Ken Kalesnikoff said Kalesnikoff Lumber started in 1939 with his grandfather. Two of his children work there now, so they are four generations into the business. They own a sawmill and a remanufacturing facility called Kootenay Innovative Wood.

Kalesnikoff buys 70 percent of its wood on the open market, and the rest themselves – they have a small quota (89,000 cubic metres). Most of the sawmill products are exported (60-75 percent), mainly into Japan.

Kootenay Innovative Wood (KIW) began in 2000 and has been a very difficult business, struggling for the first eight years. In the past two to three years, they have been able to make a go of it, Kalesnikoff said. Kalesnikoff said one challenge is the lack of training for technicians. “If we want to get into value-added, we need technicians to run the technology,” he said. “Labour in general is a big problem,” he added.

KIW has changed direction three times. They started off making pianos and lineal products, but could not compete with the Chinese in the piano market. They switched to panel production and are now back with lineal products (siding, paneling, moldings).

“The most important thing for me is the fibre in this area. Because we have such nice fibre, you have the chance to do something. That’s why we have small mills that can survive,” said Kalesnikoff.

He also stressed the importance of getting the right log to the right mill because everyone has their niche product. “That still doesn’t happen. We’re always looking for the next product, the next opportunity,” he said.

One positive thing Kalesnikoff sees for the future is that more and more people are buying local products. “Instead of buying your drawers at Wal-Mart, you are starting to look at where they are made and you are willing to pay more for local products,” he said. “The Chinese product is cheaper and it’s not bad, but it’s not made in BC or in Canada – we need to think about that.”

Trever Kanigan of Gold Island Forest Products explained that he, his father and his brother started up a sawmill nine years ago next door to Kalesnikoff. They have grown their business over the years, adding a dry stack and a timber frame, and they bought the adjacent truss plant. They now run the two facilities with a staff of 40.

One of the keys to their success is they always try to move their product to the end user. “As value added, we always want to sell to the end user and not to three or four people in the middle,” he said. He pointed out that this is what Hamill Creek has done as well by producing a timber frame home package to lock-up stage rather than just a skeleton frame.

“We’re always looking for another opportunity and trying to identify what’s going on in the market,” he said. “We have to move quickly and make decisions quickly.”

Jesper Nielsen of the Nakusp Community Forest asked the panelists if they had ever considered setting up a satellite mill, pointing to the high cost of transporting wood from the Nakusp area to their facilities.

Kalesnikoff said that one of the biggest issues with satellite milling is quality control. “The quality of the log is key,” he said. Although he said the Nakusp area has potential for a satellite mill, a major hurdle would be disposing of the sawdust and bark byproduct. “Transportation is huge. We are interested but it has to make sense. When you are working on smaller scale, it’s hard to make it work economically.”

Another disadvantage of the small-scale Community Forest is that their small volumes of wood are not attractive for the mills to purchase. FSC certified wood is also problematic for the mills. Kalesnikoff said that although mills have to pay more for certified wood, customers are not willing to pay a premium for it.
Livestock farming comeback in North Kootenay Lake

by Jan McMurray

Livestock farming may yet be revived in the North Kootenay Lake area, after being all but obliterated by the 2007 meat inspection regulation.

RDCK Area D is making application to the Ministry of Health to change the designation of North Kootenay Lake livestock farmers to apply for Class D licences. With a Class D licence, farmers can slaughter 1-25 animal units per year on their farms and sell the meat to restaurants and retail outlets in Electoral Area D.

The RDCK board agreed to provide a letter of support for the application at the board’s May 24 meeting. Several directors noted that if Area D’s application is successful, it could set a precedent for other areas.

Currently, farmers in Area D must have their animals slaughtered at the red meat abattoir in Creston or the mobile poultry abattoir in Passmore, or they can apply for a Class E licence. Class E licences are more restrictive than Class D licences – only 1-10 animal units can be slaughtered annually, and the meat has to be sold at the farm gate and farmers’ markets in the Local Region District where the meat was produced.

“North Kootenay Lake farmers have evaluated the cost and potential return of these options and none of them allow for a reasonable economic return,” said Aimee Watson, Alternate RDCK Director, Area D and Kaslo Food Security Coordinator.

We have said North Kootenay Lake farmers have also researched the viability of a mobile red meat abattoir in the area, and concluded it would lead to a marginal and potentially risky venture.”

“Kaslo Food Security and North Kootenay Lake farmers have concluded that the current options are not viable. What would allow for a viable, economically stimulating livestock operation would be the ability to access Class D licencing, declaring Electoral Area D a designated area,” said Watson.

Area D’s application for designated status is unique – only four of 10 Regional Districts have been given designated status up until now. Class D licences are available in 10 Regional Districts that do not have a licenced abattoir within their boundaries. The RDCK does not qualify because there is a licenced abattoir in Creston.

However, Watson says that the Sunshine Coast Regional District is designated, and it would take Sunshine Coast farmers two hours and 15 minutes to get to a licenced slaughterhouse. In the North Kootenay Lake area, it takes three to five hours to travel to the abattoir in Creston.

Watson says Area D meets all of the criteria to be a designated area. Criteria includes: the absence of licenced slaughter facilities, low population density, small livestock numbers and transportation barriers, such as the ferry and road closures due to avalanches and mudslides.

Before the meat inspection regulation was introduced, livestock farmers were able to make 20-40 pigs. Currently, there are 12 cattle.

The 2007 meat regulation stipulated that all meat animals destined for commercial sale had to be slaughtered at a federally inspected facility. This proved to be extremely onerous for farmers in many areas of BC, so the government amended the regulation in 2010 and introduced the Class D and E licences.

Employment lands project launched in Kootenay-Boundary

submitted

Decision-making around economic growth in the Kootenay-Boundary region will soon be easier, thanks to a new project underway. The newly launched Basin-Boundary Employment Lands Inventory Project will directly address an issue faced by many communities: access to land for accommodating existing business expansion and future investment and economic growth.

“This project will provide several important deliverables,” says Rob Gay, General Manager of Community Futures East Kootenay, the lead organization on the project. “The first of these is a comprehensive inventory of employment lands.”

The project defines employment lands as lands that generate economic wealth, including: agricultural lands; lands zoned or designated for heavy industry, light industry and commercial purposes; lands designated as lands that generate economic wealth; lands that generate economic wealth due to natural or historic features; lands in designated employment areas; and greyfield sites and Crown lands available for development.

“A better understanding of the availability and type of employment lands will help the region to retain and attract businesses and investment,” says Gay. “This information is a key tool to ensuring economic growth, and helping to create and retain jobs.”

BC’s Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation (JTI) is an active partner in the project.

“We are pleased to see this project get underway,” says Diana Brooks, Regional Manager, Kootenay Region.

“The role of the JTI is to support job creation and investment attraction, and to help build investment-readiness in the region. From an economic development perspective, this project will provide valuable information to the region as a whole.”

“We will start by producing an inventory of employment lands and their associated infrastructure and economic assets in a universal GIS platform,” says Terri MacDonald, who will provide research support for the project in her role as Regional Innovation Chair at Selkirk College’s Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Selkirk College.”

The project is funded by the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, Community Futures East Kootenay, and the Columbia Basin Trust.

The project is expected to help communities determine which areas are more attractive to investors, build business retention and expansion and help communities make more informed planning decisions.

The project is supported by a broad range of partners, including: Community Futures of East Kootenay; Kootenay Association for Science and Technology; the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation (JTI); and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Selkirk College. The project is funded by the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, Community Futures East Kootenay, and the Columbia Basin Trust. The Selkirk College Geospatial Research Centre will provide geospatial mapping support.

Historic meeting of BC mayors calls for realignment of resources

submitted by Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling

I attended the BC Mayors caucus in Penticton May 16-18, when 86 mayors from every corner of the province, representing every size of community, gathered to discuss common issues and a collective approach to the future.

The meeting was one of the most significant and productive meetings that I have attended in a long time.

The main topic at the meeting was the downloading of services from other levels of government, which has been a source of frustration for BC mayors and councils for a long time. Local governments receive less than 10 percent of total public revenues; 90 percent is kept at the provincial and federal levels.

We provide 65 percent of public infrastructure in Canada.

Download has been happening since the 1990s and has been continuing ever since with little or no consultation. Our communities have had to come up with the funding in order to continue with programs and we have had to pass those expenses on to our taxpayers.

Our communities are the economic engines of BC and we have limited resources. Our funding is raised by the federal and provincial government in fees for charges for services, and transfers from other orders of government.

Mandate creep has occurred and is continuing to occur as the provincial and federal governments continue to download responsibilities as a means of managing their budget deficits.

Downloading occurs when governments stop delivering services such as psychiatric hospitals, social services, unconditional grants, police grants, etc., or legislate a shift in responsibility to the local level; or make changes to services without consultation and without increasing funding as demand grows.

The 86 mayors from across BC are calling for an immediate discussion, beginning with the Premier and Cabinet, to examine the state of BC communities and specifically for a more efficient use of existing resources to better address the challenges facing residents.

The BC Mayors’ Caucus ended its statement with the following: “BC communities are frontline service providers for our citizens and we are seeking a new partnership with the provincial and federal governments to invest in the best interests of all our communities. The BC Mayors’ Caucus requests an immediate discussion on the efficient use of existing resources to better address the challenges our residents face.”

The Mayors’ Caucus decided to make this statement and to pass this motion. There were many mayors who could not attend this meeting, so a future meeting will be in September in Victoria.

The steering committee members are: Mayor Dean Fortin of Victoria; Mayor Dan Ashton of Penticton; Mayor Shari Green of Prince George; Mayor Jack Musselam of Prince Rupert; Mayor Wayne Stetski of Cranbrook; Mayor Lori Ackerman of Fort St. John; Mayor Peter Mramor of Prince George; Mayor Dianne Watts of Surrey; Mayor Greg Moor of Port Coquitlam.

Livestock farming comeback in North Kootenay Lake

Entire Regional Districts have been given designated status up until now. Class D licences are available in 10 Regional Districts that do not have a licenced abattoir within their boundaries. The RDCK does not qualify because there is a licenced abattoir in Creston.

However, Watson says that the Sunshine Coast Regional District is designated, and it would take Sunshine Coast farmers two hours and 15 minutes to get to a licenced slaughterhouse. In the North Kootenay Lake area, it takes three to five hours to travel to the abattoir in Creston.

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Government cutbacks affect vets
In response to recent media coverage regarding military suicides and alleged cutbacks in medical services cutbacks, the Legion’s BC/Yukon Command is fighting for public recognition of the importance of intervention for our military serving members suffering from mental trauma and PTSD.

For years the Legion has been filling the gap where services for veterans are lacking. We know firsthand how hard it is for veterans and their families trying to cope with mental issues resulting from military service.

There is no question that the federal government provides certain levels of benefits and programs. However, these only go so far and the need is far greater than we are made to believe. The Legion is directly working with Veterans to transition them back to health and back into the community.

In the absence of a tailored, responsive, and comprehensive continuum of care for our returning military, the Legion in BC/Yukon has been making a powerful, practical difference by offering one-of-a-kind programs, with life-changing impact: Veterans Transition Program (with UBC for a tailored curriculum for Veterans); Stress; Military Skills Conversion Program (with BCIT) for Veterans Re-entering the Marketplace; Cockrell House for Homeless Veterans.

The Legion does not receive any Government funding for these programs. These three programs are made possible by virtue of our ongoing fundraising. In 153 communities throughout British Columbia and Yukon, Legion volunteers contribute over 600,000 hours a year. More and more of those service hours contribute over 600,000 hours a year.

It is imperative that the Legion be given the recognition they deserve for our role in helping our Canadian veterans.

El reform
I have a strong objection to the draconian reform in Employment Insurance. Here in the Kootenays, many citizens have no year-round employment. Even the employed seldom work for over three days a week. That way, employers do not have to pay any perks or insurance. British Columbia medical insurance is paid out of pocket. Most full-time work is reserved for the few who have their own businesses. At best, many of the employed only have 3-4 months of steady work in a tourist business. If there is no EI available, that way, many residents cannot afford and renters here in the Kootenays, the application of these draconian measures will further depopulate large sections of our riding.

At my age of 80 and counting, I too have a tough time of it even with a yearly income of $36,000 with taxes already taken about 50%. I can no longer work as I am disabled. I know that I will lose my home care supporter. As it is, I consider the proposed changes in EI to be very demeaning. These changes will cause further erosion in families all over the country, as the person applying for EI must now accept any position anywhere from Winlock to Nanaimo and from Newfoundland to Victoria.

This change is being created to reduce the EI payments to a minimum, thus saving federal money. Part of the consideration by the federal government is to reduce Canadian unemployment figures to below 5 percent. This is arbitrary and dictatorial.

Paul Woolgar
Kaslo

Human intrusion on bear habitat
"Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace." (Albert Schweitzer)

Traditionally, grizzlies spend a few weeks in our valley in early spring. This year, as the bears padded along their paths the winds blew enticing scents (perceptible to a distance of 28 km), which included improperly disposed livestock carcasses and refuse. Their walk through this valley was their shadow of death.

This spring, three grizzlies at one site were killed (two buried by a bated snare), a fourth at the same location left evidence of its presence, and a fifth grizzly nearly was trapped and transported. Several severed bear paws were also discovered discarded in a ditch along the valley highway. These events were the result of blatant mismanagement and gross negligence of livestock and refuse and disregard and disregard for other living things. It is unacceptable and inexcusable.

Man has intruded on the bears’ environment. We must respect wildlife and ensure their survival as a crucial entity. The world grizzly population is precarious at best and quickly diminishing.

In 2011 the BC Wildlife Act was being amended so that the public can be ticketed and fined for the “mismanagement of attractants that could invite wildlife such as grizzly and black bears, coyotes, and wolves.” This new law is in effect now and fines have been levied.

There is excellent information and assistance available to communities within our province from agencies such as Bear Smart, Bear Aware, the Kettle Valley Grizzly Bear Project, the Valhalla Wilderness Society. There are numerous websites: www.nwelskebeartenwe.org is a commendable tribute to saving bears by eliminating the people problems.

Our intrusion into wildlife habitat is upsetting the critical natural system, creating unnecessary cost to taxpayers and causing a potential safety problem to the public. We must be mindful, responsible, and held accountable for our actions and the impact it causes on wildlife and the environment.

L. Wood and C. Speier
Edgewood

MP’s motion to update Safety Code 6
Our Canadian Safety Code 6 permits many, many times more RF radiation exposure to humans than most European and Asian countries. Alex Atamanenko has introduced the following motion in the House of Commons: “That, in the opinion of the House, the government should convene a panel of expert witnesses and hold public hearings, to review the need to update Safety Code 6, based on recent scientific evidence that existing requirements do not adequately protect the safety and health of Canadians, particularly those individuals who are electric-sensitive, in light of increasing exposure to non-ionizing microwave radiation, such as Smart Meters.”

Alex has prepared a petition in support of this motion. He says that he will contact our office for copies of this petition. You can also sign the petition at the office of the Valley Voice if you are in New Denver.

Norbert Duerchen
New Denver
Opinion/Analysis

Susan Eyrk
Climate Change

In responding to Roger Pratt’s letter of May 11, I feel it is necessary to clear up the inaccurate and false misleading information he’s imparted to know where to begin.

First of all, let’s agree that we should take the precaution of the future climate changes seriously and have the prudent action of preventing climate changes. It is not a question of what our governments should do or not do, it is a question of how we should respond to the challenge.

Secondly, the statement that the earth’s average temperature was below normal in 1986 and that March has been the warmest March in the last 60 years is misleading. It is more likely that March was the warmest March in the last 60 years because the March of 1986 was 0.5°C cooler than the March of 2006.

Thirdly, the statement that the Earth is going to warm up 3°C or 4°C by 2100 is based on the assumption that we will continue to emit greenhouse gases at the same rate as we have in the past. It is not a certainty but a probability, and the probability is very low.

Fourthly, the statement that the Earth’s average temperature has increased by 0.5°C or 0.6°C is misleading. The increase is more likely to be 0.1°C or 0.2°C.

Finally, the statement that the Earth’s average temperature is going to increase by 3°C or 4°C by 2100 is based on the assumption that we will continue to emit greenhouse gases at the same rate as we have in the past. It is not a certainty but a probability, and the probability is very low.

I believe that it is important for us to understand the science behind climate change and to act accordingly. We should not be scared by the predictions of the future climate changes, but we should be prepared to respond to them in a responsible and effective manner.

End of guest editorial

Randy Leighty

Standing in Support of the Sinixt

This statement was issued at the opening of the Aboriginal Gathering Place, Selkirk College, Castlegar campus on May 24, 2012.

Hello, my name is Dennis Zarrelli. I live in Vallican, in the Slocan Valley. I have asked permission from multiple Sinixt people to be allowed to share my thoughts in this statement. With their blessings they requested me to present my statement publicly so they could witness the presentation of my statement.

They have asked that I only express their position so that my statement would be able to put these issues before a First Nation others and to be brought into the realm of much broader consideration. Other than that request, these thoughts and feelings are my own.

While living in this area I have participated in many ceremonies and events hosted by the Sinixt people associated with the occupation of the highway and the Vallican and the property purchased by Colville tribe where the appointed Sinixt Headman and his family reside. I am honored to be granted permission to be heard by these Sinixt people to protect the land and water quality, wildlife and fisheries habitat, to build a ceremonial pumphouse, to reappropriate and repurify 62 ancestral remains, to provide community education and community service. The generosity shown to myself, my family, and my community is truly inspiring.

As far as Mr. Pratt’s assertion that of fossil fuel in super-tankers off the northern latitudes, for example, is false. For example, if Mr. Pratt is using oil sands development in Alberta, it is a bit of an easy to shred them and show just how false and misleading they are. Maybe another time on this.

As far as Mr. Gareen’s resignation from the American Physical Society is concerned, it was joined by one other, Harold Lewis, Emeritus Professor of Physics and former department chairman at the University of California, Santa Barbara. So that’s all of two, out of some 50,000 members, which doesn’t strike me as representing any heavy groundswell of protest over the American Physical Society’s stance on the question of global warming and climate change. To read their policy statement, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Physical_Society.

I won’t belabour Mr. Pratt’s attacks upon Mr. Gore and others except to say that they are tiring repetitions of ad hominem attacks we hear from the denialists every day, which have zero relevance in the debate. He may need to choose his words on such, but I won’t.

I am deeply saddened to have also witnessed the attempts by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and the Confederated Colville Tribe to undermine the efforts of the appointed Sinixt representatives to uphold their responsibilities under the whelpuk, the traditional law of this territory.

I have attempted to contact OPA on several occasions and all attempts have received no response. I was told by the OPA communications person that she wasn’t allowed to communicate or respond to my letters and that she can only forward them to the OPA Chiefs.

I attended the Columbia River salmon feast and ceremony held last year and spoke with people attending from their respective areas who were not aware of their representatives’ actions against the Sinixt or their claims of the Sinixt territory. I am aware of far too many incidents that lack the proper respect and acknowledgement of the Sinixt territory that is undertaken by these Sinixt representatives and our broader community on behalf of all beings, human and non-human, animate and inanimate, that share the territory.
by Jan McMurray

• Issues with the road to the transfer station were discussed at an on-site meeting May 8 with Mike Morrison of the RDCK, Glen Walker of the Village, and Richard Marchand of KDCFS. The RDCK has asked KDCFS to find an alternate route to its operating area because KDCFS contractors have refused to keep the transfer station gate locked. Although KDCFS has an active agreement with the RDCK and the Crown for the transfer station, the transfer station itself does not entirely conform with the lease area either. The RDCK is in the process of applying for an amendment to the transfer station tenure so it will cover all the land currently being used for the transfer station.

• There is also some question as to whether the Village’s quarry is encroaching on Crown land. Mayor Lay reported that the RDCK will GIS the area to determine property lines.

• Ted Fitzgerald presented his business plan for the Merriwake, a 1929 fishing boat that he has moored in Kaslo Bay as a heritage tourist attraction. He asked council if he could rent moorage space for the boat at the public tourist dock for the summer.

Councillor Lang said although he applauds Fitzgerald’s efforts, the RDCK is in the process of developing a micro hydro project over two years (2011 and 2012), and that expenses to the end of April total $169,807.94.

The Lardeau Valley Community Hall roof is currently leaking, and Walker will be asked to bring a recommendation to council.

• Foreman Walker has identified a serious water loss issue in Kaslo’s water system. With the majority of the funding for the project over two years (2011 and 2012), the Village had budgeted $140,000 for the project but over budget by $29,007.94 as at the end of April. Deputy Clerk Carol Hughes provided a report explaining that the Village had budgeted $140,000 for the project over two years (2011 and 2012), and that expenses to the end of April total $169,807.94.

The RDCK has asked KDCFS to find an alternate route to its operating area because KDCFS contractors have refused to keep the transfer station gate locked. Although KDCFS has an active agreement with the RDCK and the Crown for the transfer station, the transfer station itself does not entirely conform with the lease area either. The RDCK is in the process of applying for an amendment to the transfer station tenure so it will cover all the land currently being used for the transfer station.

There is also some question as to whether the Village’s quarry is encroaching on Crown land. Mayor Lay reported that the RDCK will GIS the area to determine property lines.

• Ted Fitzgerald presented his business plan for the Merriwake, a 1929 fishing boat that he has moored in Kaslo Bay as a heritage tourist attraction. He asked council if he could rent moorage space for the boat at the public tourist dock for the summer.
Deluxe rummage sale items wanted
by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas are busy organizing their next fundraiser – Tools and Treasures, a deluxe rummage sale – to take place July 21 at Winlaw Hall.

Anyone with items to donate for the sale is asked to contact Linda Stewart at 250-226-7445.

We’re looking for beautiful things,” said Lois Lawrence, a member of the group. “Maybe it’s time to give up those nice cups in the cupboard that are never used.”

The major organizer of the event is the owner of the former Carlotta’s boutique in Winlaw.

The Grassroots Grammas are part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, raising funds and awareness in support of grandmothers in Africa who are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in their communities.

The Slocan Valley group has raised over $2,200 of the cause so far and has only been at it for a year.

In February, the Grassroots Grammas ran the concession for the Word of Mouth storytelling event, and last November, they hosted the radio play, ‘It’s a Wonderful Life,’ in Winlaw and Vallican.

The group started out making doll clothes and diapers to sell to people locally, but has decided to focus their fundraising efforts on holding events.

The Slocan Valley group will purchase a very large bin for $200 that will only have to be hauled twice a year at $250 each time. New Denver and Area H are considering contributing $125 each to the program.

Councilor Clark reported on a tour of the fuel reduction project underway by the Slocan Integral Forest Co-operative. He said the project will not only reduce the wildfire hazard, but will also result in a healthier forest.

Councilor Everett copied the Village on a letter of complaint he sent to Telus about poor phone service in Silverton during rainy weather. Melissa Miles, administrative assistant, said Telus is aware of the problem.

Councilor Main expressed appreciation for receiving a copy of the letter, and asked that it be kept on file.

Councilor Main reported on a meeting regarding the moving toward an integrated transit service for the region. The Regional Districts of Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary are working on coordinating schedules, sharing buses, etc. She said it will take a year to set this up.

Councilor Main reported that the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce will partner to undertake a Business Retention and Expansion Program for the Slocan Valley. The program will identify the needs of businesses in the valley and try to address them. Terri MacDonald of the Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College has offered support for the program.

Councilor received two items of correspondence regarding BC Hydro’s smart meter program. A letter from the president of the Red Mountain Residents Association encourages council to pursue any avenue that would result in a “critical review” of the program. Over 40 landowners on Red Mountain Road have serious concerns about smart meters.

The City of Vancouver provided a copy of its recently passed resolution calling for an option to opt out of the smart meter program and more information from BC Hydro about the infrastructure involved.

The Village of Silverton has already sent two letters registering objection to the program, and agreed to send out a third.

Silverstone area resident Doug Sexton participated in the 25th Anniversary Rick Hansen Relay in Creston Valley on April 22. Sexton was one of 7,000 participants to carry the handcrafted sterling silver medal in the relay, starting in Newfoundland in August 2011 and ending in BC in May 2012. All metal bearers received a replica medal as a memento.

Mines Act: Notice of Works and Reclamation and Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

FrontCounter BC Cranbrook has accepted an application made by Silverton Transport Limited of Silverton, BC, (Box 70 V9G 2B0, phone (250)172-3960), on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), Kootenay Regional, for a Licence of Occupation and Notice of Work and Reclamation Program for the purpose of sand and gravel extraction situated on Provincial Crown Land approx. 14 km northwest of New Denver, BC (within mapsheet 82K013 which parallels the northern limits of D1. 826 K2 accessed from Bonanza Creek Road, point of reference: 46512E 5548097N) and containing just under 5 hectares.

The MFLNRO and MEM File Numbers that have been established for this application are 440520 (lands) and 1630610 (mines). Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Front Counter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC, V1C 7G1 or email to Authorizing Agency Cranbrook.gov.bc.ca. Comments will be received by Front Counter BC until June 27, 2012.

FrontCounter BC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please refer to our website http://www.ard.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/Index.jsp. Search by File Numbers (insert lands file number) for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the FOI Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regional office in Cranbrook.
Nakusp council, May 14: Council will ask for public meeting on smart meters

by Jan McMurray

• Council will write a letter to Minister of Energy and Mines Rich Coleman, expressing displeasure that the UBCM motion calling for a moratorium on the smart meter program has been disregarded. Council will ask BC Hydro to arrange a public meeting in Nakusp about smart meters.

• Mayor Hamling reported that Dr. Sayed Subswari will start work at the medical clinic on July 3. Housing has been found for him.

• Council will provide a letter of support for NACFOR’s project to create and install interpretive signage on Nakusp’s Heritage Rail Trail.

McDonald Creek Park to expand by 26 campsites

by Jan McMurray

McDonald Creek Provincial Park Campground on the Arrow Lakes will see an addition of 26 campsites at an estimated cost of $563,000.

Most of the new sites – 19 of the 26 – will be located in the present overflow area, which is an open field known locally as Legion Park. The remaining seven sites will be in the current campsite hoop configuration.

Once the campsites are added, travellers looking for last-minute overnight accommodation may be accommodated in the boat launch trailer parking lot, reported a Parks spokesperson.

The park covers 468 hectares of lakefront property along a two-mile-long stretch of beach. When asked why the campground would not be extended along the beach to create more lakeside campsites, the spokesperson replied: “The design is centered around already impacted areas within the current footprint in proximity to the present servicing infrastructure.”

Servicing infrastructure consists of four stations with pit toilets, water standpipes, and bear-proof garbage standpipes, and bear-proof garbage cans. All existing sites are unpowered.

These improvements all occur within the intensive recreation zoning and are fully in keeping with the park’s management direction statement,” said the Parks spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the timeline for the project is “contingent on available fiscal funding.”

This is one of the recently announced 120 projects in 89 parks throughout the province. BC Parks’ capital budget this year is $13.98 million – $3 million more than last year’s. Of that budget, the Interior region is allocated $6.71 million; the North $2.66 million; the South Coast $2.38 million.

“The BC Government and Service Employees’ Union has issued a press release stating that the announcement of the additional $3 million capital funding for BC Parks, “...is only a small fraction of needed re-investment, and does nothing to address the critical lack of staff.” Since 2001, the BC Liberal government has cut $10 million from the BC Parks operating budget, states the release. “The government’s own study shows that every dollar invested in our parks system generates $10 in tourism revenue. BC’s parks should be near the top of the government’s priority list for re-investment.”

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)

CASUAL CALL-OUT EMPLOYEES

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) is accepting applications for casual positions throughout the district in the following BC classification:

School Secretary

Successful candidates will have their names placed on the C.U.P.E. Casual Call-Out List and are needed to replace full time employees on an as required basis. A resume outlining grade 12 completion, qualifications, and experience should be attached to your application.

For further information please contact the School Board office in Nakusp, 265-3638 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)

P.O. Box 140, Nakusp, BC  V0G 1R0

Please Note: that prior to being placed on the casual call-out list, applicants must submit a current record search.

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New Gerrard rainbow trout viewing platform on the Lardeau River

submitted

A new Gerrard rainbow trout viewing platform on the Lardeau River was recently finished to welcome visitors on Mother’s Day weekend, and a record run of spawning Gerrards.

The platform was built, with the support of a range of funders, by the Friends of the Lardeau River who hosted an Open House on May 12. Approximately 150 members of the public turned out to appreciate the group’s handiwork and witness the spectacle of more than 900 ‘giants of Gerrard’ spawning in the clear, clean waters at the outlet of Trout Lake.

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We were especially pleased that the new platform was ready in time to coincide with yet another record run,” said Grant Trower with the Friends of the Lardeau River. “We hope that it will help people connect with this amazing fish, and increase awareness of this important spawning site. We feel extremely proud of the end result and I hope the supporting partners also feel proud of what we have achieved together; we could not have done it without their help.”

Those partners included BC Parks, the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (a partnership of BC Hydro, the Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Columbia Power Corporation, Columbia Basin Trust, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and FortisBC.

The Open House was held only a few days after a daily peak count of 1,068 spawning Gerrards was recorded on May 9. This was the highest observed since annual daily counts began in 1961, and the third year in a row that the daily peak count record has been broken following peak counts of 995 in 2011, and 725 in 2010.

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“The platform is certainly built to last,” added Trower. “The new design incorporates wheelchair access and a viewing tower for the fish counter that will enable more accurate counts of Gerrards in the future.”

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Isaiah May competed in the Boys' Chop at Kaslo Logger Sports, May 20. This was Isaiah's first competition, and he acquitted himself well despite all the media attention.

Nine-year-old Matti Erickson gave Darren Hudson a run for his money, but Darren still came out the Men's Canadian Log Rolling Champion.

The Singing Grannies performed just before their pianist, Marge Buchanan, was presented with Kaslo's Citizen of the Year Award.

Spencer Remple goes fishin' in a Jones Boys boat float in the Kaslo May Days Parade.

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MAY DAYS

The Valley Voice May 30, 2012

Excavating and Dump Truck Services
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How to prepare your surface
To ensure proper adhesion of ecocoot paint, any lines or other deficiencies, soil and dust must be removed and the surface must be clean and dry.

How much ecocoot paint will you need?
A. What is the square footage of the surface you are painting?
B. How much will I need of ecocoot paint? Refer to the table below to determine how many litres of ecocoot paint you require.

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<tr>
<th>ecocoot Coverage</th>
<th>Square Metres per Litre</th>
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<td>Drywall</td>
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I have used many paints on the market over the past 30 years in the construction trade. After using your paint product, I am amazed at the quality, durability and finished product. Finally, a paint that is above my standards, and I will not hesitate to use your product from this point on. Thank you ecocoot, quality customer that I have used many times in the past and I will use again. The quality is second to none.

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Available in 16 colours, ecocoot can be further blended into an endless variety of shades. Only your imagination limits the colours you can create.

Because of the nature of recycled latex paint, consumers get a premium quality latex paint with a high solid content which makes for great hold and coverage. It provides sealed-out and stronger insulates.

ecocoot paint has an appetized finish with the availability and washability qualities of a semi-gloss paint.

When using ecocoot, you will notice natural texture and it will cover well. Do not use new wood or raw wood. Usage, concrete and masonry, both indoors and out.

The Singing Grannies performed just before their pianist, Marge Buchanan, was presented with Kaslo's Citizen of the Year Award.
May 30, 2012   The Valley Voice

**MAY DAYS**

Dave Anderson put on one of his legendary pig roasts at New Denver May Days.

The impartial panel of judges for New Denver’s Lake Lies and Fishy Tales: Dan Nicholson, Bonnie Greensword and Maggie Maloney were pleased with Marianne Vanish’s approach to the bench. The retired schoolteacher mixed martinis for the panel, before launching into her story of being ballast on many Slocan Lake excursions. Alas, her blatant pandering did not win her an award, although it was suggested that a new category be added, for best bribes. Best story went to Matthew Fry. Funniest story was won by Terese DelChamp. Fishiest tale was told by Kevin Murphy and tallest tale went to Al Arnett.

New Denver May Queen Charlotte Farrell and her court wave to the crowds along the parade route during New Denver’s May Days celebrations.

Gord Butt was surprised and honoured to be recognized as a New Denver Citizen of the Year.

Barb De Rosa was honoured to accept her award as a New Denver Citizen of the Year.

Susie Bolivar was also named a New Denver Citizen of the Year.

On behalf of the New Denver May Day Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to say...

**THANK YOU** to our LOCAL BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS (including Columbia Basin Trust and Recreation Commission 6) and VILLAGE COUNCILS for your continuing generosity, commitment and support. Your donations of time, money and merchandise help keep our costs down, which in turn allows us to put our fundraising efforts back into the community.

**THANK YOU** to our VOLUNTEERS, who selflessly donate their time to pitch in to help with or run an event, work in the Hot/Cold booth or just plain show up to help with anything that needs doing. You rock!

**THANK YOU** to our COMMUNITY - New Denver, Silverton, Rosebery and Hills. It’s all of you who make this weekend a true success and it is your commitment to our community that makes this such a special place to live.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! With much gratitude and appreciation,
The New Denver May Day Committee - Anita, Linda, June, Kerry, Candice, Susan, Erica, Teresa, Debbie, and Shelley
Kootenay Camas Project Seeks Citizen Scientists

Submitted

Common camas is a native lily with beautiful blue flowers and edible bulbs. It was an important food for First Nations throughout the Columbia Basin and in the Pacific Northwest, where it has been called a cultural keystone species. Camas meadows were described by early explorers as “blue lakes,” and David Thompson records being given “Root” on his journeys on the Columbia River. Now, however, camas is an increasingly rare find in the West Kootenay.

In an effort to document camas in the Kootenays, the West Kootenay Native Plant Study Group has launched the Kootenay Camas Project (KCP). This project encourages local residents to help scientists studying this important ecological and cultural resource in the West Kootenay.

“We hope to involve people in collecting data that will be useful to scientists to assess the health and location of camas throughout the West Kootenay. Citizen scientists are able to cover a large area and help us with valuable information,” says Eva Johansson, KCP coordinator.

Camos will begin to bloom in early May, and anyone can report a camas when they find it. There are a number of ways people can share information with project botanists, who will verify all reports.

Budding naturalists equipped with a camera and an internet connection can help find where camas persists in the West Kootenay. On the Naturalist.org website, people can join the Kootenay Camas Project then upload digital images, along with the location and time of the photograph, and the approximate number of flowers found in an area.

The Kootenay Camas Project is partnering with iNaturalist for automatic uploading and reporting from an Android or iOS mobile device. The free app is available from the relevant app store. “Citizen-science efforts like iNaturalist are rapidly emerging as rich sources of biogeographic information for alerting scientists where plants and animals are disappearing and where they persist,” said Scott R. Lourie, co-director of iNaturalist.org and a postdoctoral fellow at the Carnegie Institution for Science. “These technologies are a real win-win for conservation because, in addition to generating urgently needed data, they get people outdoors and help them become more aware of the natural world.”

Mail-in ‘Camas Report Cards’ are available at Castlecrag City Hall, Digg Garden Centre in South Slocan, RDKB office in Trail and Selkirk Trail and Castlecrag campuses. You can also send an email with your camas report details to kootenaywild@gmail.com.

The Kootenay Camas Project is a project of the West Kootenay Native Plant Study Group and is funded in part by Columbia Basin Trust which delivers community benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. Selkirk College and Columbia Power Corporation/Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program also support the Kootenay Camas Project.

To learn more about Camas and the Kootenay Camas Project, please visit http://growwild.kics.bc.ca.

Re-Awakening Health Centre launches online store

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s Re-Awakening Health Centre has just launched a new online store and website at www.reawakeninghealth.com.

“The whole idea behind the website is to reach a larger market,” said store owner Dawn Devlin. “When we increase sales, we can offer better pricing to local people. That’s why I’ve expanded the store to the online world.”

The online store offers vitamins and supplements, personal care products, sporting nutrition products, sensual products, and yoga and meditation accessories.

“We began development of the website on February 23, and have received over 20 orders already,” said Devlin. “It’s been a fantastic experience.”

Devlin explained that Re-Awakening Health Centre is about preventative health on all levels. “Health isn’t just about eating well, it’s about taking care of the whole person. It’s about living life in balance,” she says.

Devlin grew up in Fauquier and is a Nakusp Secondary School graduate. After working for 17 years in the corporate retail world in Kelowna, Vancouver and Calgary, she was looking for a change. “Then the opportunity came up to buy the health food store back in Nakusp. I have always been really interested in health, so it was perfect!”

New vacation home opens in Winlaw

by Jan McMurray

Paradise Valley Lodge is a new vacation home in Winlaw, owned by long-time Valley resident Pam Sims and her husband, David Liske.

The couple was looking for a change when they were given the opportunity to lease this three-acre property with two houses. They moved into one of the homes and spent a year fixing up the other as a vacation home, ideal for families or larger groups.

“I’m really pleased with the website,” she said. “It’s very professionally done, thanks to Nikita of Maverick Design out of New Denver.”

Over the 15 years Devlin has owned the store, she has added more and more to the list of products available. When she first bought the existing health food store in 1997, she was mainly selling vitamins, snacks, and bulk food products. Today, the store includes an extensive line of books, gifts, and spiritual items as well.

“I’ve expanded on all product areas and added more – and the website is another expansion again,” she said.

There is a need in the valley for an intimate space for groups and families, and the lodge is perfect for that. It is so well suited for a vacation rental – it’s the best use for that house. There is nothing else quite like it in the valley,” said Sims.

“The lodge is spacious and private, tailored especially for family events, retreats and tourist groups. The large backyard has a fish pond, fire pit and culinary garden, and storage is available for gear such as boats and bikes. It is surrounded by tall trees and affords mountain views. It has easy access and ample parking.

Both Sims and Liske have worked in construction and Sims is an artist, so they put their skills to use to create a beautiful living space. “I’m really proud of it – we worked hard to make it into a nice facility,” said Sims.

The couple is offering low introductory rates at Paradise Valley Lodge this season. Visit www.paradisevalleylodge.com or www.vrbo.com/403359 for more information.

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Kootenay Camas Project Seeks Citizen Scientists

Kootenay Camas Project Seeks Citizen Scientists
May 30, 2012  The Valley Voice

VISITOR INFORMATION

Golf Courses
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Tee times: Monday-Saturday open, 4:00-6:00. First come, first served.
Men’s nights: 5:00-9:00 6-9:00 Guests welcome.

View Valley Golf Course - Winlaw
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Tee times: Mon. to Sat., 9:00-4:00. 4:00-6:00 on Sun. No tee times, no reservations required.
Ladies day: Tuesday 4:00-6:00. Guests welcome.
Men’s nights: Thursdays 6:00-9:00 6-9:00 Guests welcome.

Museums
Slivery Slocan Museum - New Denver
(250) 358-2201 The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of New Denver’s main street, restored to circa 1900. Special tours welcome. Please call (250) 358-2201 or 250-358-2206 for further information. Hope to see you soon!

Nikkel Internment Memorial Centre
New Denver (250) 358-7288 The only historic site in Canada dedicated to celebrating the history of Internment Day. Located in the Orchid in New Denver, open daily from 7am to 10pm.

Sandon Museum & Visitors’ Centre - Sandon
(250) 358-7920 www.sandonmuseum.ca
Open 10am-4pm on Saturdays. 7am-3pm on Sundays. 12 noon-3pm on Fridays. Free entry. Includes a collection of photographs, paintings, art objects, and books.

S.O. Myole National Historic Site - Kaslo
Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2525 www.klhc.bca.ca
324 Front Street, Kaslo, BC. Visit the world’s oldest intact log building. Water the millrace from the shore of Kaslo Bay. A 19th century steamship, beautifully restored. Easy access from anywhere in the Kaslo region.

Lardeau Valley Historical Society Museum
Meadow Creek museum, lvhs@emerald.net 1349 Highway 31 (on the corner of the Kaslo/Lake Revelstoke Road) A comprehensive collection of photographs, paintings, paintings, artifacts, and books. Open Mon. to Sat. from 10:00 to 14:00.

Galleries
Studio Conness Art Gallery - Nakusp

Charoissos Photographic Gallery - Hills
(250) 358-2569 www.patiroziventm.com
Photography in black & white, colour & graphic design. Located in the beautiful community of Okanagan Falls.

Hot Springs
Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa - Nakusp
(250) 265-4531 www.halcyon-hotsprings.com
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(250) 265-4575 www.obiensonthelake.com
Beautifully hand-crafted log cabins with a million-dollar view. Full kitchen and living room. Cable and wireless internet. Private phone and barbecue on lake view deck. All units non-smoking. Pets welcome. World class fishing, golfing, hiking, and much more. Only minutes away. It’s so much more than a place to sleep.

Murphy’s Landing - Nakusp
Creekside & Lakeshore Cabin & RV Resort
www.murphy’slanding.net
1000 Hwy 239, Nakusp. You will love our 110-acre Private Resort. walking distance to town. Very clean restrooms and hot showers. 165 site and 400 site with full service RV sites, fully contained units only. Sandy beach, natural pool, private decks, BBQs. Reservations are recommended.

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664th Avenue, New Denver. Curve to研判tains, boutique décor quality amenities. Onsite outdoor hot springs, sun deck, sauna, snowshoeing, biking, tennis, gym, and much more. All units contain bathrooms. BBQ, fire pit, and much more! We are the only affordable, centrally located, world-class, family-friendly lodging facility on the Columbia River.

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(250) 358-2647 www.williamhuntercabins.ca
205th Ave. W. Silverton. Three separate cabins each with two interview cabins divided into a total of four suites. All suites feature a queen sized bed, spacious living room with comfortable sofa, cot, saunas, spa, sitting room (wireless), guest kitchen, 10 bedrooms, gardens. You could own all the suites to suit your needs, each with its own private patio. Ideal for groups, celebrations, individual stays. Sustainability awards. Simply unique!

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Outdoor gear and clothing, fishing, camping, hunting, skateboarding, paintball supplies and much, much more. Come browse our unique small town store - you won’t be disappointed. Selection of fishing and paintball gear, and the inside track on the best fishing, camping, and hunting spots in the area.
Bear hazard and management study done for Upper Slocan Valley
by Michael Dorsey and Jan McMurray

The Upper Slocan Valley is one step closer to being recognized as a Bear Smart Community now that a bear hazard assessment and bear-people conflict management study is almost complete.

Wayne McCrory, bear biologist and Daniel Sherrod, Bear Smart Co-ordinator have recently presented the findings and recommendations of the study to New Denver and Silverton Village councils.

The study was done by McCrory and another biologist, Maggie Paquet, and funded by the provincial and another biologist, Maggie Paquet, and funded by the provincial Bear Smart Program through the Valhalla Wilderness Society. It will be available online in about a month at www.vws.org and other linked websites.

“We are recommending that the communities in the Upper Slocan Valley apply for Bear Smart status so that Conservation Officers will use re-location and other non-lethal methods of removing bears instead of shooting them,” said McCrory.

The benefits of the program are improved public safety, reduced property damage, and fewer bears being killed.

McCrory explained that Conservation Officers respond to thousands of complaints about bears every year, resulting in high numbers of bear mortalities and high costs to BC taxpayers. Each bear that is destroyed by the Conservation Officers costs taxpayers at least $800 – which includes a trip to set a culvert trap and a return trip to take the trapped bear away and destroy it. For the COs to destroy bears in New Denver during the time frame of the study (2002-2008 and 2011) cost the taxpayers an estimated $20,000 – enough to buy bear-proof residential bins for one-third of the residents.

McCrory explained that New Denver has a higher hazard rating than Silverton because it has many more natural trails used by wildlife and many more fruit trees. The bears are first attracted to the ready supply of fruit, such as cherries, and then find other attractants, such as garbage, pet food, outdoor freezers, compost piles, and so on. Because there have been no programs, such as hazing and relocating them, which would discourage them from using these attractants in town, they become habituated to humans and have the potential to become a public safety threat. If there were programs early on to teach bears not to come into town, the threat would be reduced and fewer bears would be killed.

From 2002 to 2008, 32 black bears were killed in the Upper Slocan Valley, and 21 of these were killed in New Denver. No data was obtained for the years 2009 and 2010. In 2011, 11 black bears were killed in New Denver. There were no official complaints in Silverton during these time frames. These numbers do not include bears, such as hunters, poachers, or from accidents or natural causes.

During the study period, there were three injurious incidents in the area. Two of them were predatory night attacks involving campers – one at the Shannon Lake parking lot involving a grizzly and the other at the Rosebery campground. The third incident occurred last year on the Carpenter Creek Trail in New Denver when a resident was walking his dog.

Data from the Conservation Officer Service shows that bear problems in New Denver between 2002 and 2008 were mostly due to fruit trees (43%), then garbage (21%), chickens (9%), coolers, camp food, pet food and barbecues (10%), garbages (5%), outside freezers (5%), and house break-ins (5%).

In Hills and the rural areas, the biggest attractant is chickens. In Silverton, McCrory pointed to Victoria Drive as a “hot spot” because there are many fruit trees there.

The study recommends signage at the campgrounds in the upper valley, improved bear-proofing of garbage and other attractants, and some bylaw amendments. McCrory said he would also like to see COs relocate bears when they first show up in town, not after they have become problems.

McCrory recognized the efforts already made in the upper valley to reduce bear-human conflict. New Denver has spent about $50,000 on bear-proof garbage containers and Silverton has spent about $15,000. New Denver has recently ordered eight more to replace the garbage cans in Centennial Park and elsewhere.

McCrory commended the Bear Smart Program through the Valhalla Wilderness Society. It will be available online in about a month at www.vws.org and other linked websites.

Be bear aware and bear smart

With bear season approaching, now is the time for residents and businesses to implement strategies that will decrease the number of bears that arrive in our villages because of attractants.

Bears are a very important tourism and backcountry lure for visitors. With simple and inexpensive tactics, residents can help to reduce the bear problems in the area, and still enjoy natural wildlife – one of the reasons many people visit and move here.

This list of easy rules, with all participating, can help avoid attracting bears:

• store garbage where bears cannot access it, and freeze meat scraps until collection day. Put garbage out in cans or bear proof containers as close to collection time as possible.

Bear Smart electric fencing workshop submitted

Learn how to protect your produce, bee hives, chickens and livestock while co-existing with wildlife. Gardeners, beekeepers, farmers and anyone else living in bear country are invited to join Slocan Valley Bear Smart coordinators Daniel Sherrod and Evelyn Kirkaldy for an electric fencing workshop at Slocan Park Hall on June 7 at 7:30 pm.

Beaver recognition

Sherrod and Kirkaldy will demonstrate how to set up a simple electric fencing system specifically designed for bears, discuss maintenance and review various applications. At all times of the year and while bears are asleep in the winter, there are other predators such as bobcats, lynx, hawks and pine martins that are happy to feast on valley chickens. The workshop will cover various methods of effectively dealing with a variety of attractants to minimize the chances of inviting bears and other predators to your property.

Participants are encouraged to bring questions.

Admission by donation.

For more information, contact Evelyn Kirkaldy 250-359-6611 eekbears@hotmail.com or Daniel Sherrod 250-358-7225 daniels@vws.org, www.bearsmart.com/Kootenay.

Slocan Lake Golf Club Putts & Such

The May Day Tournament sponsored by Reitmeier Logging and Silverton Building Supply was a great success. The cleanest书写 out 53 golfers and aside from lots of fun, there were also over 40 prizes given out. Donna Fasubher and Mike Hicks were the top winners in this Callaway-style tournament where Kelly May and Bob Workum came closest to the pin. Doug Wey and Barb Renaud walked away with long drive prizes.

Thanks to all who participated and many thanks to our sponsors.

Did you know that the SLGC is a great course for all levels of golfers?

Not a golfer yet? No problem, come on out, rent some clubs and try the driving netputting green.

Our friendly pro shop staff is happy to get you set up!
What happens to our recycling?

by Henning von Krogh

New Denver Councillor

Henning von Krogh recently had the opportunity to learn more about local recycling services, and shared his findings with the Valley Voice. Here are his questions, answered by Neil Colson, Operations Manager, Kootenays for “ Waste Management,” the firm that handles our recycling.

Where is the recycled material collected?

The recyclable material is collected in New Denver to be taken to the Waste Management facility located at 1844 Coop Lane in Brilliant, near Castlegar.

Does the Regional District receive any income for the recycling collected or is it a net cost to the communities of the region?

The RDCK receives a 60 percent rebate by volume per weight against a non-refundable material ship development fee charged by the North American Office Board Marketing organization or OBM. This monthly report is called the OBM Yellow Sheet. This information is available through the internet. This site sets baseline recycle prices for a dozen different recyclables. These prices are calculated by weight which range from consumer goods packaging to fibre egg trays.

What sort of volume is shipped to this centre?

Brilliant Recycling Centre, owned and operated by the West Kootenay Community Foundation, serves approximately 15 communities: Castlegar, Nakusp, Kaslo, Salmo, Slocan, New Denver, and large farmers, such as the North Kootenay, and assisting the local groups with their project reports.

Murray said the City of Nelson has not had to partner with any organizations in this way because there are so many options for groups in Nelson other than the City. However, there are fewer options in the smaller communities, so Murray has been working with RDCK staff to see if there is a model that would be acceptable for the Regional District. Murray estimated that there would be ten groups per year that would want to partner with the RDCK.

After much discussion, the board decided not to sponsor local groups in their funding applications to community foundations. RDCK Chair John Kettle explained, “Our rationale is more with liability and legalities. Our insurance coverage would not extend to the partnering organization. Once you intervene you become part of a process you have no control over. It’s opening up a Pandora’s Box. We don’t have enough information to jump into this.”

The largest sorting of plastics occurs to separate white plastic milk jugs, which are the most easily recycled plastic. Then the remaining plastics are sorted into future film and used for road construction or for capping material for waste cells, used to bury cells of garbage as it is fairly inert and structurally strong. These usages are recognized by the Recycle Council of British Columbia.

In larger centres, glass can be recycled into a variety of products from new glass containers to fiberglass insulation. WM is currently looking to partner with asphalt paving companies within the Kootenay region to grind glass and mix it with conventional asphalt mix to make “glassphalt” paving. The three prime limiting factors in the recycle of glass are as follows: the weight by volume of glass makes it very expensive to freight to recycle mills; glass can be contaminated by asphalt, and there are few beer bottles per tonne to the point where it is not recyclable as clear glass; there is currently a worldwide glut of glass on the market since the economic downturn of late 2009.

I understand the mixed recycling is sorted. Can you provide some information on how this sorting is accomplished?

Materials shipped to modern mills are sorted by a mixture of hand pick by employees and mechanical means such as forced air and magnetic sorting.

Are the different types of plastic sorted further? How is this done?

Glass that is collected within the West Kootenay is taken to the Otschrienda landfill where it is recycled and used for road construction or for capping material for waste cells, used to bury cells of garbage as it is fairly inert and structurally strong. These usages are recognized by the Recycle Council of British Columbia.

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Are the different types of plastic sorted further? How is this done?

The majority of waste in the recycle system is primarily household waste but also recycle material which may be contaminated with food waste or oils. This averages 7 percent of total volumes collected.

Is there anything else that would be of interest to me to pass on to our community?

In closing, I want to assure you that there is a strong future for recycle goods. As our population grows, the finite resource of the earth will have to be recycled numerous times, some fibre and plastics as many as seven cycles. The last three years have seen a major revamp of the recycle system in North America as all of the materials recycled are truly commodities. When the commodities market collapsed in 2009, many mills in North America shut their doors and have yet to reopen. Some of the world’s largest populations have become some of the world’s largest recyclers due to limited resources to match their populations, such as China.

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For further information contact:
Nakusp Rodeo Office
250-265-2207

Trophy Tournaments is looking for Volunteers for the 1st Annual Nakusp Rodeo July 27th, 28th & 29th

Positions include: gate admission; beer garden; clean-up crew; vendor assistance

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
The East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP) is expanding into the West Kootenay.

by Jan McMurray

The East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP) is expanding into the West Kootenay to become a Kootenay-wide conservation program.

Dave Hillary and Marcy Mahr, the organization’s two staff people, made a presentation to the RDCK board of directors at the May 24 board meeting.

The organization focuses exclusively on private land conservation, and works with partners organizations. EKCP coordinates and facilitates private land conservation efforts, while the partner organizations are the “doers.”

“We are value added to our partners,” explained Hillary. “We have an intimate knowledge of our partners and the projects. The shovel-in-the-dirt projects are done by our partners.”

Currently, EKCP has 52 partner organizations, and expects that number to double with its expansion into the West Kootenay. Some of the current partners are the Regional District of East Kootenay, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, local Rod and Gun Clubs, the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society, the Ministry of Environment, Parks Canada, Ktunaxa Nation Council, the Land Conservancy of BC, and Wildlight.

Over the 10 years the organization has been in existence, it has facilitated the conservation of over 300,000 hectares of high value land, representing a conservation investment of over $1 million.

EKCP also spearheaded the first local conservation fund in Canadian history – the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund. Established by referendum on November 15, 2008, the fund is supported with tax dollars from a portion of Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) residents. Total $230,000 is raised through taxation for the fund every year, and this is a service delivered by the RDEK.

“Everything we [the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund] do is based on what we hear the local people want: protection of quality of life; conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat; conservation of wetlands; conservation of open space and farm lands,” said Hillary.

Greg Deck, former chair of RDEK and board member of CB, was also at the meeting and spoke highly of the organization. “If you think conservation of private land is important, this is a very efficient way to go about it. EKCP acts as an umbrella organization – it is extremely useful to have a group that can decide which projects are more important, and they have the expertise to explain why one project is more important than another. Your only decision is the budget amount.”

RDCK Area H Director Popoff asked if the organization would be interested in helping to acquire a small parcel adjacent to a parkland in the Slocan Valley, Hillary explained that EKCP’s role would be to help secure the property by matching the right organization to the project. He added that there is not enough capacity in the partner organizations to keep up with the demand, and the EKCP is trying to build that capacity.

New Denver recognizes three Citizens of the Year

The Village of New Denver recognizes three Citizens of the Year.

Three Citizens of the Year were honoured at the New Denver May Days Celebration – Gordon Butt, Barb DeRosa and Susie Bolivar.

Gord Butt has served on many boards, including the Silverton Gallery Society, the Silvery Slocan Museum Society, the Sandon Historical Society and the local branch of the Senior Citizens Association. When presenting him with his medal and gift, Shelley Welch said, “Never a ‘token’ board member, he has spent and continues to spend many unsellable hours in the background doing all the unseen ‘little things’ that all organizations require to function will and continue to survive. The phrase ‘above and beyond’ seems fitting.”

Barb DeRosa volunteers her time at the Pavilion, spending special time with residents, playing games or taking walks. She can be counted on consistently to donate to bake sales and fundraisers, and she is an active member of the Silverton Community Club. She is reliable and is willing to give of herself and her time under any circumstance. “You can count on her, no matter the task. Her nominators used the phrase ‘Volunteers are love in motion.’ We couldn’t agree more,” said Welch.

Susie Bolivar has volunteered her time in many capacities. She has been a board member and a volunteer coordinator, she helped organize the Hidden Garden Gallery Society, organizing drawing functions and continue to function. She is a regular volunteer at the Donation Station. “She is always ready to lend a helping hand and have a friendly chat,” said Welch.

SD8 budget highlights

The SD8 budget eliminates 19 teaching positions and closes both District Resource Centres (DRCs).

“Ultimately, the net staffing difference for teachers between 2011-2012 and 2013 will be 19 FTE throughout the district. We anticipate that the majority of these positions will be addressed through attrition,” said Superintendent Jeff Jones.

With the closure of the DRCs, resources will be distribute from school libraries, at a cost savings of $89,000. Four CUPE positions are also expected to be eliminated.

Two vice-principal positions are being added – one for Jewett School in decision to close the DRC in and the other for Yahk. Jones explained that it is more cost-efficient to have VPs at these schools than to have teachers in charge.

Starting next year, out-of-catchment bus riders will be charged $20 per month.

Annual Strawberry Shortcake Sale

Wednesday, June 13th

Noon to 2 p.m.

Robertson United Church

$3.00 each or two for $5.00

These delicious desserts come in bowls with lids, ready to eat or to tuck away in the freezer for future enjoyment. Stop by and put them to the taste test!

For orders call:

June Brown 265-3123

Heather Manfield – home – 265-8006 or shop 265-2161

This is our annual fundraiser, 2/3 of the funds raised stay within this valley – last year $7000 was donated locally. The remainder raised goes to purchase materials for the free post surgical dressings we make and provide to cancer patients; to support Cancer Research and for various scholarships.

Martha Chapter No. 24, Order of the Eastern Star thanks you for your support!

Employment opportunity

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for the position of:

CASUAL/ON-CALL OFFICE ASSISTANT

Working on an on-call, as-needed basis, the successful candidate will provide clerical support in the Village of New Denver office. Customer service or office experience and familiarity with Microsoft Office suite would be considered assets. Regularly work 15-20 hours per week. Starting rate will provide clerical support in the Village of New Denver.

Applications are encouraged from candidates interested in a career in Local Government Administration.

Please submit a resume and cover letter to:

Carol Gordon, CAO
Village of New Denver
P.O. Box 40
New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

This position will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

You are invited: BC Hydro operations update meeting

When: Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: Lardeau Valley Community Centre

Hwy 31, Meadow Creek

BC Hydro will host an operations update meeting to provide information regarding:

- BC Hydro’s Operations including Duncan Reservoir
- Local projects and initiatives
- Duncan Dam Use Plan programs and projects
- Other local BC Hydro activities

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Presentations will begin at 6:15 p.m.

For more information, please contact Mary Anne Coules at 250 365 4565 or maryanne.coules@bcchydro.com.

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3028
Nakusp@futures.bc.ca. & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave loans, counselling and training in the Arrow offers the Self Employment grant, business your own business? rims - 358-2470.

2000 FORD EXPLORER-XLS to registration date. For more info, call from preschool room and complete prior in preschool room, Lucerne School. year. Thursday, June 21, 5:30-7:00 pm REGISTRATION NEW DENVER PRESCHOOL Bailey $12,000.00 ph. 250-489-9231 Mike.

Lengths 20 feet to 100 feet. Eg. 30-foot used in preschool room, Lucerne School. of cancer was phenomenal. The Home care, love and compassion that Colin brought with it. thank you all. Support, Hospice, Hospital staff, Nurses, of individuals.  Together we raised almost without the help of an entire community and organizers would like to thank thank you for your support.

It happens in downtown New Denver every Saturday. And sometimes we take it for granted that we live in such a wonderful community. When you stop and take stock of things, you realize how fortunate we are. It is truly amazing. The care, love and compassion that Colin Wilkie received while he was dying of cancer was phenomenal. The Home Support, Hospice, Hospital staff, Nurses, Last Wishes Society and Dr. Backlander all provided him with the best of care. We thank you all. - Karriann, Steve and Danika.

Small Ads get noticed
Agricultural Opportunity - New Denver area, water available, 5 acres of flatly fenced pasture for potential use. Suitable for person(s) interested in growing grain, horses, community gardens/agricultural societies. Phone #250-352-5442 or Call # 250-264-8599

CLASSIFIED ADS


Help Wanted


Home Care Attendance Required. Private. Top wages for right person. Negotiable. Please send resume to Home Care Coordinator, Box 433, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0.

Yoga at the Domes has moved to the Board and Soul Healing Centre in Silverton. Go along the side and up the stairs. Times same - Monday morning 9-10:30 and Thursday afternoons 4-5:30. Come and repurpose yourself.

Summertime Yoga, Qigong, & More, w/ Christopher & Anamarija of Loving spirit! Yoga. VOGA Wednesdays 7 pm at Lake & Soul, QI GONG (4 Sundays in June), 3 pm at Kothan Garden (Nakusp or Silverton). Outdoor FAMILY Yoga Sundays 3 pm in July & Aug (where? TBA) connect with loving spirit@ rocketmail.com, 2721.

Peacock Collective


Silver Lake Historical Society seeks a student for the Summer House Museum. Eight weeks at 30 hours per week. Duties would be to assist regular employees in giving tours, answering visitors, giving general and keeping records as required. Resume can be posted to Box 52, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0.

SANDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY requests a student to work a summer museum. Eight weeks at 30 hours per week. Duties as above. Resume to Box 52, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0.

SANDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY is now accepting applications for a Curatorial Assistant for summer employment 2012. Eligible applicant must be registered as a full-time student during the proceeding academic year and intend to return to full-time studies in the fall. Eligible applicant must be reliable, have good communication, public relation and organizational skills, have computer experience, and work independently with minimal supervision. $12.00 per hour and suitable for ages 16 and older. All applications must be received by June 16, 2012. Send resume to Silvery Slocan Historical Society, PO Box 301, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

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First of 30 new webcams go live at Kootenay Lake ferry terminals

The first of 30 new webcams to be installed this year on the DriveBC network are now live, giving motorists a real-time view of traffic queues, weather and road conditions at the Kootenay Lake ferry terminals.

DriveBC web cameras are now live at:

• The Kootenay Bay ferry terminal, 80 km north of Creston, looking northeast on Highway 3A: http://images.drivebc.ca/bchighwaycam/pub/html/www/304.html

The addition of 30 new webcams this year will bring the number of webcam images available on DriveBC to over 250. All are expected to be installed and in operation by winter.

Priority for new web cameras is given to routes prone to extreme weather or traffic congestion, and for sites where there is not already a nearby webcam.

Further supporting the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s public engagement, until June 30, the ministry is asking BC travellers where they would like to see BC highway cams to better help them know before they go. Have your say at: http://www.transbc.ca/surveys.

DriveBC provides timely road condition updates, travel advisories, road closure information for provincial highways, weather information and other important links to the travelling public, to help ensure easier, safer trips.

The committee will discuss, review and make recommendations on major transit issues, such as route changes, expansion priorities, service reductions and fare structure.

The goal of integrating the nine existing services is to provide a more convenient and better coordinated service. There will be a single schedule for the region with better connections and more efficient use of vehicles. There will also be a simpler fare structure.

The RDCK board has endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding that will lead to the integration of transit services in the region.

Directors Karen Hamling and Ramona Faust were appointed to the West Kootenay Transit Committee, with Director Walter Popoff as alternate. The committee will also include one representative from the City of Nelson, one from the City of Castlegar, one from the City of Trail, and two from the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

The committee will also include one member in support of the Sinixt community to lead by example and to conduct themselves with dishonour and their lands. In my heart and mind that is being directed at the Sinixt peoples and their lands. In my heart and mind there is no justification for any tribal group, public institution, or individual to work be honoured within their traditional territory.

I rely on those people in my community, blockaded roads to protect firewood for the elders in the Sinixt territory. I have winter danced with them, assisted them in building their pithouse and men’s sweat lodge, built community garden space, hunted, fished, and gathered our community watershed, and countless other activities.

We ask those who are responsible to stop and do the right thing. We would like to acknowledge all of the youths’ efforts surrounding the Youth Unity Run and we feel the cause is a worthy one, but we also feel that the Okanagan Nation Alliance Youth Run will lead to the integration of transit services in the region.

I am aware of the planned Okanagan Nation Alliance Youth Run and know that there has been no contact to protect the people of this territory, yet the run is to bring awareness about suicide prevention and violence amongst youth in our communities. I see this act as one of the very reasons why so many youth are in despair today. The very act of claiming someone else’s territory is an act of violence.

We ask those who are responsible to stop and do the right thing. We would like to acknowledge all of the youths’ efforts surrounding the Youth Unity Run and we feel the cause is a worthy one, but we also feel that the Okanagan Nation Alliance is using the youth to justify a deviant act.

I only wish to state that I know the Sinixt Nation representatives and that I have worked alongside them. I have winter danced with them, assisted in building their pithouse and men’s sweat lodge, built community garden space, hunted, fished, and gathered firewood for the elders in the Sinixt territory, blocked roads to protect our community watershed and countless other activities.

I wish to stand as a community member in support of the Sinixt representatives who were appointed by a council of elders 20 years ago. I honour them and ask that their protocols and work be honoured within their traditional territory.

Limlimpt