Smart meter infrastructure causes internet problems in Silverton

by Jan McMurray

Despite assurances from BC Hydro that smart meters will have no effect on community wireless internet services, many Red Mountain Internet Society (RMIS) customers have been experiencing problems ever since smart meter collectors were installed in Rosebery and Silverton last week.

The RMIS technician reported that he had received many calls from Rosebery and Silverton customers with complaints of intermittent service. “It’s very frustrating, because everything looks fine – the equipment is fine, and things from the back end look fine – but there is just no signal. Zero signal. Then service is miraculously restored all by itself,” he said.

RMIS uses radios and towers in the 900 MHz frequency band because this equipment provides the best reception in our heavily treed, mountainous area. The 900 MHz frequency band is the same band used by BC Hydro smart meters. Wireless internet services that do not use the 900 band, such as the Kaslo InfoNet Society’s service, will not have the same interference problem, explained RMIS President Larry Lavan.

Lavan has been in touch with Wilf Bangert, head of Network BC, which provides support to community internet service providers, and BC Hydro’s Vern Kwiatkowski, IT manager for the smart meter program. “They are working to stop the interference as soon as possible,” reported Lavan on Friday, July 6.

Back in March, RMIS became concerned that smart meters might interfere with its internet service after hearing about what happened in Likely, BC. When smart meters were installed in that small community, wireless internet service provided by CP Electronics out of Williams Lake was lost to its Likely customers.

Mary Anne Coules, BC Hydro Community Relations Representative for our area, responded to an email sent to her by RDCK Area D Director Andy Shadrack in March that raised concerns about the interference issue. In her response, she assured that “BC Hydro’s smart meters do not have the potential to cause a problem for community-based internet services, operating on the 902-928 MHz band or any other frequency.” She explained that smart meters use “frequency hopping” technology – if the channel is being utilized by another device, the smart meters will find another channel to use. She also states that the smart meters’ very short signal duration further decreases interference with other devices.

Subsequently, RMIS Communications Engineer Vince Geisler wrote to Coules, asking for clarification of these statements, “as they don’t appear to line up with basic physics.” He asked what testing was done to verify there would be no interference, as well as a few other technical questions. Coules referred his questions to Vern Kwiatkowski, IT Manager for the smart metering program. No response was received.

Lavan reports that RMIS then decided to run its own tests on a smart meter, and found that there would indeed be interference. Representatives from the internet society arranged to meet with Kwiatkowski at a BC Broadband Conference in Richmond in May, and were assured once again there would be no problem.

At a meeting of community wireless internet service providers hosted by Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation in Creston in June, informal discussions prompted Lavan to travel to Victoria to meet with Network BC and ask for assistance. As a result, Network BC has been working with BC Hydro to resolve the issue.

This past Monday, July 9, Mary Anne Coules of BC Hydro provided the Valley Voice with this statement: “We have contacted the Red Mountain Internet Society to explore options for coexistence between our two systems. “Like smart meters, collectors use low power, infrequent, short signals. Collectors, which receive data from smart meters and send it to BC Hydro, are mounted on existing utility poles 18 to 24 feet off the ground and are inactive 99 percent of the time.”
As of Friday, July 6, the evacuation alert remained in effect on Slocan Valley West Road in Passmore and for two properties on Picard Road in Winlaw.

Both areas experienced flooding around June 24, when Slocan River reached a near 25-year high level. Heavy rainfall in June and this year’s above normal snowpack created the perfect flooding conditions.

Gord Ihlen, Passmore Fire Chief, took this intrepid Valley Voice reporter on a tour of Slocan Valley West Road on June 29. “Most of this event came from the Little Slocan basin,” he said. “Lots of debris came down from the Little Slocan River and into Slocan River. Everything from where the Little Slocan River enters the Slocan and on down has changed. People have to realize when tubing or boating on the river this summer that the watercourse has changed – every log jam has changed. Places they were able to get to before cannot be accessed.”

Ihlen said Slocan River breached Slocan Valley West Road in seven places during this event, whereas in past high water years, the river has breached the road in one place only. “The worst spot, where it traditionally floods, is the lowest spot on the Slocan River where there is a public right of way,” he said. An evacuation order was issued for Slocan Valley West Road residents on Saturday, June 23. “Within half an hour of the first signs of the road flooding, the water came right over and we had to close the road,” said Ihlen. “It happened so fast. We had to issue an evacuation order, but there was no safe way to evacuate, so we asked people to stay in their homes until the next day, when we could get them out. The houses were never in jeopardy, just the road.”

On June 26, the road was opened and the evacuation order was downgraded to an evacuation alert – still in place as of Friday, July 6. This means that people must be ready to leave their homes at any time if necessary. “People should have a plan and be prepared,” advised Ihlen.

Ihlen said that people who are evacuated are required to register at an Emergency Social Services Centre. In this case, the centre was set up in Slocan Park Hall, and volunteers Denise deMontigny and Nina Verigin did the registrations. Evacuees are given vouchers for lodging, food and incidentals on a three-day renewable basis. Ihlen said that even under an evacuation alert, people are offered the same courtesy if they don’t feel comfortable in their homes. The good news part of this story is that the road repairs will result in long-term improvements. “We’ve been asking for 20 years for something to be done about this road, but there has never been any money. Now, with the emergency budget, we are getting an excellent job done. These guys are going above and beyond,” said Ihlen.

Slokan Valley West Road on Sunday, June 24. PHOTO CREDIT: Bill Ihlen

Flood damage repairs to Slocan Valley West Road completed

by Jan McMurray

An estimated 220 loads of rock were trucked in for the repairs from the Crescent Valley gravel pit – the rock originally came from the Nelson passing lane project. The road was then graded on Sunday, July 1 and on Monday, July 2, gravel was brought in and the road bed was raised by six to eight inches in the worst spots. Ihlen re-iterated his warning to recreationists on the river. “An event like this changes the river, changes its course. It’s not the same river it was a few weeks ago. People have to be aware of that when floating this season. Stay away from wood. Wood is a safety hazard. What you see on the surface is not all of it – most of it is under water. It’s like a colander. Water goes through, but you won’t – you can get stuck under it.”

Residents are reminded to remain alert and vigilant in and around creeks and streams and their banks during the freshet season. At the first sign of flooding (water courses begin to run dirty; excessive debris or sediment flow; breaches, piping or overtopping of water courses), call 1-800-663-3456.

FortisBC’s new residential conservation rate

FortisBC introduced a new residential two-tier conservation rate for electricity customers on July 1, 2012.

About 75 per cent of electricity customers will pay about the same or less on this new rate, with some paying more based on electricity consumption.

To learn more about the new residential conservation rate or to calculate your bill, visit fortisbc.com/rcr or call 1-866-436-7847.

Are you a high energy user? Learn ways to use less energy at fortisbc.com/reducetheyours.
Society forms to purchase St. Leon Hot Springs

by Jan McMurray

The BC Hot Springs Preservation Society is fundraising to purchase the St. Leon Hot Springs property north of Nakusp.

The society’s vision is to manage the property in a way that preserves its natural beauty and provides universal public access to the site.

Bill Small and Heather Bryant of Vancouver, the couple who has taken the lead on the project, set up a table at Nakusp’s July 1st celebrations to answer people’s questions and accept donations.

Bryant explained that the 390-acre parcel is privately owned and is for sale. She said a developer from Korea is interested in purchasing the land to create a multi-million dollar resort with a hotel, condo complex, and golf course. About $300,000 worth of feasibility studies was done for the project, but the economic crisis cut funding and temporarily put a damper on the plans.

“We want to save the hot springs from commercial development,” she said.

The society’s plan is to create a park-like setting on the property, with trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, and a lakeside campground. Other ideas for the land include a healing retreat, an eco-friendly community, and a sustainable living education centre. Although news of the plan is just getting out into the public now, it has garnered quite a bit of support from local people. Bryant and Small are very pleased with the level of interest shown so far, and would like to hear from anyone in the area who would like to get involved.

“We are looking for people to sit on the board of directors and on advisory committees,” said Bryant.

“We hope the local community will come together and help make this happen.”

The couple has been working with a local lawyer to set up the BC Hot Springs Preservation Society, which is the umbrella organization, and the St. Leon Hot Springs Society, which will be mandated to manage the St. Leon site. The local lawyer has also written up the Offer to Purchase document. “In the legal documents, the lawyer is working in layers of protection to ensure that we will hold that land in the way it is intended,” assured Small.

The couple has very recently presented the owner of the parcel with the Offer to Purchase, which is based on an informal agreement that they have already negotiated with the owner.

“We have a handshake agreement with the owner, but now that he has it in the form of a legal document, we will wait and see what happens,” said Bryant.

The couple spent time looking at various hot springs properties in the area that are on the market before deciding to pursue the purchase of St. Leon. “We feel this is the right site to start with. Basically, St. Leon is the easiest place to start, but we are open to others that become possible,” they said.

Bryant and Small have worked on an attractive deal with the owner on an informal basis, and have a three-phase fundraising plan.

Details can be found at www.savethelhotsprings.org. To contact them, email savethelhotsprings@gmail.com. They also have a Facebook page: St. Leon Hot Springs Society.

Home on 7.13 Acres with Business Opportunity

Home offers 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, lots of upgrades, an infra red ceramic & tile floors & new metal roof. Outbuildings include a barn, gazebo, 24x46 machine shed, 24x30 shop & 16x10 outbuilding. The property is maintained like a park and fronts on the Inonoaklin river, a private paradise. $330,000 MLS 1004834

210 Granby Drive
$175,000
Immaculate home, in great condition. Still owned by the original owners this home has been lovingly cared for. Offers over 5/4 acre of mostly level land, 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, a shop & garage plus a carport. Newer electric furnace, tw tank, central air, roof & a new 200 amp service. Located only minutes from the store, credit union, post office and the lake. MLS 10029761

Lot B N. Needles Road
$450,000
2.56 Acres gently sloping to the lake, located approx. 3 KM from the highway. Approx. 500’ of waterfront with sandy beach, a beautiful cedar forest for shade & privacy. Minutes to the Ferry, Faquier Golf course & General store. This would make a superior group purchase. MLS 10041277

Lot 2 Lower Inonoaklin Road
$399,900
8.105 Acres with a gentle slope to Arrow Lake, over 800’ of lake frontage with sweeping views of the lake & mountains. Power & telephone at lot line. This would be a great family purchase if you are looking for lake shore this one is priced right. MLS 1003721

To be sold with above home & property is the Edgewood Garage Building. A mobile curbside garbage truck is the only garbage pickup business in the area. Includes a contract with the highways dept, also weekly pick-up at the Parks, Ferry, Golf club, Watshan Retreat and household pick-ups. Room to grow this business. $30,000 MLS 10046326

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Call Darline Scott at RE/MAX Lumby to view all of the above.

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Serving the Arrow and Slocan Lakes
Keep powerboats off Slocan River

Last Sunday afternoon (Canada Day), around 2 pm, I was dismayed to see a powerboat making its way upriver north of Perry’s Bridge. I have no idea what it was doing, or why it was on the river, but I know this – last week I saw an article about the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society’s studies confirming once again we have one of the cleanest lakes in the world.

It’s still pristine. But it’s not going to stay that way. Not unless we do something about it.

Powerboats and Jet Skis tearing around on the lake; some folks are OK with that; some aren’t.

But powerboats on the river? When is enough enough?

There’s a way we can stop this, and it’s called planning.

Some folks (OK, a lot) don’t like planning. Messes with their freedom.

Guess what? Without planning you get a 60’s show.

That’s what’s coming.

Seeing that boat making its way upriver last week, I’d say it’s already here…

Warren Macdonald

Winlaw

Nakusp provides housing for new doctor

Your June 27 edition included, in the ‘Nakusp council, July 11’ article, the statement: “The committee and the foundation purchased a home in town for the resident physician and is providing furnishings.”

We have been asked about “the committee,” “what foundation,” and “why are we giving doctors free housing?”

To clarify, recruiting physicians to rural communities has become a real problem. Demand far exceeds supply. We are all aware of the effect of the loss problem. Demand far exceeds supply.

rural communities has become a real

“If we are going to attract doctors, we must offer a competitive package,” said Dr. Mary Shadrack, who manage the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary.

In Nakusp, a number of local organizations have been working for several years to alleviate this problem.

This spring, the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary concluded that one incentive to attract and retain a physician was to provide an attractive housing opportunity. Consequently, we shared, equally, the cost of acquiring, renovating and partially furnishing a property and making it available to Doctor Subzwari for the term of his employment in Nakusp.

An adjoining suite is slated to be used by visiting locums.

We are confident that our investment will significantly enhance health care for our area.

Where’s the science?

Are we losing our scientific bias?

A letter in your last paper claims that the emissions from a smart meter are similar to that from a radio, a television or other common household appliances. Why bring in the broom, dustpan, doorknob, or any other item that does not emit radiofrequency radiation.

Except for some of the more recently developed gadgets, like the cordless phone and router and the even more recently developed appliances that are designed to communicate wirelessly with the smart meter, nothing in a home emitted radiofrequency radiation, certainly not the radio and the tv.

I realize some people wish to make a comparison between radiofrequency radiation and the magnetic fields coming off house wiring. Before you get into that, you had better first explain why Health Canada, or any other health and safety standard, has emission guidelines and safety limits that are entirely different for these two forms of radiation.

Norbert Durichen

New Denver

Lay fails to act

At a very recent meeting of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Director Andy Shadrack, Area “D” representative, put forth a reasonable motion that the RDCC (and I paraphrase here) undertake to get the Premier ‘on-side’ in advance of any catastrophic occurrences involving water, flooding, spring run-offs, major rises in lake levels and so on; in other words, to “intervene” if she were required to do so.

The motion was passed by a majority vote of directors, with Kaslo director (Mayor) Greg Lay and Nelson director (Mayor) John Dooley opposed. Mayor Lay didn’t offer any reason to oppose the motion, but he did request that he be recorded as opposing the motion.

Interestingly but sadly, it would appear the Village of Kaslo finds itself with a (political) exercise.

The recent failure of the Lemon Creek intake has had some immediate negative implications; severe water restrictions are now in effect, while the village scrambles to determine its next course of action.

Will the village seek emergency provincial funding to repair the damage?

Mayor Lay has once again made a political misstep. Will the Premier be listening when the village – palms outstretched – goes to the province looking for help?

Not bloody likely, but good luck with the (political) exercise.

Jim Yount

Kaslo

Let the truth be told

said Joy Kagawa on June 16th in the Slocan Legion Hall. And indeed, the erection of the Lemon Creek and Popoff - site displays along the Slocan Valley rail trail, the Open House and the 70th anniversary dinner brought out truth about the history of the Japanese Canadian’s internment into the present. It was impressive and emotional to hear about the personal experiences these Internes, children and adults went through in the internment camps 70 years ago.

They all agreed that the internment was primarily based on prejudice and discrimination against another race and culture, a money grab and procurement of cheap labour by the governments of the time, particularly BC’s. During and especially after WW II they intended to drive Canadians of Japanese origin forever out of the country pretending even children to be enemies of Canada.

Hearing all this, similarities in the history of the Sinixt people sprung into our minds. The greed of white people for land and its treasures combined with diseases they brought decimated the Sinixt and drove lots of them to the southern parts of their territory. The political agreement declaring the 49th parallel border between the USA and Canada cut their tribal land apart.

Conveniently the government of this country quickly declared the Sinixt north of the border forever extinct and therefore no longer people of Native status. Sinixt elder Bob Campbell, commenting on their court appeal said about a year ago “I have no great expectations, but I have great hopes.”

On the 70th Anniversary dinner all internees present, most now in their eighties and nineties expressed their hope for a future where war and greed and racial hatred would be eliminated. Joy Kagawa brought it to the point – “Let the truth be told,” she said. “Go to the place of your greatest terror, tell your story and you are free.”

Besides telling and keeping the stories alive, constant watchfulness and always questioning political decisions are needed to bring about a society where prejudice and injustices no longer exist.

Elisabeth von Ah and Henry Hutter

Lemon Creek and Appledale
In reply to Gary Murphy of BC Hydro, Valley Voice June 27, 2012

Mr. Murphy states that smart meters are safe and use radio frequency signals similar to televisions, radios, and other household devices. There is a difference between radio signals and transmission of a signal. A power charge is used to transmit a signal creating radiation. TVs and radios detect the signals and do not produce them like smart meters and cell phones.

One wonders how much BC Hydro knows about smart meters. In his letter he said the meters transmit for less than two seconds per day. Others have said one minute per day with transmissions of a couple of milliseconds long. BC Hydro has varying numbers; none of which is high compared to those of the manufacturer Itron.

He says the smart meter’s signals are safe. There are no standards regulating therapeutic and non-therapeutic emissions and regulations are based on the amount of radiation required to raise the temperature of 1 kg of flesh, 1 degree C, in 6 minutes. The smart meters operate with very short bursts of high energy. As they do not produce any heat during the 6 minute time frame they escape the scrutiny of regulations based on heating damages.

Smart meters have been known to explode or cause electrical fires. Emisafetynetwork.org documents many cases of smart meter fires and explosions. In Australia all fire fighters must report fires where smart meters are present and are advised not to allow power companies to take the meters from the scene except in the case of a smart meter fire. The CSAR or UL approved. That means you are not covered by insurance if you cause a fire. In the future electrical fires should be more closely investigated.

As of March 2011 BC Hydro had $11.7 billion in debt and plans to spend $14 billion over the next few years. BC Hydro has not explained how they will pay expenses. BC Hydro says it is supposed to be mandated to benefit BC citizens. We therefore should be more closely investigating their claims.

The whole process should have had the oversight of the BC Utilities Commission to protect the interests of the consumer.

Ed Zak

OPINION/ANALYSIS

Red Mountain Residents protest wireless smart meters

Red Mountain is a rural area of nearly 30 households surrounded by silver in the Slocan Lake area of the West Kootenay. BC Hydro has sent letters to residents on Red Mountain that wireless ‘smart meters’ will soon be installed to replace the present electrical meters.

At a recent meeting of the Red Mountain Residents Association (RMRA) many concerns were expressed regarding these wireless meters; the majority of residents have objections to the wireless meters.

We are concerned about the wireless aspect of the new meters, particularly the accumulated effects of exposure to wireless meter frequencies when added to the already existing electromagnetic radiation (i.e. wireless internet, cell phones), which may contribute to the deterioration of health, manifesting as cancer, electrohypersensitivity etc. We are not convinced that the present Health Canada standards for EMR/ EMF’s under Safety Code 6 are based on up-to-date research. The World Health Organization classifies EMR’s as Class 2B, a possible carcinogen in the same category as as DDT, lead and chlorofluorom. In order to exercise caution, we understand that some countries, such as Italy, have installed wired smart meters instead of wireless meters.

We object to the Provincial Government of BC’s decision to have BC Hydro to bypass the normal scrutiny of the independent BC Utilities Commission and the consequent lack of citizen input and discussion into an expensive and controversial switch to wireless meters. We understand that the installation of wireless smart meters carries a one billion dollar price tag for BC Hydro, a Crown corporation supposedly mandated to benefit BC citizens. We also understand that the substantial public relations budget has been recently increased in response to the many objections to wireless smart meters.

Since computer hacking is now commonplace, we are concerned about the security and privacy of a wireless system that is vulnerable to hacking, with various negative consequences. We are also concerned that the band frequency used by BC Hydro smart meters may interfere with our existing wireless internet access. The BC Hydro state that there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm when scientific investigation has found, as in the case of EMR/EMFs, a plausible risk. We are not convinced that enough is known about the impacts of wireless smart meters to categorically declare them safe, and therefore request that the precautionary principle be applied here.

Considering the previously mentioned concerns, the Red Mountain Residents Association demands that the residents on Red Mountain be offered an opt out possibility regarding wireless smart meter installation. We join the villages of Galena Bay, BC Hydro and the Regional District of Area H, along with 53 BC municipalities (including Vancouver and Victoria), who have also passed motions requesting an opt out clause or a moratorium on the installation of wireless smart meters.

Richard Burton, President
Red Mountain Residents Association

Sam Tichenor, Vice President
Red Mountain Residents Association

Ferry decision not based on due diligence: BACA

British Columbia has an excellent set of detailed guidelines that shepherd planners of large projects through development of the new $26.5 million ferry. The MoT estimated $150 to $150 tops for the new ferry. Our estimate was $289.1m in 2011 and it looks like we will be quite accurate. At the time, the MoT scoffed at our new ferry estimate, but just like the rest of the BACA business case, we felt it was accurate and realistic.

We followed through with other approaches. Since then, BACA has proposed a shallower location for the Arrows River causeway crossing plus $33m for road stabilization, $152m for the Storm Point bridge and $753m for a base level crossing and other options. But the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) after a detailed three-hour presentation last year. We have explained our case to others – BC Hydro, Village of Nakusp, CBT, federal and provincial politicians.

It is truly unfortunate that the MoT did not follow their own guidelines when it was looking at the development of the new $26.5 million ferry. The MoT estimated $150 to $150 tops for the new ferry. Our estimate was $289.1m in 2011 and it looks like we will be quite accurate. At the time, the MoT scoffed at our new ferry estimate, but just like the rest of the BACA business case, we felt it was accurate and realistic.

We recommended that the fixed link be considered and the MoT worked so very hard from 1947 until 1959, and none of the people involved with the early clean-up of the MAE: Financial, Customer Service, Security, Community, Environmental and Economic.

MoT is fond of saying that the fixed link would cost hundreds of millions. This is simply incorrect. The government’s own report done by ND Lea, Buckland, Taylor in 2004 estimates $152m for the Storm Point bridge and $33m for road approaches. Since then, BACA has proposed a shallower location for the crossing and other options. But the MoT loves to mislead. In a letter to us last month the MoT stated: “With the estimates in the hundreds of millions of dollars the ministry determined that it was not economically feasible to pursue a fixed link.”

Buckland & Taylor report totals $185m.

From the financial point of view alone, the bottom line is that a fixed link is the best option if you consider the Government allowing BC Hydro to install wireless smart meters.

Ferry for the Upper Arrow Lake is passed

Recently it was announced in a newsletter that a new ferry from Galena Bay to Shelter Bay in the West Kootenays will be replacing our presently outdated Galena Bay ferry, by the spring of 2014. The article states all of the advantages that will be in place once it is operational. While this sounds very positive one has only to look at the overall picture of the West Kootenays to know that this will not sustain our economy or insure future generations, remain in the West Kootenays. Yes, there will be employment here for two years once the project begins on the new ferry and the Village of Nakusp will reap the benefits with the businesses, but after that, then what? Mayor Hanling commented, “We’ve stabilized now, but we’ve lost a lot of young families who would love to come back.”

There are families who have remained in Nakusp, which in the necessity their spouses have had to find employment outside the community. While one doesn’t want to be a nay sayor of the amenities we have come to expect we will have to make economic development here, otherwise those amenities could soon become a thing of the past.

Last year an organization was formed, called the “Beaton Arm Crossing Association” which is located in Nakusp. This organization is made up of various groups, i.e. “We’ve stabilized now, but we’ve lost a lot of young families who would love to come back.”

There are families who have remained in Nakusp, which in the necessity their spouses have had to find employment outside the community. While one doesn’t want to be a nay sayor of the amenities we have come to expect we will have to make economic development here, otherwise those amenities could soon become a thing of the past.

Let’s not forget that the fixed link was the best option at Galena Bay. We recommend that the fixed link be considered.

BACA will continue to work to a final and successful conclusion that will see a fixed link at Beaton Arm.

Ed Zak

Why the new Galena Bay ferry for the Upper Arrow Lake is passed

July 11, 2012

The Valley Voice

Re: Climate Change

I wish to thank Andy Shadrick for his letter, which makes complete sense. I too experienced the smog of London, and so did my parents. My father was on the Conservative council of a north London borough at the time, and one of the things he had to deal with was the smog. They had a major campaign of switching from coal heat to smokeless fuels, and to clean up factory emissions. I also remember one weekend when he took me to the Black Country where he showed me the garbage trucks. The garbage was separated out, the metals going one way for recycling, the glass and paper to be used for recycling, and organic matter went to steamers where it was cooked into pig food. On another weekend he took me to the newly-opened sewage works. Sewage went in one end and potable water came out the other, and the master said he was willing to drink it. The digesters created methane gas, which was used to power the machinery, and the residue from the digesters went for fertilizer. This was about 1950, and none of the people involved with the early clean-up of the MAE: Financial, Customer Service, Security, Community, Environmental and Economic.

I believe that everybody should work together to create a clean environment.

Roger Pratt

Nakusp

3
New dam for Kaslo's water system is in the design stage

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo's Public Works crew has been working hard to maintain a water supply for residents over such a debris torrent out the Village's Kemp Creek dam on June 24. The dam was concrete and built in the early 1950s. It diverted water from Kemp Creek into a cast iron water reservoir. Spillway gates are an integral part of the dam's function. They control the amount of water released through the dam. Dams act as movable water barriers, impounding and controlling the amount of water. The dam is managed by BC Hydro to enhance BC Hydro's ability to safely manage flood waters at Duncan Dam and to maintain the flow requirements of the Columbia River.

The upgrades to this facility included a combination of replacement, refurbishment, and the addition of new equipment at the spillway and low level control gate. These upgrades will enhance BC Hydro's ability to safely manage flood waters at Duncan Dam and will help to accurately and consistently maintain the operation of the Duncan Dam Water Use Plan.

Spillway gates in BC Hydro dams act as movable water barriers, level regulators, and controllers by releasing the amount of water that can be discharged from the reservoir. Spillway gates are an integral safety feature for any dam. They are designed to ensure water is discharged safely, protecting the dam and the downstream communities.

Kaslo Council, June 26: Council to meet with RDCK reps on fire service

by Jan McMurray

The proposed new fire hall will be discussed at the July 5 Development Services Committee meeting. Mayor Lay explained that the Village and RDCK representatives will meet on Thursday, July 5. The Village of Kaslo, with 1,500 residents, is struggling to keep water flowing because of a debris torrent in Kemp Creek. The Village crew did not have the equipment to deal with the debris.

The report listed five long-term options for the Kemp Creek water system: reconstruction of an intake on Kemp Creek; development of the ground water springs; improvements to the Kaslo River system; well drilling; and a Kootenay Lake intake. Council decided to pursue the reconstruction of an intake on Kemp Creek, and asked both TRUE and Urban Systems to submit a proposal within 48 hours. Council engaged Urban Systems, based mainly on the level of expertise of the team's hydrologist.

At the meeting on June 30, HealthLink BC operators told council that they were all installed in 1980 and 1981 and "I hope they're not any one in the present intake is located, so the intake will have to be moved upstream in the next while. He was looking forward to discussing this with the Urban Systems team the next day."

The upgrades to this facility included a combination of replacement, refurbishment, and the addition of new equipment at the spillway and low level control gate. These upgrades will enhance BC Hydro's ability to safely manage flood waters at Duncan Dam and will help to accurately and consistently maintain the operation of the Duncan Dam Water Use Plan.

Spillway gates in BC Hydro dams act as movable water barriers, level regulators, and controllers by releasing the amount of water that can be discharged from the reservoir. Spillway gates are an integral safety feature for any dam. They are designed to ensure water is discharged safely, protecting the dam and the downstream communities.
School bus changes coming to Slocan Valley in September

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Valley school bus riders can expect out-of-catchment bus fees and some changes to bus routes starting in September. About 90 parents came out to a meeting at Mt. Sentinel School on June 26 to hear more about the request of council.

Unfortunately, they were not given the revised routes, as the school district is still working on them. Parents were asked to check www.sd8.bc.ca after August 15.

“All revised routes will be posted on our website, and if people still have questions, they can phone us and we’ll let them know. If there are questions about in-catchment or out-of-catchment, just call us at 250-354-4871,” said Larry Brown, Director of Operations, in an interview after the meeting.

Brown said one of the parents’ biggest concerns was whether there would still be bus service between the valley and Nelson. He assured that there will be, although the routes will probably change. When buses become full, preference is given to in-catchment students. However, he assured, “We will maintain the same number of seats on the run from the junction into Nelson.”

Brown explained that the district was making these changes because the Slocan River was the most promising site to help fish in compensation for impacts caused by the Brilliant Dam Expansion Project. The Slocan Valley community responded by voting for fewer structures and the inclusion of a riverside planting program for a drop in ridership. He said most people won’t notice much change, except out-of-catchment students, who will have to pay a $33 fee.

Students who attend a school that is not in their designated catchment area – with a few exceptions – will pay $500 per year. A ten percent discount is offered if the entire year’s fees are paid by October 15.

There is also an opportunity to ask for the fees to be waived. According to Butler, students with special needs on fee waivers are made by the school principal, and the school covers the fees.

Mt. Sentinel’s Parent Advisory Council agreed to act immediately on many of the deficiencies. The fire alarm system, estimated to cost approximately $13,000, will have to wait – although there may be a temporary solution. Butler said there might be a way to set up automatic dial-out to 9-1-1 with the older devices in the building.

Councillor Main explained that council had left all the responsibility for the building to the Gallery Society, and had only fairly recently realized they had responsibilities as landlord. She said council had been setting aside money in the budget for the upkeep of the building, “but it’s a pretty hard task!”

Butler said the responsibilities of the two parties are fairly well defined in the lease agreement between the Village and the Gallery Society, but he recommends procedural maintenance plans and monthly checks. He said he would be happy to meet with the Parent’s Work crew to help with this.

Mayor Provan also asked about the septic smell in the basement. Butler said he suspects the cast drain pipes have deteriorated, and said a camera could go through to check. However, he said one of his recommendations in the feasibility study is to replace the piping. It was confirmed that the line has been augured and the tank has been pumped out recently.

Mayor Provan still working on them. Parents were asked to check www.sd8.bc.ca after August 15.

“Additional information will be available to the public and the Streamkeepers will provide updates as they proceed.

For more information about the Streamkeepers, call 250-226-7339.

Although the cost of operating the buses has increased significantly, the allocation for student transportation from the ministry has remained relatively unchanged for over 10 years.

In 2009, the board of education adopted a number of recommendations from the Earlier Evasion Services Review. One of the recommendations was to discontinue out-of-catchment bus service.

More information can be found at www.sd8.bc.ca.

Silverton Gallery fire safety issues

by Jan McMurray

Many fire safety issues at the Silverton Gallery will be addressed right away, after council received a safety report for the building at the July 3 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ken Butler, who is doing a conservation feasibility study for the gallery building, provided the safety report, and indicated that most of these had been on the annual fire inspection reports for years. “Some of them are minor and several are fairly immediate,” he said. He stressed the importance of dealing with them, especially because the 95-year-old building is “the most used building for public functions in the whole area.”

Council agreed to act immediately on many of the deficiencies. The smoke detector in the kitchen, and the lightbulbs on exit and emergency fixtures will be replaced, and panic hardware and door coverings will be installed. The fire escape stairs will be repaired, as well. This will cost approximately $2,000.

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New service helps people to understand their medications
by Marilyn Boxell
A new Medication Review Service is being offered through People’s Pharmacy in Nakusp.
At the recently held Nakusp and area Seniors’ Resource Fair, Nakusp pharmacist Rob Smallwood explained the details of the program to an attentive audience.

The service is open to patients who are on five medications taken within the last six months and who wish to increase their knowledge and understanding of the medicine they are taking and possible options that might also be available to them.

“This is an exciting and beneficial health related service being offered, especially in the case of those experiencing a complex medication regimen,” Smallwood told his audience. “Bring in all your medicines and supplements, and each will be reviewed privately during the 20-30 minute assessment [by appointment]. Each medication will be explained as to what it is intended to do.”

Smallwood urged those planning to take advantage of the new service to not be within 50 kilometers of the Village of Nakusp and to not attend public areas where the male was subsequently released from custody on a Recognizance with compliance conditions. The Recognizance requires the male to live at the Nakusp RCMP detachment.

Man arrested for indecent exposure on Nakusp public beach
A 43-year-old male of no fixed address was arrested for indecent exposure at the public beach in Nakusp in the evening of Saturday, July 7.
At approximately 6:30 pm Saturday night, Nakusp RCMP received multiple reports of an adult male exposing himself at the public beach. When police arrived at the beach, the man was lying naked on the floating dock. Witnesses reported that he had been naked for approximately 20 minutes, and had been doing exercises, gyrating his hips while facing the beach, as well as other lewd acts. At the time, there were several people, including children, on the beach and in the area.
The man was lodged overnight at the Nakusp RCMP detachment. The next day, a bail hearing was conducted via telephone with a Justice of the Peace and the male was subsequently released on bail.

High Arrow Lakes Reservoir levels cause concerns
High water levels on the Arrow Lakes Reservoir have caused two Ministry of Forest bridges in Fauquier to wash out, and the Arrow Park cable ferry is operating on a “day-to-day-basis.”
A notice about the Arrow Park ferry is posted on the drive-in website that states: “Closure can be expected with an additional one foot of rise [over full pool].”
Dave Holm of Western Pacific Marine said they were watching the situation constantly. “It’s not just the high water levels, it’s also the large amounts of debris that can impact the ferries,” he said. “There was virtually an island going by Needles yesterday. Thank goodness there are no high winds, but there is a lot of erosion — there are chunks of soil and trees floating down the lake.”
He explained that there was more concern about the Arrow Park ferry than the Needles ferry cable, mostly because of the lower grade on the west side of the lake. “The grade is steeper on the east side of the lake, so the water doesn’t get as high on the Fauquier side,” he said.
The two washed-out bridges, over Tate Creek and Octopus Creek in the Applewood Road area of Fauquier, have made two properties accessible only by boat. Terry Warren, Emergency Coordinator for the area, said they are in daily contact with the affected residents.

Operations Update, announcing that water levels in the Arrow Lakes Reservoir were expected to reach up to two feet above full pool.
“Inflows from Kootenay River remain higher than expected; as a result, BC Hydro is continuing to limit discharge from Hugh Keeneley discharge to minimize downstream flood damage,” states Walker-Larsen in the July 4 update.

Nakusp student Rachel Wiebe awarded $28,000 scholarship to attend TWU
Nakusp Secondary School graduate Rachel Wiebe, daughter of Daniel and Sandra Wiebe, has been awarded the President’s Scholarship to attend Trinity Western University for the fall 2012 semester. This prestigious $28,000 scholarship is awarded annually to the top academic students of the incoming first-year class. Rachel plans to pursue a pre-pharmacy degree.
Wiebe was graduated this June from NSS, where she played on the senior volleyball, basketball, soccer, and golf teams. She was grad president for both student council and yearbook.
She will be welcomed to campus on September 1 for TWU’s O-Week. This signature orientation program is designed to welcome new students to the campus learning environment, introduce them to the local area, and connect them with other first-year students who come from around the world to study at TWU.
Trinity Western University is Canada’s premier Christian university of the arts, sciences, and professions. Recognized for quality, TWU is consistently ranked among the top two universities in Canada for Educational Experience by the National Survey of Student Engagement; holds three Canada Research Chairs; wins National Championships in CIS sports; and emphasizes experiential education to prepare graduates to make a global impact.
TWU offers 42 bachelor’s degrees, 16 graduate degrees, and adult degree-completion programs.
A vibrant community committed to educating the whole person, TWU has been developing leaders of character and competence for 50 years.

Nakusp Secondary School graduate Rachel Wiebe has been awarded a prestigious $28,000 scholarship to attend Trinity Western University to pursue a pre-pharmacy degree.
Pied Pumkin returns to the Vallican Whole, July 19, 2012

submitted

Kick off your shoes and hold onto your hat. Beloved BC folk trio Pied Pumkin is back for a brief reunion tour this July, including a concert Thursday, July 19 at the Vallican Whole. The doors open at 7:30 with the show starting at 8 pm.

Rick Scott (dulcimer), Joe Mock (guitar and piano) and Shari Ulrich (violin, piano, flute, dulcimer, guitar) are infamous for their fearless arrangements, full of harmonies and theatrical hijinks. Pied Pumkin pioneered rogue folk in BC and served as a soundtrack for the ‘70s. They have toured far and wide and sold over 30,000 LPs from the stage. The group has long been a beloved fixture of the BC and Canadian folk music scene. They first performed at the Vallican Whole when it was still just a hole – helping to raise funds to put a roof on the building. Since then, they’ve managed to return to the Whole whenever they re-unite.

Why? Because it’s the perfect place to hear the Pumkin in their natural environment. Several of their songs are sourced in the Kootenays, such as ‘Kootenay Bark’ and ‘Orville goes to the Country.’


Pied Pumkin is reuniting this July for an all-too-brief three-week tour. Tour details and more information are available at www.piedpumkin.com. Advance tickets for the July 19th show are available at Jennie’s Gardens Book Store in Winlaw or online at www.VallicanWhole.com.

You can also get directions to the Vallican Whole from the website or follow the signs which will guide you through the Slocan Valley to this amazing location, or call 250-226-7957 and someone will get back to you.

Summertime fun for kids

submitted

This July promises to be a great opportunity for kids to experience the valley at its finest. Slocan Valley Recreation is offering a wide range of programs to make sure they have a great experience with excellent instructors.

If they’re into skateboarding and ready to take their skills to a new level, Skateboard Camp offers a chance to improve their ride. There will be road trips to other skate parks, barbecues, and swag like you wouldn’t believe! A crew of local skaters and Shandy Campos of BC Action Adventures will be on hand to oversee all the fun. The program is timed so riders can make it out to the valley at its finest. Slocan Valley Recreation is offering a wide range of programs to make sure they have a great experience with excellent instructors.

Students would like to thank the community for all your support and help funding our Victoria-Vancouver trip – 2012 –

WANTED TO BUY:
CEDAR AND PINE POLES

John Shantz
250-308-7941 (cell)

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.
250-547-9296

The Lucerne Grade 5/6/7 Students would like to thank the community for all your support and help funding our Victoria-Vancouver trip – 2012 –

Our raffle winners were:

1st Nikta Boroumand • Canoe
2nd Eva Shandro • Gardening
3rd Taeko Miwa • Dinner at Rory’s

On June 7, one of the BC Used Oil Management Association summer ambassadors, Emily Louie, visited the Slocan Park Repair Recycling Collection Facility to promote the recycling of used oil and antifreeze. The goal of the program is to generate public awareness to keep these hazardous materials out of our drinking water and landfills.

On April 25, our class flew out of Nelson and Castlegar via the from 10:30 am to 5 pm daily from Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20.

Back by popular demand, Bugs Birds and Bees – Artist’s Summer Camp (July 16-20) brings kids together with local artists and movement instructors for an experience that will inspire and entertain.

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Lucerne School Vancouver/Victoria trip

by Ginger Weiss Down, grade 6

On April 25, our class flew out of Kelowna and landed in Victoria. It was what you would call a curricular trip. We spent a lot of time learning.

We learned that the legislative building was completed in 1897, the Chinese scavenger hunt in the front yard. We went to Science World, we saw an exhibit about First Nations peoples. We also went to Granville Island, where we had a tour and watched a session. While there, we did a scavenger hunt in the front yard. We went to Science World, we saw an exhibit about First Nations peoples. We also went to Granville Island, where we had a tour and watched a session. While there, we did a scavenger hunt in the front yard. We went to Science World, we saw an exhibit about First Nations peoples.
Whitney Shkuratoff and Kylie Gardner, Nakusp ambassadors, served the Canada Day cake.

Natasha Miles presented this year’s Youth Award to Sadye Butler, at the Silverton July 1 celebrations.

The Dick Hambly Bocce Pits dedication ceremony took place at Silverton’s Canada Day celebrations.

Avast, there matey! Penelope Stuart affects pirate garb for the Silverton July 1 parade.

The Nakusp Rotary Club provided burgers for the Nakusp July 1 celebrations.

The Koots’ #1 all-ages music festival!

Everyone Orchestra
Ivan Neville’s Dumpsterpunk
The Barr Brothers
The Cave Singers

Gaudi
Youssoupha Sidibe
Gabriel Palatchi Band

savethehotsprings.org • St Leon Hot Springs Society Box 202, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
Early Childhood Educator Natalie Lucas, 10 of her students and their families visited the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State last week. They toured the dam, visited the Colville Tribal Museum and attended the Nespelem Powwow. The trip was a culmination of over two years’ study of salmon, dams and their relationship by Lucas’ classes at Wee Ones Early Care and Learning Centre in South Slocan and the Valhalla Children’s Centre in Slocan City.

The project, Salmon Speaks, includes a website, www.salmonspeaks.ca, informative student-designed placemats at the Harold Street Cafe and Fomi’s Bakery and other class-developed teaching materials, and presentations in the community.

Lucas and her students began the project after Lucas told the class a story about the dams and the salmon. “I told them how the salmon goes up the river and all these creatures count on the salmon for food, to fertilize the forest floor, to make the river banks strong,” Lucas said. “Then take salmon away and bear leaves, the trees are hungry and then they fall over.”

When Lucas first told this story, she said, one boy “jumped out of circle. That’s not fair, Natalie’, he said. ‘We’ve got to help those fish come back home.’” The class asked Natalie to write a letter. Since then, the subject of salmon has integrated into the children’s play, conversations, stories and block structures.

Lucas planned the trip to the Grand Coulee Dam, which is the largest electric power-producing facility in the US, because “the fact that the salmon are not able to go up the river is first because of this dam,” she said. The classes raised money for the trip selling cookies, holding a family carnival and accepting donations.

Lucas hopes her students will gain a deeper understanding of “all of the issues” around dams and their impact. “There are benefits to the dam,” Lucas said. “And a people lost their way of life. And they don’t have cheap electricity because of it.”

Spears was educated at the University of British Columbia, the Vancouver School of Art and the University of Copenhagen. She has lived in Denmark since 1962. She has held over 75 solo exhibitions in Slocan City.

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Changes coming to Catholic parishes in Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys

submitted

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nelson, Bishop John Corriveau, has announced a change in the structuring of the Catholic parishes in the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys. Up to now, Nakusp has had its own pastor who also served the churches in Fauquier, New Denver and Slocan City. Under the new arrangement, effective in August, the churches in Nakusp and Fauquier will be grouped together or ‘clustered’ with the church in Revelstoke, and the churches in New Denver and Slocan will be clustered with Castlegar.

For the last three years, Father David John has served the Nakusp parish with its three outstations. He is being transferred to Castlegar, so will be still be seen around New Denver and Slocan. A new priest has been appointed to look after the churches in New Denver and Slocan. A new priest has been appointed to look after the churches in Revelstoke, Nakusp and Fauquier: Father Aaron di Dios from the Philippines.

Father David said that he was very sorry to be leaving the Nakusp and Fauquier area. “My hope had been to spend at least six years in Nakusp. I feel that I have made lots of contacts and I am really sorry that I won’t have a chance to develop these friendships further.”

Because of problems with the church house in Nakusp, Father David has had to leave for the last two and a half years at the Arrow Lakes Ready Mix plant on the edge of Nakusp. “I think I know more people through the concrete plant than I do through the church!” he said.

“I really feel that I have met a cross section of the Nakusp community not just those who turn up at church and I am very grateful for this. Iasque and Carla Vieira, who own the old garage and have been very good to me and have let me play with some really big toys! I have always dreamed of driving a big class one truck and over the past three years this has become a reality, so for this and for many other reasons I will have fond memories of my time in Nakusp.”

Father David went on to explain that Nakusp has had a history of Catholic priests coming and going very quickly, and for this reason alone he had hoped to be able to provide some stability for the parish.

He explained that he is being moved because the diocese has fewer priests this year than last year, and the new arrangement allows for the area between Revelstoke and Castlegar to be served by two priests rather than three. He also explained that the local bishop wanted to set up an arrangement for this area that was feasible both financially and in terms of the available priests.

Father David was quick to say that he hopes the people of New Denver and Slocan will see him as often as they have done over the last three years. “The area I will be covering stretches from Hills in the north to Genelle to the south of Castlegar. This makes a corridor some 130 kilometres long. On the weekend, I will then stay over in Slocan so I can start the week in the New Denver, Slocan and Winlaw area.”

He said it has been difficult to meet people in the Winlaw and Slocan Park end of the valley while based in Nakusp, so now he hopes this might be possible.

Kaslo Folk Festival a success, despite the weather

submitted

The second annual Kaslo Folk Music Festival was a success, despite the weather. This year saw some amazing performances by a wide range of acts on the Water Street stage. Randy Morse was the MC for the weekend and his humour and charisma on stage was a great addition to the weekend.

Friday night kicked off with Alex Vissia, who has a voice that catches your attention the moment you hear it, and she had everyone up and moving. She was followed by Dawn McLenan aka Harp Pixie, who has an angelic voice that makes you stop in your tracks and pay attention. Her talent is so great that the rain was forgotten as she mesmerized the crowd. Next up was Ron McKillop and friends, and another great performance from Alex Vissia. Alex Vissia followed by Buckley's Choice from Vancouver, who wowed the crowd with his talent on the electric ukulele and original pub patrons was packed all day, as it was the perfect spot to sit and watch the stage, look over the lake, and enjoy a bite to eat and a beverage. Out on Water Street, hay bales under a tent kept families dry and provided fun for the kids.

Saturday evening, Daniel Husscroft, a Creston native now based out of Vancouver, played in the pub from 8 till midnight. Sunday started off with Ted Fitzgerald playing to the crowd, and yes more rain. What really made the weather take a rest was the stage, the sun decided to shine...it appeared as though Kaslo then held its first ever Beard and Mustache contest with some 20 winners.

Looking forward to a bigger and better festival next year – let’s hope the weather cooperates!

Hardcover book includes photo by Kaslo photographer

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo photographer Doug Pyper was recently honoured to have one of his photographs included in a hardcover photography book published by the International Guild of Visual Peacemakers (IGVP). Only 30 images were chosen from multiple submissions of over 150 international humanitarian photographers.

The book is entitled Human Connections: Portraits of our shared humanity. In the introduction, the IGVP president states: “This book represents a collaborative effort from some of the photographers I admire most – Visual Peacemakers. These are photographers who remain sensitive to what is unjust and broken in this world. They do not stop at wishing they could make a difference; they pick up their cameras and take action. Through their lens, they show us images that fuel mistrust and misunderstanding, these Visual Peacemakers seek to illuminate beauty and hope through visual media that speaks of our common humanity.”

Pyper’s photo was taken while on assignment in Ecuador two years ago, and is of an indigenous Quechua woman preparing food with her infant by her side. “For me, motherhood is the spiritual force that binds all humanity. Our societies and cultures may differ throughout the world, but the joys of being a mother and child is constant and unchangeable,” states Pyper in the text accompanying the photograph in the book.

Pyper is a member of the IGVP and very much believes in the guild’s mission to break down stereotypes by displaying the beauty of cultures around the world. “In our frightening world today, humans must focus on our similarities, not our differences. Unfortunately, when reading or watching the daily news we often get the opposite message,” he said. The book can be ordered online at http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detailed/3169540
Heavy rainfall causes $2 million worth of damage to West Kootenay roads

By Jan McMurray

By all accounts it was an extremely wet month of June in the Kootenays. The 227.7 mm of rain recorded at the Castlegar Airport is nearly double the previous greatest amount of rain during the month of June and nearly 350 percent of the normal June rainfall of 65.7 mm. It also now stands as the greatest amount of precipitation recorded during any one month since local records began in 1966.

The stations which received the greatest amounts of rain were the Slocan Valley, Castlegar, Nelson, Kootenay and Kaslo has experienced several shoulder failures right across the area.

Road was closed to tourist traffic in Kaslo caused the closure of the road at Koocanusa Service Road in South Fork near Kaslo caused the closure of the road at the bridge. Voluntary evacuation was recommended to four local residences by RCMP on July 1. Two bridges in the Fauquier area have washed out, leaving two households with boat access only.

Jeffreys describes her show as “an ongoing engagement with Sandoz’s strange and beautiful worlds of weathered wood, rust, and paint. A kind of accidental forensics has been the result, an archaeology of what is becoming, not what was.”

The Hidden Garden Gallery, 803 Kildare Street, New Denver, is open 10 am-3 pm Monday through Saturday.

The 16th annual Summit Lake Walk/Run for Fun on July 8, hosted by Three Islands Resort, had 109 participants and raised $3,000 for the Arrow Lakes Hospital. Two 7-year-old girls liked the entire 10K trail. Three Islands Resort extends huge thanks to the Nakusp and Area Trails Society volunteers, who did an outstanding job restoring the trail on the back side of Summit Lake.

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The Hidden Garden Gallery, 803 Kildare Street, New Denver, is open 10 am-3 pm Monday through Saturday.
Redfish School of Change wraps up successful semester in Slocan Valley

by Art Joyce

If you want to create change, start with the young. It’s a principle not lost on Nadine Raymond, Executive Director of the Redfish School of Change and a New Denver resident. Recently, the community hosted the school’s third annual graduate class, consisting of students pursuing them in a hands-on, real-world experience of the West Kootenay environment. This was the first year Redfish had its students spend their entire six-week summer semester in New Denver. Developing the structure for Redfish and the first program was launched in 2009. Students get credit for three environmental studies courses, 85% of academic and experiential learning through what is known as a field school. “It’s technically a one-week class, rather than a practicum or co-op,” she says.

This year, the program started at Little Slocan Lodge with introductions to the courses and the local community. The Redfish students then teach consensus as a means for decision-making. “We establish a process of being able to give an answer,” says Raynolds. The second week got the students out on Slocan Lake, with the generous support of locals who supplied canoes. Each student is required to camp out on their own for 24 hours.

For the third week, the students came to New Denver. They were introduced to local activists on a panel entitled It Takes All Kinds. The panel included Dan Woywod, Director of Direct and Strategic Communications at the Pembina Institute; journalist and poet Art Joyce; and Lorna Visser, principal of Carmanah Strategies. They then worked with the Lake Stewardship Stewardship Society (SLSS) and seven of Gary Parkstrom’s Redfish School of Change students teamed up with SLSS to conduct the school’s third annual Imagine! Project, SLSS will conduct formal surveys of area residents’ views of area residents. These initial findings are of use as the SLSS moves forward with their excellent work.”

The report offers suggestions about how to refine the survey and some ideas about how to use innovative survey techniques to reach audiences that might not normally be represented in a Lake Management Plan. “This partnership was such a special opportunity for Redfish students. “This partnership was incredible.”

Redfish students analyzed data collected during the interviews and will deliver a detailed report to the Lake Stewardship Society later this month. An excerpt from one group’s report points to some general themes observed in the interview process:

Interviewees casually mentioned other provincial lakes, such as Shuswap, Salmon Arm and the Okanagan in comparison to Slocan Lake. These other provincial lakes served as illustrations of what the respondents did not want to happen on Slocan Lake. The most common response from the question regarding a future vision for the lake was that people wanted the lake to stay the same. However, when prompted to expand on their answer, respondents expressed a spectrum of desires, from strict protection to sustainable development… The Imagine! Slocan Lake project represents a unique and tangible way to involve the community in the early stages of the [lake management plan]. We hope our findings are of use as the SLSS moves forward with their excellent work.”

The culmination of the six-week program took them to Kokanee Glacier. Through the course of the program each student developed a creative writing piece on nature. Sitting round the fireside high in the alpine was the ideal setting to share these works. “Most of them had never been in a setting like that and we had really amazing weather. To go into the alpine and see the headwaters of all these places we’d been studying was incredible.”

One of the strongest elements of Redfish is its highly interactive nature. This isn’t some remote classroom with no connection to the real world. “One of our taglines is that we’re living and learning together,” explains Raynolds. “They have a real relationship with their instructors; you’re not just a number in a lecture hall full of 300 students. There’s 18 students to three instructors, and we’re actually living together during the program.”

At a time when so much of the news is negative, it’s deeply inspiring to see such articulate, intelligent and dedicated young people with the life goal of making a positive difference in the world.

Redfish received funding this year from the CBT. For more information visit schoolofchange.ca.
BREWING

Carson, Royl Canadian Legion Br. 20, Stella Jones, and True North. Although I was unable to raise the $5,200 necessary to participate in the official ride, I thank you for the $775 that your donations totalled. To honour your donations I completed my own ride that covered the 250 km. In two days that the official ride covered. Thank you so much for your support and donations.

Thank you for all the amazing volunteers who helped out during the New Denver 120th July 1st Celebrations. Special thanks to the members of the public who came out to enjoy the festivities, despite the weather.

Sincerely,

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce

NEW DENVER FRIDAY MARKETS

happens in downtown New Denver every Friday, June through September. It starts at 2 pm. The event is family friendly and supports local artisans and vendors.

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Jenett and Bradley, What’s in Store

SALMON MARSHALL CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Marion Marshall will be held July 14 at 1 pm at the Burton Community Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Minto House at the Arrow Lakes Hospital.

WINLAW’S UNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

July 29, a benefit for North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Music/Drinks/Art. AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN.

GALLERY: PERSPECTIVES by Tumioko Kobuko and Bouke Ezlinga, July 16-21, reception Wednesday, July 18, 7-9 pm, music and theatre by Gerard Avila and Verónica Dahi. SANDON ABSTRACTS photographic exhibit by Sarah Jeffreys, July 23-28, reception Friday, July 27, 7-9 pm, music by Jeremy Down.

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ROYALTY

July 11, 2012.

April 11, 2012 is the date of the Arts By The Lake festival, sponsored by the SLG and the Slocan Lake Gallery Society. Come see the variety of events happening on the Riverfront.

**THE VALLEY VOICE**

July 11, 2012

** caller: Keep your boat: popsicle sticks, glue guns, strong materials to build on July 23-29, 2-6 pm, “Dream Paintings,” with readings on Thursday, July 12, 6 pm and Governor General Award winning Than a Wolf, etc.

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**FOR RENT**

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The Valley Voice July 11, 2012

OBITUARIES

Philip Albert Francis Gorin 1948 - 2012

Much loved father, grandfather, brother, uncle and cousin, Philip Gorin passes away on June 28, 2012 at the age of 64 after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his son (Robert) and grandson Joshua of Smith Falls, Ont., sister Carol Barclay (John) of Slocan, BC, nieces and nephews: Jo-Anne Barclay (Ray) of New Denver, BC, John Barclay (Ken) of Bethany, Missouri, Tamara, Christopher (Einko) and Brandon Gorin of Vancouver, BC and their families. Aunt: Jean Lemesue and Winnie Smith of Ontario, cousins: Dennis, Donald, David Lemesue, Bev Poirier, Norm, Shirley, Linda, Michael Moore, Peter, Cynthia McKinney, Ron and Bev Sims. Phil was predeceased by his son Brian, his parents Eric and Phyllis and his brother Russell. Philip was born in Montreal, Quebec on February 11, 1948. During his lifetime Philip worked in the printing trade and in Vancouver he worked as a typewriter mechanic and then grounds keeper for the Jericho Tennis Club. He went on to earn his small engine mechanics licence and became self-employed while at the same time working for private small engine repair shops. In addition, he was a general handyman for some time and also worked as a mechanic on tour boats on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa. Upon earning his counselling certificate, he worked near Kenora, Ontario as a youth counselor at the White Dog Reservation. Also, after moving into Kenora, Phil worked to a counselling ministry with his church. He moved to Slocan in 2005 and he kept himself busy with bookkeeping, small engine repairs and as a Volunteer Firefighter. He joined the Legion and was very helpful with fundraising events for the community. He was an avid hockey player and fan, enjoyed scuba diving, motorcycles and music (having played guitar and harmonica with the praise team at his church, a senior’s home and at other events). He recently built himself a “boat” which he named “Beachcomber” (was becoming a legend!). His joy of being on the water was very evident to all. The family wishes to thank the nurses and doctors at KLDH and all the staff at the New Denver Pavilion for their care of Philip. Cremation has taken place and arrangements are under the care of Thompson Funeral Services Ltd. A memorial gathering will be held at the Slocan Legion Hall on Saturday, July 7th from 1-3pm. In lieu of flowers one may donate to the Cancer Society, Box 292 Nelson BC V1L 5P9. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends but we know that he is safe in the arms of his Lord and Savious Jesus Christ. Online condolences may be expressed at www.thompsonfs.ca

GEORGE J. RUSSELL

BETTY EALES passed away at age 103 in Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK at 7:45 pm GMT 6 July 2012.

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The Valley Voice July 11, 2012

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Next Valley Voice Deadline: July 20, 2012
First-ever Tools and Treasures Sale set for July 21 at Winlaw Hall

submitted

Tables of treasures and a tent full of tools. What could be more fun on a Saturday? And all on sale for a great cause!

On July 21 at Winlaw Hall, the Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas hold their first big Tools and Treasures Sale – a deluxe rummage sale of items for home and workshop.

Linda Grabler, the lead organizer, used to run the famed Carlotta’s store in Winlaw, so you can bet this sale will be an extravaganza for the eye and a great deal for the wallet. “We have wonderful stuff from as far away as Fruitvale and we want it to move,” she said. “We want to raise significant funds for African grandmothers and the children in their care who have been orphaned by AIDS.”

Besides the sale items, there are other attractions. The Winlaw Hall Society will run a concession with their usual scrumptious family fare. Working hard on the tools theme, the Grassroots Grammas have concocted the first ever Rusty Nail Raffle. Guess correctly, and you could haul home duct tape, WD-40, or a 45-pound box of three-inch nails.

All rummage sale funds go to the national grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, a part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Local groups raise money and awareness in support of grandmothers in Africa who are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in their communities.

The Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas (grandmothers and granddads) have raised close to $13.5 million for African grandmothers through the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Resources from the campaign are invested directly with grassroots organizations that provide grandmothers and the children in their care with food, educational supplies, uniforms and school fees, medical care, HIV counselling and testing, adequate housing and bedding, counselling and support groups, home visits, and much more. There are more than 240 grandmothers to Grandmothers groups in Canada, including the Slocan Valley, Kaslo and Nelson.

The Tools and Treasures Sale runs from 9 am to 3 pm. No early birds please. For more information, call Linda Grabler at 226-7304.

Kootenay Lake flooding update

by Jan McMurray

Kootenay Lake reached 1753.8 feet on July 3 – the highest it’s been since 1974, when it reached 1754.24 feet. Since July 3, it has been dropping steadily and was at 1753.4 feet on July 6.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack reported on July 6 that all six marinas and boat dock areas in Area D were reported on July 6 that all six marinas and boat dock areas in Area D were steady and was at 1753.4 feet on July 3 – the highest it's been since 1974. Since July 3, it has been dropping steadily and was at 1753.4 feet on July 6.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack said the motion that he introduced and that passed at the June 21 RDCK meeting – to ask the premier to see if something could be done about discharges at Libby Dam to help stop flooding on Kootenay Lake and River – did bring some results. After the meeting, RDCK Chair John Kettle contacted MLA Bill Bennett, who worked with a number of ministers and the premier. This resulted in a letter from BC Hydro to the US entities that operate Libby Dam. BC Hydro asked them to take all reasonable measures to limit flood control on both sides of the border.

BC Hydro and the US Army Corps of Engineers arranged to hold back water in the Koocanusa Reservoir behind Libby Dam, allowing the reservoir to reach two feet above full pool if necessary. There has also been regular conference calls between Canadian local government reps, BC Hydro and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Galena Trail, the trail between Rosebery and Three Forks, has been open its entire length since mid-June. On May 10, a portion of the trail was closed due to a washout within the vicinity of Capella Creek bridge. The repair work involved re-routing the trail around the affected area. The RDCK commission that maintains the trail co-ordinated the repair work, which was done by two members of last summer’s trail crew.
North Kootenay Lake Food Cupboard needs assistance
submitted
The North Kootenay Lake Food Cupboard is a non-barrier emergency food program that provides healthy food to anyone in need with no questions asked. We provide services for clients living in the North Kootenay Lake region and do not require names, identification or proof of income. We chose the Food Cupboard model, also known as a justice based model, to hopefully assist those in difficult situations to not feel stigmatized or shamed because they are in need of assistance. The NKL Food Cupboard is one of nine programs offered through the Kaslo Food Hub. The Food Cupboard meets the immediate need of food security while the Food Hub’s other programs are all focused on the long-term sustainability of food security for North Kootenay Lake. Because the Food Hub offers other programs, it does not qualify as an official food bank and depends entirely on community donations.

“When we first opened the doors to the Food Cupboard, we averaged 80 visits a month,” said Aimee Watson, program coordinator. “In the past year, with increasing costs of food, housing and decreasing employment, we have seen our monthly visits jump to 180. Our funding is 90 percent dependent on community donations and profits generated through the Kaslo Bulk Buying Club. These funds provide $1000 a month to meet the demand of 180 visits, about $5 a visit; not very much. We are seeking community support to increase our monthly budget so we do not have to send people away with less than what they need to get through the tough times.”

The Food Hub is seeking donations of non-perishables, perishables and funds. Bins for donations can be found at the Kaslo Front Street Market, Blue Belle Bistro and the Kaslo Food Hub. Cash donations can be dropped off at the Kaslo Food Hub on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm or the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society office Mondays to Thursdays 9-12 and 1-4. Donations (one-time or monthly) can also be made through the website www.nklcss.org - click on the blue ‘Donate Now’ button. Please indicate it is for the Food Cupboard. Tax receipts are issued for all donations over $10.

Contact Aimee Watson for further information: 250-353-7120 or aimeewatson@nklcss.org.

“With the local safety net unravelling, whether or not you eat may depend on whether or not you live in a generous community.”
(Canadian Grocer, 1997)

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In the June 27 issue, artist Stephen Shellenberger’s name appears as Schellenberger and Schellenberg. The correct spelling is Shellenberger.

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