Kaslo’s emergency department slashed – community up in arms

by Jan McMurray

Just a few hours after the Interior Health Authority announced the closure of Kaslo’s 24/7 emergency service, the people of Kaslo packed the Lighthouse Theatre for a public meeting with IHA officials.

On September 12, Interior Health announced that as of November 2, the emergency department at the Victorian Community Health Centre will be open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. It will not be open nights, weekends or statutory holidays.

Dr. Alan Stewart, Medical Director for Community Integrated Health Services at IH, explained why this decision was made. “Your physicians have told us very clearly that they can no longer sustain the after hours and weekend shifts that they have been doing for the past number of years and they are burning out.”

Stewart said that despite vigorous recruitment efforts, IH has not been able to attract any doctors to fill the vacancies at the centre, nor enough nurses to staff a 24/7 emergency department.

Dr. Frouws and Dr. Thibedeau were also there to explain their position to the community. Dr. Frouws has submitted her resignation, and although she said the on-call shifts were not the only reason, they were a big factor in her decision to leave.

Frouws said that IH has put more than $5,000 into advertising to try to recruit doctors with no luck. “Kaslo was privileged to have Dr. Olson here providing 24/7 care for 30 years, but the younger doctors don’t want that lifestyle. They are not willing to be on call.” She said that now that the emergency department hours have been reduced and on-call shifts eliminated, there is one physician willing to come to Kaslo to start work soon, and another willing to come to replace her.

Because doctors will come to work in Kaslo with the reduced emergency service, Interior Health believes that the change brings more stability to the community’s health care as a whole. With the change in service, Dr. Stewart said IH understands the importance of a good transportation system. He said IH and the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) were working together to support health care services in the community. He said the HART team (High Acuity Response Team) can be dispatched anywhere in the Kootenay Boundary and works with BCAS to get patients where they need to go.

Also, IH and BC Ambulance Service have been in discussion for months about a way to solve the problem of instability in the ambulance service due to the fact that paramedics do not make a living wage in rural areas. An agreement between IH and BCAS is imminent, he said, where IH will provide employment for Advanced Care Attendants, who will work both in the health centre’s residential care facility and the ambulance. These will be full-time jobs, but they won’t come online until next year at the earliest.

The people of Kaslo and area were not impressed with the “new model” at their health care centre and outraged that they were not consulted.

“People don’t have heart attacks and strokes from 9 to 5. We feel our health care is in jeopardy with this new model,” said one woman.

Several people had concerns about “downloading” the emergency services onto BCAS when the community only has one ambulance and people are charged to use it. Many people feel the IH funding model is the problem. “Anyone asked to do the on-call hours these doctors are asked to do would be burned out,” said resident Tony Frary. “If doctors are refusing to come, that shows there is something wrong with the model. There is not enough funding. We expect and deserve the level of care that we should have. More money needs to get into the services.”

Community members suggested that doctors be given incentives to practice in rural areas, but were told that these are already in place. “Physicians are giving up a sizeable amount of incentive money to avoid having to be on call. We’re hearing that it’s not the income – it’s the work,” said Dr. Stewart.

Dr. Stewart explained that the Ministry of Health – not IH – determines how many physicians a community can have, based on population. Kaslo has been allocated two physicians. For one year now, the community has had three half-time physicians, so only 1.5 of the two positions allocated have been filled. Dr. Frouws said that even four half-time doctors are not enough to cover the emergency shifts – that six doctors would be needed to make it “do-able.”

The ministry also has a requirement that 96 percent of the population must be within one hour’s drive to an emergency department. It was pointed out to Stewart that there are 1500 people living in Area D, and many of those people live at least one hour away from Kaslo, two hours from Nelson and three hours from Trail. The road is sometimes closed due to avalanches, the telephone system is not reliable, and there is no cell service.

People wondered if the tourist population in Kaslo was taken into account when the ministry allocated two physicians to the community. The idea of a citizens’ advisory committee to work with IH was discussed. Stewart encouraged the formation of a committee that would not focus on after-hours emergency, but that would advise IH how best to meet the community’s broad health care needs. He assured the community that IH would be very interested in collaborating with this group.

Linda Basran of IH said that a “community incentive fund” has been suggested, and she is going to take this back to her superiors. The community would decide what they need to make this change more acceptable to them, and would determine how to spend the money in the fund.

Mayor Lay and Area D Director Andy Shadrack let the crowd know they would be meeting with the head of IH and the Minister of Health and would not let the issue drop.
Essentially, the goal is to create community through a project-based experience, while having a lot of fun, and providing an entertaining and engaging experience for the audience. So, what is the story? It’s a bit of a mash-up... an ambivalent Cinderella, a blood-thirsty Little Red Riding Hood, a Prince Charming with a roving eye, a witch who casts spells on people for razing her garden—they are all among the cockeyed characters found in this fractured fairy tale.

The show intertwines the plots of several of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales and follows them to explore the consequences of the characters’ wishes and quests. The musical is tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family, their interaction with a neighbour witch, and her curse on them. A few lives are lost before the survivors realize that they have to act together in order to get themselves out of this mess. Thus, what began as a lively irreverent fantasy becomes a rich and moving lesson about community responsibility.

The show debuted in San Diego in 1986, and made its way to Broadway by 1987. Winning several 1988 Tony awards including Best Score, Best Book, Best Actress (in a year when Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s Phantom of the Opera dominated), it has remained one of the most popular and poignant musicals of the last several decades.

Kaslo graphic design firm picks up popular tourism map business

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s Design on the Go, a graphic design firm owned by Manon Gagnon and Andy Lecouffe, has just bought Barbara Brown’s tourism map business.

“This is a really good fit for us,” said Manon. “We think the maps are wonderful tools. We understand the importance of tourism for the area economy and want to do our part to promote it through the maps.”

The map business includes the West Kootenay Vacation Guide Map, the Nelson and Area Map, and the Castlegar and Area Map. They are widely distributed throughout the region at participating advertisers’ storefronts and area Visitor Centres.

With over 20 years of relevant experience, Manon and Andy are well positioned to carry on the success of the map business. Manon’s experience is in commercial graphic design and Andy’s is in marketing. Manon started up her own graphic design business in Montreal in 2004, and then formed Design On The Go with Andy one year later. They settled in Kaslo in 2008 after a 10-month North American road trip. They have continued to offer graphic design services through Design on the Go, and have both worked in tourism-related businesses in Kaslo, Sandon, and Castlegar in New Denver.

Community is invited to the...

5th ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL
At Lucerne School, Friday, October 5, 9:30-12:30
Come and celebrate the Fall Bounty and the Lucerne Garden and Greenhouse

Bring your products for display and tasting:
Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables (ribbons for biggest, weirdest, best form)
Jams and Preserves
Breads, Pies and Baking (participant tasting and judging)
Show off: Nature Art, Fall Photos and Farm Animals.

Join in the Activities!
Farm Animal viewing, Harvest Display and judging, Stone Soup Making (from the garden), Salsa making and Salsa dancing, Garden Clean-up, Willow Building and Composting, Apple Pressing, Music and Eating!

Bring all entries for display to the school foods room by 3 pm Thursday, October 4.

Wanted: Volunteers, Farm Animals, Small canning jars, Fruit (especially juicing apples – We will pick!)

Contact: Julia 358-2745 or jgreenlaw@netidea.com

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Saturday, September 22, 2012
Events & Entertainment 1-5 pm
• FREE COFFEE
• FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION ALL DAY
Best Hat Contest - Old or New
Singing, Story Telling, Horse Shoes, Music, Treasure Hunt

Your library...going mobile

submitted

The Nelson Public Library’s outreach service to Slocan Valley residents continues this fall. Our mobile collection will return to Winlaw School from 3 pm to 7 pm the third Thursday of the month from September to November 2012 and January to June 2013. Residents in Area H South can now sign up for Nelson Library memberships at no cost; a portion of your property taxes helps subsidize the cost of library services. Come in to browse the mobile collection, to check out books, DVDs, CDs, or to register for membership. Our knowledgeable librarian will also help you learn to use online library services or order books.

Nelson Public Library items can be placed on hold to be delivered to Winlaw. Let us know that you want delivery by calling the library before 8 pm the Monday evening prior to the third Thursday of the month. Note that items can be returned to Winlaw School during outreach library service hours only. The 24-hour drop box at the Heritage Credit Union in Slocan Park can be used for library returns at any time.

For more information about Nelson Public Library services, call 250-352-6333, or email nelson.library@cas.ca
Springer Creek microhydro project introduced to public

by Jan McMurray

Now three years in the making of a microhydro project on Springer Creek, the Village of Slocan hosted an open house on September 6 to introduce the project to the public.

“We started looking into this in 2009 as a way for the Village to become less dependent on the mill,” said Mayor Madeleine Perriere. “We’ve traditionally relied on the sawmill for the majority of our tax dollars, and we realize that now is the time to look at other ways of generating revenue for the Village.”

Selkirk Power out of Nelson was hired as the lead consultant on the microhydro project. Mike Walsh, engineer and president of Selkirk Power, as well as the biologists who did the environmental studies were at the open house to answer questions.

Walsh explained that the Village will not supply power directly to its residents, but will make application to BC Hydro’s Standing Offer Program. If the application is successful, BC Hydro will purchase the power generated by the Springer Creek project. The idea, then, is that this revenue will go into Village coffers and will lighten the tax burden for residents.

Although no financial information was available at the open house – the Village is still working on that – Walsh said that this small power project (800 kW), with the ability to produce 1,100 MWh of power annually on average, is a good size for a Village the size of Slocan. He said BC Hydro pays a fraction of a penny per kWh to use FortisBC, the Village will have to pay a very small fee to FortisBC to use their transmission lines to relay the power to BC Hydro, said Walsh. He also explained that the power is not actually relayed to BC Hydro, but “contributes to the pot of electrons and reduces the amount of power that has to come up the valley.” He added that the project would not be big enough to provide power to the area in the case of a FortisBC power outage.

If all goes smoothly, the project could be up and running in late spring 2015. The Village is almost ready to submit the Development Plan to government. When the Development Plan is approved, the Village will apply to BC Hydro’s Standing Offer Program, apply for all required permits, and put the construction job out to tender.

Since 2009, Selkirk Power has been monitoring creek flows, and has done several engineering and environmental studies for the project. Walsh and the two biologists in attendance at the open house said the studies show no major concerns. Walsh estimates that the project will have to be shut down for two weeks in February once in every ten years due to low flows.

The biggest concern, said Marlene Machmer of Pandion Ecological Research in Nelson, who did the terrestrial habitat studies, is the 750-metre-long section of road that has to be built on a steep incline to access the intake. This section of road consists of four switchbacks. She said that to build this section of road, mature trees will have to be cut and will never be regenerated. “The study recommends an alternate access if possible,” she said. Walsh said they had looked at many different options and reasons for the road and this is the only viable option. There is an old road (Ottawa Road) in the area that would be ideal, but part of it is on private property, and the property owner is not interested in providing access.

The proposed project has four main parts: the intake, the penstock, the powerhouse, and the transmission line. The intake will be located at 725 metre elevation on Springer Creek. It will be a Coanda intake, which filters out debris and silt, making it low-maintenance, and allows fish to pass over it without harm. It diverts the penstock only the amount of water allowed, which is determined by scientific studies.

The penstock spans 825 metres to the powerhouse. Most of it will be buried, but a 125-metre-long section of it, in the very steep area where the road of concern is located, will be above ground. To place this section of penstock, a highline cable system will be used. The upper 350 metres of the penstock will be high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and the remainder will be steel.

The powerhouse will be located on the RV Park property, on the north side of the road, a trail will be built with the penstock buried beneath it. This trail will also lead to the popular canyon trail, so will be a nice addition for campers.

He said the roads may be gated.

From the powerhouse to the highway, a trail will be built with the penstock buried beneath it. This trail will also lead to the popular canyon trail, so will be a nice addition for campers.

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NOTICE TO TRAIL USERS: The Kaslo Sufferfest will be using the following trails for the 100 km Mt Bike race on Sept 29 between 7 am and 10 am: The Galena Trail, K&S Trail, H-Road and Old Sandon Road. There will be approximately 50 racers taking part. The trails continue to be open to the public, however they will be busy and we ask that you take extra caution and consideration. Racers will be moving FAST and we do not want any collisions. Sorry for any inconvenience, and we appreciate your cooperation. The Kaslo Sufferfest Society Janis@kaslosufferfest.com

KASLO SUFFERFEST 2012: Will pass through New Denver on Saturday, Sept 29, between 7:00 am – 9 am, using Hwv 6 from the bridge to the 4 way stop & Hwv 31A to the Galena Trail entrance. Come out and cheer on these incredible athletes as they take part on a 100 km Mt Bike race! Drivers are asked to be cautious and respect marshal’s instructions. THANK YOU for your consideration. Kaslo Sufferfest Society. Janis@kaslosufferfest.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Unless noted otherwise, all activities take place in the Grassy Lot next to the Kaslo Hotel.

Friday, September 28
6 am  Looonie Toonie Race Begins at the Kaslo Legion

Saturday, September 29
7 am  Start of the 100 km Mt Bike from New Denver
8 am – 7 pm  Registration
9:30 am – 10:55 am  Kid’s Races
11 am  Kid’s Awards
1 pm  Start of the 45 km XC bike race
1:10 pm  Start of the 14 km XC bike race
1:45 pm – 6 pm  XC Mt Bikers crossing finish line
3 pm  Awards for 14 km XC Race
6 pm  Awards for 45/100 km XC race at Kaslo Legion

Sunday, September 30
6 am  50 km Trail Run Start
7 am – 9:15 am  Registration
9:00 am  25 km Trail Run Start
10:30 am – 2 pm  Trail Runners crossing finish line
10:00 am  10 km Trail Run Start from True Blue Rec Area
11:00 am  10k / 25k Trail Runs
12:30 – 3:30 pm  Monster DH Mt bikers on course
2 pm  50k Run / Monster / Looonie Toonie Awards

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Kaslo Sufferfest Society

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www.3news.com
Kaslo emergency services

Interior Health wants to reduce emergency services in Kaslo. They propose Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

How do they equate dollars saved to lives lost?

Tom Coombs
Kaslo

Planning provides protection

In response to Ed Nixon’s letter ‘Referendums, not OCPs’, it must be remembered that land use planning came about as a means to control urban sprawl, protect the landscape and provide some structure to an otherwise free for all approach to our built environment.

Like it or not, planning provides our wildlife and natural areas with the only means of protection it has, and provides a mechanism for planning ahead. Without this mechanism, our landscape would be without structure resulting in declining social, economic and environmental standards.

The planning system should indeed be challenged – fought even – but not rejected. The onus is on the land use planners to ensure proper consultation and to take action – it is they who need challenging, not the principle of planning.

Tim Sander
Hills

Hunting Season...

For about 3 km along the Little Slocan Forest Service Road, Passmore access, private land either borders the power line or is bisected by it. There are 10 parcels of occupied property which the flags were said to be in poor condition, which the writer felt would have a profound effect on how the tourists see our province when visiting our area.

I took it upon myself to write a letter to the proper ministry to alert them to what was happening with our flags on the ferry. I was informed to what was happening with the condition of the flags that were flying on the MV Osprey that sails across Kootenay Lake every day of the week. The state of one of the flags was said to be in poor condition, which was really made my day to see the good news that the flags have been replaced.

Osprey flags replaced, August 22

I am a committed volunteer at the Slocan Community Library where I read an article concerning the condition of the flags that were flying on the MV Osprey that sails across Kootenay Lake every day of the week. The state of one of the flags was said to be in poor condition, which the writer felt would have a profound effect on how the tourists see our province when visiting our area.

I took it upon myself to write a letter to the proper ministry to alert them to what was happening with our flags on the ferry. I was informed.

We all wondered why so many flags had been replaced.

Our extended family from across Canada recently descended on Nakusp for a family gathering as their main traffic route.

Alan Brown
Slocan

Keeping commercial traffic off residential streets

Our extended family from across Canada recently descended on Nakusp for a family gathering as their main traffic route.

Alan Brown
Slocan

INVITATION TO JOIN THE SLOCAN VALLEY COMMUNITY BAND

This is an invitation to any of you folks out there reading The Valley Voice to join us for the upcoming season of making wonderful music with the Slocan Valley Community Band.

We are entering our 32nd year and are once again led by our incredible conductor, Gail Elder. He makes it fun to play music and our practices on Thursday evenings are the most entertaining and inspiring:

This is an invitation to any of you.

If you play an instrument or, like me, played years ago and want to start playing again, I seriously encourage you to get in touch with Gail and discuss your situation. We are what is termed a level 3 band. That means the music we choose to play is not real technical or difficult, but still very entertaining and inspiring: Heart and Soul, Fiddler on the Roof, Fiddler on the Roof, A Bach and Soul, Fiddler on the Roof

Tommy Gilles
New Denver
Glacier Creek Road, enquire at the
5,967 hectares (14,750+ acres or 22.5
use all of the JGR designated CRA of
this lack of forward motion by GRL
...
Kaslo council, September 11: Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation proposes connection for Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

The bylaw authorizing the borrowing of $600,000 to construct the new dam on Kemp Creek was read three times. CAO Sawyer reported that the bids had been opened that day – the successful bidder had not been chosen – and the lowest bid was over $30,000, exclusive of any engineering or road building. “So I think $600,000 should be ample,” she said. “We can’t rely on Disaster Financial Assistance or insurance funding, and we need to be sure the maximum is in place.”

Kaslo & Area

The plan is for CBBC to connect all Kaslo municipalities to the Kootenay Boundary Regional Library as the core centre, and to the rest of the CBRC area D. We were at the community level to resolve any issues in providing 24-hour emergency health services. Second, the Village will ask the IHA to work on any closure of Kaslo’s 24-hour emergency health services. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Health, will attend a CBT Workshop on October 4 at JV Humphries School.

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Instore Specials

For the first time in many years, home owners are being acknowledged for their home improvements. The optimism, although very cautiously expressed here in Kaslo, is a welcome change.

The Valley Voice
September 19, 2012

A fire broke out on a cut block on August 9. Preliminary findings are that the fire may have been caused by a hot wiring cable that would have been lowered on a dined up stump (from a snag) at the end of a work day. The contractor, Settle Logging, has said that someone who had been working in the area for some hours, had ceased yarding operations at 2 pm but were on site till after 6 pm. Less than an hour later, a man walking his dog saw smoke on the hill and called in the fire. The Settles the crew stayed up all night fighting the fire; they were spotted the next day by provincial fire teams.

The burnt area was assessed to be 10 hectares in size of which 4 ha had been burned (no logs left), 2 ha standing timber and 4 ha with felled timber. The felled timber did sustain some damage but the bigger logs were salvaged. Nine loads of burnt logs were sold to Board by the Kootenay and the rest to Gold Island Forest Products. Because both the contractor and the management company are still in operation, the cost of fire suppression, the cost of fire prevention, the fire will be borne by the insurance KDCF5 and every other licence has through its fees to the Crown.

Local Employment

At the beginning of 2012, the community forest pledged to do its utmost to harvest our allowable cut, and to do it all exclusively with Kaslo and Area District staff. We are now in the target of harvesting 68,000 cubic metres of timber in 2012. To date this year 35,000 m³ has been harvested and an approximately 12,000 m³ has been permitted, and this fall the Woodlands Manager expects approximately 80,000 m³, representing more than three years of our Allowable Annual Cut, will be made available for tender. For our local workforce, this will mean some stability. They will know what work they will have over the next three years that is sustainable. All KDCF5 harvesting, road building, and most of our trucking is being done by people who live in our communities, shop here and contribute in countless other ways. In addition, for every cubic metre that crosses the weighs scales, $3 is put aside as a dividend to the community, to re-invest in projects for future silviculture costs. And, now, this summer we are setting aside $7/m³ for future road costs.

Water Monitoring

Please plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 7 pm at the Senior Hall in Kaslo. Hydrologist Russell Smith will explain where and when water monitoring stations will be set up to measure the effect of climate change on water flow. An expert on climate change from the Columbia Basin Trust technical team will be there to answer questions.

Committees

Along with some board members, many of our local forestry contractors have been active on the operations committee. This committee is a work in progress, but there is no doubt that all who participate care deeply about how well our forest licence is run, and all have a lot to contribute from their personal stories of knowledge and experience. The timberland values, if you are interested in forest operations close to home, please consider joining. KDCF5 also has a recreation committee and everyone is welcome to join these committees or attend any of our board meetings. Regular meetings take place at the Senior Hall every Wednesday of every month at the Kamloops Memorial Centre in Kaslo.

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

September, 2012

This year many licensees, forest workers and communities in British Columbia are feeling positive about the potential for making a living from forest operations. The optimism, although very cautiously expressed here in Kaslo, is a welcome change.

Other than the fire, the month has been good.

For the silent auction were donated by local artists, craftspeople, businesses and organizations.
New catskiing business proposed for Silverton Creek area

by Jan McMurray

A new catskiing business has been proposed for the Silverton Creek area by Trevor Holsworth, New Denver resident and co-owner of Glacier View Cabins.

Holsworth has submitted an application for tenure on the Crown land for the purpose of constructing and maintaining new trails, from a base up at the end of the road, and is planning to build a snowcat for access areas they would not have used in the past.

Holsworth also explained that catskiing and ski touring are somewhat different and lend themselves to different types of terrain. "Ski tourers tend to want to experience solitude, whereas catskiing feels a little bit like skiing in a ski area. Catskiers tend to ski trees more than ski tourers, and snowmobilers tend to want to go into open bowls."

He said catskiing businesses grapple with liability issues because they open up and maintain roads that the public use. "This is an ongoing issue for catskiing operators," he said.

The application for Crown land tenure is posted online at www.arfd.gov. bc.ca, file number 4405259. Comments are welcome until October 4 and can be made online or by mail to FrontCounter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1.

Silverton equinox event features Eloise Charet's Cambodia trip

by Jan McMurray

In December, CBC Radio-Canada TV will premiere a documentary about the incredible Cambodian experience of New Denver resident Eloise Charet, her sister Anna and their mother, when they rescued 80 orphans from the Khmer Rouge genocide in 1975.

Eloise is back from her amazing trip to Cambodia with the film crew, and will present a slide show about it at the Silverton Gallery’s Community Equinox Event on September 21. The slideshow and potluck dinner take place from 5 to 7 pm, followed by a percussion jam with the 5th Avenue Drummers.

Eloise and Anna spent another two weeks travelling the countryside, looking for ways they could help. They gave away the four quilts that were presented to them by members of the Doukhobor Choir at the Women Celebrating Women event in Silverton in March. They also brought rice, bagged it, and gave it out in a poverty-stricken village.

Eloise has written a book about her 1975 experience, and has an agent who feels a little bit like skiing in a ski area. Catskiing events held with six special guests in a poverty-stricken village.

Eloise has written a book about her 1975 experience, and has an agent who is working on getting it published. The documentary will be in French; Eloise says it will eventually be translated into English as well.

In Cambodia, Eloise Charet finds a deserving family for one of the quilts donated by the Crescent Valley quilting group.
Unity Music Festival 2012

- a celebration of music, dance and art

submitted

“These past two years have shown that the Slocan Valley knows how to put on a beautiful and cookin’ all-ages music festival,” enthused Felicity Gerving, one of the organizers of the Unity Festival in Winlaw, presented by the Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance.

The two-day festival this year had an incredible line-up of acts that appealed to all ages. One of the festival favourites was the festival’s homegrown, community feeling as well as showcasing the talent pool in this area.

New to the festival this year was a plethora of free workshops for all ages. Beat box, African dance, belly dancing, folk dancing, hula hooping, metaphysics and yoga workshops filled the field and tents throughout the day. Many people took advantage and were delighted with the expertise of the instructors. Also an amazing live art gallery was formed on Saturday afternoon featuring artists creating right on the scene. There were weavers and spinners, painters, rock turners, hula hoop makers, sand sculptors and more. The workshop presenters and artists made Saturday a day to remember.

People came from far and wide to attend the Unity Music Festival: the Prairies, the West Coast, the North, and many from the Okanagan area who came last year and brought more friends. The festival was a great opportunity and success for all the businesses in Winlaw and the organizers appreciate the support and enthusiasm they received from them.

There were approximately 500 festival goers, including 90 volunteers. Attendance was down from last year as there was a plethora of events happening in the area that weekend: Nelson’s Market Fest (newly moved to that same weekend), Fat Tire Fest and Kaslo One Fest. Other challenges were that expenses for Unity were higher this year for festival grounds infrastructure and the bands. The Unity Music Festival team would like to give a big shout out to all who made this event a success, including the sponsors, Sleep is for Sissies, the volunteers, and the residents of Winlaw.

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Bryn Stevenson the final show of the season at Studio Connexion
by Art Jones

As Nelson artist Bryn Stevenson can tell you, it’s no mystery why so many artists live in the Kootenays. Our mountainous landscape provides instant and ongoing inspiration. Stevenson will be featured as the final show of the Studio Connexion exhibition season, from September 18 to October 6. The gallery is located at 203 Fifth Ave. NW, Nakusp and is open Tuesday to Saturday 11 am to 4 pm. The opening for Stevenson’s Majestic Mountains will be Tuesday, September 18 from 5 to 8 pm.

Most of the paintings are of the Valhallas, with scenes of the Rockies, and one of two peaks Mt. Burnham and Mt. Odlin in the Monashees. His favourite locations include the Mt. Ggime, Medows, Basin, and Gwaii area. The painting on the poster is of Mt. Assiniboine in Kootenay National Park near Radium Hot Springs. Stevenson’s first photographs and his impressionistic form of realism.

“I work mostly with oils so it’s very challenging to do en plein air. If I get a good hiking trip I can get a lot of photos and drawings. I like to get right up into the peaks. It usually takes me a couple of days to do a painting, so I prefer to have the time.”

Stevenson uses both palette knives and brushes. He is a self-taught artist who has picked up techniques from various artists. His only formal training so far was a brief stint with the Kootenay School of Art in 2003.

His parents are Pamela and Sandy Stevenson, his mother Company in November. A new show will be exhibited in January at Ourlass (also Nelson) featuring a departure from his usual style with some abstract works.

Private viewings at Studio Connexion can be arranged by contacting Anne Beliveau at 250-265-8888.

Mine Tailings! Saturday, September 29, 2012

Hank Hastings, “it’s about having a sense of place, and that is just as important to celebrate when times are bad as when times are good.”

The original cast will perform a Reader’s Theatre presentation of Mine Tailings at 8 pm Saturday, September 29 at the Silvertown Gallery.

The Valley Voice September 19, 2012
Nakusp council, September 10: Ferry construction project provides local jobs

by Jan McMurray

• Mayor Hamling delivered a report from John Harding of Waterbridge Steel, Inc. on the construction of the new ferry in Nakusp. Harding says the site has been set up as a shipyard, and the first pieces of hull are being assembled and the launch grid is almost completed. “We presently have 20 people on the payroll [8 local] and will be gearing up to 25-30 over the next few weeks,” he reported. Hamling added that many local contractors were involved in the site preparation.

• CAO Linda Tynan provided a hot springs financial report for January-August 2012. Although revenues are way down (65 percent) from what was expected, expenses are also way down – 64 percent lower than expected. “We’re managing to keep expenses down and we’re looking for ways to maximize efficiencies,” she said. As at August 31, the hot springs was showing a loss of $59,231. Revenue from admissions only as at August 31, 2012 was $4,000 less than revenue from admissions as at August 31 last year. Numbers this month were looking stronger. Although there has been discussion about revising the admission rates, no revisions have been made yet – the rates are the same as last year.

• Mayor Hamling reported that members of council and the NADB met with Diana Brooks of the Economic Development Division of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. “We look forward to future meetings with her to help us move forward with a direction for Nakusp,” she said. It was indicated that council will meet with Brooks on a monthly basis.

• Council approved the minutes of three August meetings. In the minutes of the special meeting of August 30, it was brought forward from in camera “that the award for the STP (sewer treatment plant) Building Services be awarded to Bergevin Electrical and further, that the services of Delterra Engineering be terminated.”

CAO Tynan clarified that only the general engineering services of Delterra Engineering have been terminated, and engineering services for projects in process (Sewer Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant and Well #2, etc.) are under review. “Deltarra Engineering may or may not continue with one or more of these projects. This is undetermined at this time,” said Tynan.

She explained that the Village has been using Delterra Engineering for all of their engineering requirements over the past number of years. “The Village has terminated the ongoing, general engineering services currently provided by Delterra in order to look at services available by other engineering firms. It is prudent to review pricing and services that the Village is receiving on a regular basis for any professional services provided,” she said.

• The Kuskanax Creek footbridge has been re-designed and will be re-tendered, delaying construction to spring 2013. Because tenders received for the original design were significantly over the alloted budget of $425,000, Omega Engineering has revised the design and the tendering process. Council approved the changes.

• Councillor Duchaine reported that he met with Mike Pedesen of Public Works to discuss the Village water system. They talked about locations where the installation of water meters would be effective in detecting leaks. He said there is some confusion about water conservation – people don’t understand why they have to conserve water when they are surrounded by it. “People forget the water needs to be treated, and that costs the Village – which means it costs the taxpayers,” he said.

• Councillor Zeleznik gave a community forest report. Harvesting of blocks 1 and 5 in Slewiskin is complete. The Fosthall log dump is scheduled to open in October and remain open through the winter and maybe into spring. The anticipated start date for logging in this area is November 1. NACFOR and the Nakusp Trail Society are working together to produce interpretive signs for the Wensley Creek Trail Expansion/Interpretive Forest Project; completion date is October 31.

• Reporting on the Columbia River Treaty Local Government Committee, Mayor Hamling said she learned that the operation of the dams robs nutrients from the ecosystem, resulting in smaller and fewer fish. “We need to determine what our objectives and interests are in ecosystem management,” she said. Two more information sessions hosted by government are expected in November, and Hamling said she hopes one of them is held in Nakusp.

• Council approved permits for signage at Home Hardware and Home Hardware Building Centre. Both stores will be painted, neon lights will be removed at the Home Hardware store on Broadway, and signage will be replaced at both locations.

• After hearing about Nakusp’s struggle to recruit physicians, the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants wrote to council to inform them that physician assistants can deliver a broad range of services under the supervision of a physician. Mayor Hamling said the Nakusp doctors are trying to get nurse practitioners in, but funding and regulations for these positions are not in place. She said the same would likely be true for physician assistants, but that she would check with Interior Health.

• All council meetings will take place in council chambers. Some meetings this year were held at the Emergency Services Building because it is on ground level and thus much more accessible than council chambers, but very few members of the public attended.

Nakusp Excel Tire
720 - 10th Avenue NW,
Nakusp, BC
250-265-4438

WINTER TIRE SALE STARTS SEPTEMBER 24

PURCHASE A SET OF NEW TIRES BETWEEN SEPT 24 - NOV 30 AND YOU COULD WIN A SONY 32” FLAT SCREEN TV

Julie’s Hideaway
628-7887
RARTS to hold semi-annual 100 Mile Potluck at the Vallican Whole

submitted

The Kootenays’ original 100 mile event is back, and now it is a true harvest celebration. On Saturday, September 22, the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS) will hold its semi-annual 100 Mile Potluck at the Vallican Whole Community Centre. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner will be served promptly at 6 pm. Admission is by a potluck dish and will be served promptly at 6 pm. Centre. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner is semi-annual 100 Mile Potluck Training Society (RARTS) will hold Rural Alternatives Research and true harvest celebration.

Film about Kootenay photographer is now on the festival circuit

submitted

A Kootenay film is set to premiere next month at Toronto’s Planet In Focus Environmental Film Festival. Eyes In The Forest: The Portraiture Of Jim Lawrence will screen October 14 at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. The film is a short documentary about the work of Kootenay wildlife photographer Jim Lawrence. It combines engaging cinematography with Lawrence’s photographs to illustrate how Lawrence sees his world, and to transport viewers there, as though they are seeing through his eyes. The film has also been accepted for screening at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, an international celebration of independent short films, which will be held in York, England in November. Local filmmaker Miriam Needoba is thrilled her latest film will be screened at these diverse festivals. “One festival has an environmental focus while the other and crafts with more than 80 exhibitors bringing in over 400 entries. The entries were topped off by the largest pumpkin yet at 600 lbs., grown by the Lewis family.

Community

The dinner will be the debut event for a number of new RARTS board members, so come and meet them – and be prepared to pitch in, reminding them of what a wonderful community they have agreed to serve.

The Vallican Whole Community Centre is at 3762 Little Slocan River Road. For reminders or further information, check out www.VallicanWhole.com

225 Birch Drive, Edgewood K211796
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Handcrafted traditional joinery with local wood since 2006

A cornucopia of fruit and vegetables spills onto the display table at the Slocan Valley Fall Fair.

Two young prize winners at the Slocan Valley Fall Fair.

Jennifer Cross hands out samples of her fabulous Jennifer Chocolates at the Nakusp Fall Fair.
HILLS GARLIC FEST

New Denver Year End Sale
Friday September 28 to Monday October 1
Store closes for season on Monday October 1, 2012 at 6 pm
Up to 60% off on selected items

New Denver Year End Sale
Friday September 28 to Monday October 1
Store closes for season on Monday October 1, 2012 at 6 pm
Up to 60% off on selected items

Cops for Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Constable Spiers of the Slocan Lake Detachment, RCMP, initiated a Jail & Bail on behalf of Cops for Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society.

STUDIO CONNEXION GALLERY is pleased to announce this season’s Art Exhibits

Sept. 18 - Oct. 6:
Bryn STEVENSON

Sponsors included this maker of traditional hand-crafted drums.

Holy Woods from Father Pete’s Garlic in Appledale.

Christy Holden and her daughter, Grace, from Alley Cat Glassworks in Rossland.
Slocan Lake survey coming soon – high response rate wanted

Community involvement is key to successful lake management planning

by Jan McMurray

Imagine Slocan Lake in the future. What is most important to you? What are your fears? What is your vision?

Somm, Area H North residents will have an opportunity to chime in on their values for the lake. A survey will be available online and at the Village offices in New Denver, Silverton and Slocan from October 1 to 14.

“We are hoping for a very high response rate,” said Michelle Laurie, consultant from Rossland who was hired by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society to lead the Imagine Slocan Lake Community Values Study. “Out of potentially 1,000 people in Area H North, our goal is to collect 400 surveys. That would show a high level of participation.” To ensure that the survey resonates with local people, the Imagine Slocan Lake project hosted a focus group workshop on September 11 in Area H North.

President of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society Therese DeCamp welcomed participants and explained that the Imagine Slocan Lake Community Values Study is the next step in the process of developing a Slocan Lake Management Plan. The first step was to have the scientific studies done, and they are well underway. Both the scientific studies and the community survey will be submitted to the RDCK, which will be in charge of completing the plan.

“What is the best way to live with this lake given the science, and the social and economic factors at play? This is what the lake management plan will address,” said DeCamp.

She said the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society formed the purpose to take care of the lake as a community, without dividing the community. “Here, we know how to disagree with each other because we have done it a lot, so if a lake management plan is going to work for us here, we have to have a lot of community involvement.”

Michelle Laurie explained that the Slocan Lake community values survey was developed by the 15-member advisory committee to the Imagine Slocan Lake project. She said the advisory committee is a diverse group made up of people from each community in Area H North and includes out-of-town property owners. The survey had been vetted by two Selkirk College instructors, two staff at Columbia Basin Trust, and three external consultants prior to the focus group workshop. The focus group was also a diverse group of people from Area H North communities. First, they generated 20 short answers to the three questions: What is important to you about the future of Slocan Lake? What makes you tremble with fear when thinking about the future of Slocan Lake? What is your vision for the future of Slocan Lake?

Out of the 20 answers for each, everyone voted for their top ten. It was quite a surprise when every single member of the group voted for “a proactive approach to planning and development” for Slocan Lake.

Catherine Berris, a planner from Vancouver who has worked on several lake management plans, attended and spoke about her experience as a consultant on the Lake Windermere Management Plan and the Green Lake and Area Official Community Plan. She emphasized the importance of local groups from beginning to trend. “It is local groups that make it happen,” she said.

She said a local group initiated the Lake Windermere plan, and then when the plan was completed, the group “morphed into the Lake Windermere Ambassadors to help with enforcement.” Although they cannot issue tickets, the Ambassadors can monitor what happens on the lake and report any concerns to the appropriate authorities.

Area H Director Walter Popoff, asked Berris how to get provincial and federal agencies to the table. The table have to be part of the planning process, but with government cuts, there are fewer and fewer of them. He pointed out that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) office in Nelson has closed, so DFO representatives now have to come to Kelowna.

Berris replied that local groups have to keep pushing to see the plan through to completion. She added that when local groups get their own funding for the planning, this is “a big motivating factor” for government agencies. She applauded the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society for all of its efforts so far.

Shoreacres celebrates 100 years, new park and new bulletin boards

On September 15 and 16, Shoreacres held its centennial celebration, hosted the momentous Kieran Galbraith Memorial Park. Shoreacres Beach dedication ceremony, and erected two new bulletin boards.

Nearly 250 people came to celebrate Shoreacres on Saturday, from past residents to residents whose families have called Shoreacres home for generations to new residents. The celebrations included presentations from dignitaries, the Doukhobor Choir, cake cutting, Russian Music, Tae Kwon Do Demonstrations, children’s games, storytelling, a traditional sit-down Borsch dinner and a local Shoreacres band capping off the evening.

The Nature Trust of BC and the Shoreacres Neighbourhood Community Association are pleased to announce the official formation of the new park. This 1.6-acre parcel includes shoreline along the picturesque Slocan River and was made possible by the generous contribution to the Nature Trust of BC by the George Galbraith family and friends in the memory of George’s son, Kieran. This is truly a historically significant moment for the community and the residents at large because the beach will now be secured for generations to come.

The bulletin boards were an important next step in building a common place for information to be shared and for ideas to be exchanged. The community came together to design, create and erect these two new pillars of Shoreacres.
Kaslo Sufferfest coming to Kaslo and New Denver September 28-30

by Jan McMurray

Get ready, Kaslo and New Denver, because those who love to suffer will be running and hiking in and around the two communities for the third annual Kaslo Sufferfest, September 28-30.

“I have 374 registrations right now, and expect many more before race day,” said Janis Neufeld, race director. “They come from all over BC, Alberta, and all across Canada! In just three short years, Kaslo Sufferfest has made quite a name for itself as a great late season fun race for the whole family.”

This year’s races include the 10K, 25K and 50K trail runs, the 14K, 45K and 100K cross-country mountain bike races, the Monster Enduro mountain bike race, junior running and bike races – and new this year, the Loonie Tootie. This 200K trail run between Kaslo and New Denver will take all three days to complete, with two overnight stays at Retallack Lodge. A true test of adventure and endurance, the race along trails, mining wagons and alpine meadows is open only to experienced racers who have adequately prepared for the event. There are currently six registrants in the Loonie Tootie, which Neufeld considers a great start for the inaugural year.

The most popular race is the 10K run, which is ideal for anyone that just wants to participate in Sufferfest, as it can be run, jogged or walked. Neufeld says the 100K bike race has also picked up quite a following. This one starts in New Denver and “showcases some of the best trails in the province,” she says.

All participants receive ‘Sufferbucks’ in their race packages, which are as good as cash at the sponsoring businesses along Front Street. Neufeld explained that the Kaslo Sufferfest Society, along with the Kaslo and New Denver communities for the third annual Kaslo Sufferfest coming to Kaslo and New Denver September 28-30, Kaslo Sufferfest has made quite a name for itself as a great late season fun race for the whole family.”

The best trails in the province,” she says. “New Delhi and “showcases some of the nicest cross-country trails in the region at the True Blue Rec Area” and the Monster Enduro goes up Mount Buchanan and then back down via the legendary Monster Trail.

Neufeld says routes are very similar to last year’s with the exception of avoiding the airstrip at the Kaslo Airport. The finish line will be along Water Street this year to allow for Front Street to remain open throughout the weekend.

All participants receive ‘Sufferbucks’ in their race packages, which are as good as cash at the sponsoring businesses along Front Street. Neufeld explained that supporting the Kaslo business district is one of the mandates of the Kaslo Sufferfest Society, along with encouraging physical fitness and participation, helping to keep the trails of the area maintained, and developing further opportunities to recreate.

“Without the support of the amazing sponsors I have, this event would not happen, plain and simple,” says Neufeld. Many area businesses are sponsors, and the society received grants from the Village of Kaslo, CBT, RDCK, the Community Fund of Kootenay Lake, and Kaslo and District Community Forest Society.

“Enjoy organizing the event,” says Janis. “It is a TON of work and often very stressful, but in the end loads of fun!” We have 150 volunteers signed up so far, compared to 200 last year. We have the best volunteers on the planet here in Kaslo and New Denver!”

Sufferfest offers cash prizes to the fastest downhill splits in the Monster Enduro, plus $100 goes to the ‘Greatest Overall Sufferer.’ “Last year’s winner was a competitor in the 50K race who took a hard fall, stopped part way to be transported to the hospital to receive stitches, then returned the course where she left off to complete the race!” says Neufeld. All children receive a cookie medal from the Landmark Bakery and the top three in each category will get prizes. There is also a bike being given away from Marin Bikes, and many other great prizes from EVOC, Nathan, Little Mountain Outdoor Gear in Nakusp and the Live Art Shop.

Neufeld says the Kaslo Sufferfest Society would like to thank the communities of Kaslo and New Denver for their involvement and support of the event. The society also asks that residents of New Denver and Kaslo take caution when driving the roads or hiking the trails during the event for the safety of the participants, and that the numerous trail markings not be disturbed so that participants can stay on course.

Gunshots fired on Slocan Lake

submitted by RCMP

On September 8, Slocan Lake RCMP and New Denver Fire Rescue responded to several reports from local residents that gunshots were being fired from a boat on Slocan Lake. Witnesses say that three men were firing into the water and onto the shore, in close proximity to other people out enjoying the lake and beaches.

The three men, from Saskatchewan, were found camping in Valhalla Park. RCMP seized a 12-gauge shotgun, a 22-caliber rifle and a large quantity of ammunition. The firearms have been charged to the three men under the BC Parks Act for possession of a rifle in a provincial park and causing a disturbance.

This matter is still under investigation. Anyone with further information is asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-359-2222.

Did you know that Rutabaga’s Whole Foods, centrally located on the main street of New Denver, is seeking a new owner?

This could be your opportunity to put your stamp on a thriving business which is quickly becoming a centre of the community. The comment we hear most from first time customers is “Wow! What a great store!” The business was opened in early July of 2011, and is showing year over year growth in excess of 50%.

Check out all of the details on our Property Guys website:

http://propertyguys.com/property/index/id/69119 (Sign # 197037)
**Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces its concert series for 2012-2013**

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces its concert series for the 2012/2013 season. Now in its 35th year of supporting arts-related activities in the Arrow Lakes region, the ALAC is offering six concerts in the series. Tickets are sold singly, or in packages of three or six.

This year’s concert series starts on Saturday, October 20 with pianist June Coop. For the second concert, Ballet Kelowna will perform in the auditorium of the Nakusp Arena complex. Just in time for Christmas is the season’s family show on Saturday, December 1, when Mirror Theatre presents the traditional British pantomime “Sinbad,” a farce that is anything but silent and has no mimes anywhere.

For the first time in its concert series, ALAC is bringing in world music with a performance by one of the most exciting Cuban music ensembles, the Luis Mario Ochoa Quintet. The group, renowned for virtuosity and incredible musicianship, plays Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

On Sunday, February 10, at 3 pm, Duo Solista performs. Violinist Olga Kotova and pianist Dmitry Nesterov have performed together as classmates at the Moscow Central Music School since the age of 17. The final concert of the season will be on Friday, April 5 with the Jesse Peters Trio, a jazz group based in Edmonton.

Season ticket holders from last year will have until September 30 to claim their seats; the renewed packages will be available at this time. Anyone else who wishes to take advantage of the package deals can contact Marilyn Massey at 250-265-4087.

All concerts (with the exception of Ballet Kelowna) will be held at the Bonnington Arts Centre starting at 7:30 pm, with the doors opening at 7. The Sunday concert by Duo Solista will start at 3 pm.

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**New ABE instructor at Selkirk College in Nakusp**

Celina Gabriel is the new Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor at Selkirk College this fall. Nathaniel Howard is also returning to the college this fall after accepting a permanent position as an ABE instructor at the Nakusp Adult Learning Centre. Howard has worked with the college for a couple of years now, and is “looking forward to a fantastic year, helping people overcome challenges, achieve their goals, and enjoy their education.”

Nakusp ABE offers a wide selection of courses for the fun of it. The centre is open Monday and Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 pm as well as Monday through Thursday 9 am to 3 pm (closed at noon for an hour lunch). Our doors are open for the new term, so please come down and meet our great new instructors, and let us know how we can help you.

New Denver council, September 11: RFP goes out for park washrooms

• CAO Gordon reported that an RFP (Request for Proposals) for park washrooms has been posted. This will include a 200-panel electrical service and solar-assisted showers, with a probable deadline of October 31.

• In Public Works and Water, von Krogh noted that there were very few incidents or complaints regarding bears as the Village has removed many attractants; the Mori Trail has been repaired from the high water erosion, but will need to be made safer; the boat launch floats, ordered in May, will be ready by the last week in September, and work is being done on the gangway; the swimming float has been rebuilt and is on the beach in the park and will be re-anchored in the spring before the campground opens, and new bobbins and sign will also be installed. Public Works Steve Deakoff gave the Public Works Committee a list of moving items and time estimates to complete the list. The projected time is 101 hours, and additional staffing for Public Works will be addressed at budget.

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**Kaslo artist Pat Forsyth displays her worke at the Kootenay Gallery**

The Kootenay Gallery’s next exhibition, Corvidae and Virago, was the work of Kaslo artist Pat Forsyth. Her graphite drawings were chosen from a prolific collection of work produced following years of research, experimentation and study.

Forsyth has created a series of stories that reflect her fascination with a female model and four Corvidae birds: crows, magpies, ravens and Stellar’s jays. While at first glance these stories appear haunting, upon further investigation the layers emerge. The drawings set out to honour women with all their strengths and vulnerabilities. They also reflect the intelligence and almost human-like behaviour of these birds that inspired the creation of anger, as a form of foretelling.

These two exhibitions will run from September 21 to November 3 with the opening reception on Friday, September 21 at 7 pm with no admission charge.

For more information visit our new website www.kootenaygallery.com and check our facebook page for updates facebook.com/kootenaygallery.
THANKS TO EVERYONE who made our Burton Fall Fair celebration such a success, the Farmers’ Market, the Fall Fair and the ball game with Nakusp. A special thank you to the St. Andrew’s United Church ladies for continuous food for the day. Attendance was very good – a terrific showing of spirit. Thank you to the Barton Hall Board for again supporting our Fall Fair next year.

MARGARET SIMPSON and Norman Cowan

COMING EVENTS

NEW DENVER FRIDAY MARKETS happens in downtown New Denver every Friday, June through September. 10 am to 2 pm. Fresh local produce and artisans at this vibrant community event.

BAND SHOW AND DINNER

Saturday, September 22, 6:45 pm in WE Graham Band Room. Check out ‘Mine Tailings’ at the Apple Tree, Garden Graces, Silverton Building Supplies, and the Cup and Saucer Café. Advance Tickets Only. 250.265.3842. Saturday, September 29, 2012 at the Silverton Gallery. The house opens at 7, show begins at 8 pm. ‘Mine Tailings’ is a fundraiser for the Silverton Gallery.

ATTENTION CRATELERS! PALS ATTENTION CRATELERS! PALS is hosting the Creative Hands Fair once again! If you have some homemade wares you wish to sell, here’s your chance to do so! Tables are $25 each and have to be booked in advance. Please call Ingrid at 250-265-3582 to reserve your spot. November 24, 10 am-4 pm, Nakusp Arena, 200 8th Ave NW.

EQUINOX HARVEST ~ 100 Mile Potluck! Valley Wholesome Community Centre, Saturday, September 22. Come share your bounty and hang out with your friends and neighbours. Doors 5 pm, Dinner 6 pm. Admission: Local potluck item & donation. 3762 Little Slocan River Rd. www.valleywhole.com

AT THE SILVERTON GALLERY

Man Street Silverton, BC: Friday, September 21 5-9, Equinox party by donation; Saturday, September 22, 7 pm. Gallery fundraiser ‘Mine Tailings’ theatre presentation; Friday, October 5, 5 pm. Swinging 50s Dance Concert; October 18, Marky Daemon Concert time TBA; Sunday, October 21, 2 pm Silverton Gallery’s AGM. For more details please check out our new website at www.silvertonartgallery.ca or call 250-358-7198. DISCOVERING THE SOUL of your Inner Musician. Improvisational Workshop at Hand & Soul on Oct 6, facilitated by Lynn Miller. Register 358-2177.

ATTENTION BOTTLE DRIVERS

ATTENTION BOTTLE DRIVERS! PALS is holding Bottle Drivers, Red Mountain Road above Silverton with Vallican Whole Community. Please call Ingrid at 250-265-3582. For more details please check out our new website at www.vallicanwhole.com or call 250-358-7198. Celebrating such an Annual General Meeting will be held on October 25, 2012 at the Vallican Heritage Hall at 7:00 pm. For information, call Donna at 250-226-7445.

FOR RENT


SLOCAN WEEKEND

‘Saturday Night Special’ renovated home, 2 bedrooms, 1,800 ft², appliances, electric heat, beautiful view of Frog Peak. 5 minutes from Nelson, Castlegar, Trail. Landlord references, no indoor pets, no smoking. Available. $1200 plus deposit. 250-265-0168.


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FOR RENT

Mungall asks public to decide recipients of Queens Jubilee Medals

The weather was gorgeous for Nakusp Elementary’s annual triathlon on Friday, September 14.

Mungall submits MLA Michelle Mungall is asking residents in the Nelson-Creston riding to vote online or by phone for community members to receive a Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal. A short-listing committee of respected community members has reviewed all the nominations received during the month of August and has narrowed the field to 13. From these 13, the public will vote and choose the final four who will have their names put forward to receive medals. “Nominations came in from all corners of the constituency, for people from all walks of life” says Mungall “It was great to read about so many amazing people doing amazing work in the community. I know it was difficult for the short-listing committee to choose only 13.”

The committee was made up of Salmo village councillor Janine Haughton, Creston Advance editor Brian Lawrence, Columbia Basin Trust Southwest Community Liaison and long-time Nelson resident Roma Park, and Kaslo’s JV Humphries principal Dan Miles.

The online vote will take place until September 21. Residents can learn more about each nominee at www.michellemungall.ca and then vote once from their computers or by phone. The person with the most votes from each area – North Kootenay Lake, Nelson and district, Salmo/Ymir, Creston Valley – will be forwarded on to the Queen for a Diamond Jubilee medal that commemorates community service.

Mungall would like to encourage everyone to log onto her website www.michellemungall.ca or call the office, 1-877-388-4498, to help decide who of the following outstanding citizens will be put forward to the Queens Selection Committee: Kaslo/North Kootenay Lake – Steve Anderson, Bruce Walker, Hugh Walker; Nelson Area – Gordon Broster, Mary Stacey, Joan Reichardt, Mary Ann Morris.
Slocan council, September 10: Options for governance of library discussed

by Veronika Pellowski

• A number of options for governance of the Slocan Library were discussed last week, including creating a municipal library under the Municipal Libraries Act or creating a valid partnership between the Slocan Valley Union of Municipalities and the Village of Slocan.

• Council will be advertising for members to participate on the Slocan Tourism Advisory Committee. The committee’s focus will be on encouraging and creating opportunities for the ‘100-mile tourist’ and capitalizing on Slocan’s small village charm and proximity to outdoor experiences. This will be an exciting opportunity for volunteers, as members of the committee, to provide recommendations to council on tourism issues affecting Slocan and the valley.

• Another draft of Slocan’s wayfinder signage was presented for council’s consideration and found lacking, as the Village logo and other design details were still not satisfactory. Councillors expressed concern about the length of time that has elapsed and the number of drafts submitted since starting this project. Council had expected to have a wayfinder sign at this stage and to receive details about sizing, colour and materials.

• Council received a request from Allan Bedek, manager/director of Assante Investment Management Corporation, the financial firm responsible for the Slocan Holdings condo project, for an amendment to the development permit. Rather than developing Fitz Avenue as an access/egress point for the condos, he would like to extend a road that will connect to Slocan Street at the northwest corner of the property. The new access point has been noticed by public works manager and no issues were raised. Once all road construction is complete, the existing portion of Fitz Avenue would need to be blocked at Slocan Street.

• When a development permit was issued, council agreed to pay for half of the cost (approximately $13,000) of developing Fitz Street. Approval of the requested amendment would eliminate this cost to the Village.

• Council raised a number of potential safety issues and decided to consult with the Ministry of Transportation before making a decision. If the ministry is satisfied with the safety of the proposed changes, the amendment will be approved.

• Council received a letter from Glenn Harper of the Castlegar Justice Forum asking that the Village consider having offenders undertake community service work in Slocan. The Castlegar Justice Forum provides an alternative justice solution for qualifying offenders, and sometimes the offender is required to do community service work in their own community or where the offence took place. The Village would be responsible for planning and supervising the work, as well as for all costs such as WCB, training and safety equipment. Philosophically, council would like to support this, but it is concerned about the circumstances, so will investigate further.

• The Spring Creek RV Park & Campground Policy was adopted. On July 5, the federal government launched the new Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIF) to assist, on a cost-shared basis, with repairs and upgrades to a variety of existing community facilities that are open to the public. The deadline for applications is November 19 and council is looking into whether the Village has any suitable ‘shovel ready’ projects. Possibilities include upgrades to the library and wellness centre, general trail work and refurbishing trails around the community pond. As the funding is on a cost-shared basis, council will approach Columbia Basin Trust to find out whether CBT Community Development program funds are available to match CIF funds.

• There has been another incident of vandalism in Slocan. This time vandals broke into the curling rink through a vent. Although damage was minimal, these incidents take up Village employees’ time as they investigate, repair and secure Village property. Anyone able to assist in stopping the vandalism would be doing the Village and its taxpayers a service.

• Subject to confirmation of council’s ability to make variance decisions, council has approved a Development Variance Permit application for 501 Arthur Street for an increase to the height of part of the building from 4.50 m to 6.09 m. Letters were sent to neighbouring property owners and no responses were received. Council noted that variance applications would normally have been dealt with by the Variance Committee, but the three-year terms for all members had expired. Council will be creating a new Variance Committee.

Understanding TFSA

By now, most of us have become familiar with the savings account called the TFSA (Tax Free Savings Account). This particular savings vehicle is approaching its fourth anniversary since inception, as it was first introduced in January 2009. Originally introduced as a rainy-day account to save for those great savings account for first-time homeowners, retirement savers, or those looking for tax efficiency. Many banking institutions were quick to introduce this to their customers without fully explaining the benefits, rules and ramifications of how to utilize the account appropriately.

Most people who opened up a TFSA account weren’t able to fully fund them to the $5,000 annual limit. Although there are no penalties associated with withdrawing money from a TFSA, most people didn’t realize that the funds cannot be re-deposited until the following calendar year or over-contribution penalties could apply. For those who did maximize their contribution, some ran into major income tax hassles and penalties in 2010, when the federal government increased the maximum annual contribution limits for 2012 to $5,000 but the federal government sets the amount annually so future annual limits are subject to Ottawa’s political agenda.

From a financial planning perspective, for those that do have the disposable income (especially those in a higher tax bracket) we would suggest that you contribute to and max out your Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions first. If you’ve already maxed out those contributions, then you have the ability to put the excess disposable income into a Tax Free Savings Account.

Another financial planning strategy is to put savings into a TFSA. If you have a spouse or partner who has little or no income and a very low RSP contribution room, regardless of age. Here are some dos and don’ts to keep in mind when managing your TFSA.

DO choose the appropriate investments. Because it’s tax-sheltered, the optimal investment to put into a Tax Free Savings Account would be an equity-based investment such as equity-based mutual funds, an individual common stock or a dividend-paying stock. Historically, equity-based investments have the potential to make far greater gains than a low-interest-bearing savings account. Hence, the more gains earned tax-free, the better tax bang for your buck!

DO keep track of your own contributions and withdrawals. One of the benefits of a TFSA is the ability to re-contribute money you’ve withdrawn from your account, though the re-contribution cannot be made until the following year. If you’re making multiple contributions and withdrawals to your TFSA, it’s important to keep track of the amounts and that you don’t end up over contributing to your account and being charged a tax penalty.

DON’T treat your TFSA as a regular savings account. If you constantly make deposits and withdrawals to and from your TFSA, not only could you face over-contribution penalties, but you also lose the opportunity to benefit fully from compound interest that is also tax-free. You are better off just choosing a simple high-daily-interest savings account instead.

DO manage multiple TFSAwisely. Canadians can have multiple TFSA’s with more than one financial institution, but keep in mind the annual contribution limit is $5,000 per year for all of your accounts combined. So with multiple TFSA’s, it’s even more important to keep track of all withdrawals and contributions to prevent exceeding your limit.

DO understand the tax implications of a TFSA. Unlike an RRSP, contributions made to a TFSA don’t result in a tax deduction, but you don’t have to pay income tax when you withdraw funds from your TFSA. In addition, TFSA withdrawals don’t affect your ability to qualify for government income-based benefits, so you’re not penalized for saving within a TFSA.

Debbie Pereversoff is a financial planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd. and Vice-President of her company, The Affalter Financial Group Inc. Please contact Debbie Pereversoff to discuss your particular circumstances prior to acting on the information above.
New Denver resident receives Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal

submitted

Agnes Emary, long-time resident of New Denver, was presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Mayor Ann Bunka on Thursday night at the Knox Hall, in front of family and a large group of onlookers. Agnes arrived at the hall on the New Denver and Area fire truck with sirens blaring. Riding on a fire truck has been a dream of hers since childhood.

Agnes came to BC from Saskatchewan to teach school in Sandon in 1952. In 1953, she transferred to New Denver, where she continued teaching until 1970. Agnes is an active volunteer in the community, having served as Chair of the New Denver Reading Centre, where she has logged an impressive 16,744 (and still counting) hours. She has been a member of the Women’s Institute and Hospital Auxiliary and has been a board member of the Silvery Slocan Historical Society for many years. Agnes co-founded the local Hospice Society, is a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion, and is heavily involved in the community’s annual Remembrance Day services.

This is but a snap-shot of Agnes’ contributions and there are many stories to fill in the picture.

The presentation was followed by a celebratory tea for the honoree and the community.

Queen’s Medal awarded to Milton Parent

submitted by Mayor Hamling

Milton Parent was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal posthumously on September 11 at the Emergency Services Building in Nakusp. His widow, Rosemarie Parent, accepted the award from Senator Nancy Greene Raine.

Milt was born and raised in Nakusp. He left the area for 30 years to work on the coast. On his retirement, he and his wife, Rosemarie, returned to Nakusp and spent many years cataloguing the history of Nakusp and area. Milt has written many books about the history of Nakusp with all the proceeds going back into the community.

Milt and Rosemarie founded the historical society of Nakusp and spent countless hours working with the community as well as helping to rejuvenate the museum. It’s very important that we have had someone preserving our history. You can’t know where you are going if you don’t know where you came from.

Anytime I needed information on the community, I would call Milt and Rosemarie. If I asked the question of Rosemarie, she would always tell me that I’d have to talk to Milt because he’s the one that has all that information.

We will miss Milt.

Jean Patterson receives Queen’s Medal

by Jan McMurray

Jean Patterson was honoured for her 60 years of dedication to Slocan at a celebration September 11 in council chambers. She was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal by Senator Nancy Greene Raine.

Jean came to Slocan in 1952, the year of Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation, and has been very involved in the community ever since. She taught in schools in Passmore, Winlaw, Perry Siding and Slocan, started Little League baseball with her husband, and has helped to organize many community celebrations. She has also served several terms on council. She quietly works very hard for the community, expecting nothing in return. Congratulations, Jean, on this well deserved recognition of your dedication to community.

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