Proposed changes to BC Southern Interior riding slammed at public hearing

by Jan McMurray

The proposed changes to the BC Southern Interior federal riding boundaries were summarily rejected at the October 2 public hearing in Nelson. The re-drawn riding, called South Okanagan-West Kootenay, was described as a “deformed arrangement” and “a bizarre jigsaw puzzle-like change that will destroy the togetherness that we have established.”

The new riding would lose Nelson, Salmo and Area G, Harrop-Proctor, Blewitt, South Slocan, Bonnington, Montrose, Fruitvale and Princeton to the Kootenay-Columbia riding, and would gain Penticton. It would keep Kaslo and most of Area D, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and most of Area H, Trail, Castlegar, Grand Forks, Midway, Osoyoos and Oliver.

Peter Meekison, member of the commission tasked with reviewing the BC ridings and adding seven new ridings to the province to reflect population growth, chaired the Nelson hearing. In his introductory remarks, he said the commission had already heard from many people with concerns about removing Nelson from the new riding. The commission must not have been surprised, then, to hear this again and again at the hearing.

“Welcome to Nelson, the heart of the West Kootenay – not the East Kootenay or the Columbia,” said one presenter.

While the removal of Nelson was a big concern, so was the removal of the other communities and the addition of Penticton.

The stage was set with the first of 19 presenters, Area D Director Andy Shadrack. Shadrack proposed keeping the current BC Southern Interior riding together, but also bringing in all of Area D (North Kootenay Lake), which is now split between BC Southern Interior and Kootenay-Columbia, and bringing in Nakusp and Area K, currently in Kootenay-Columbia. Shadrack’s proposed riding, then, would include Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, all of the RDCK except Creston and area, Grand Forks, Midway, Osoyoos and Oliver.

Shadrack’s proposal was endorsed by all RDCK directors and Nelson city council, and most of the presenters at the hearing said they agreed with him – including BC Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko and Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall.

The boundaries commission looks at several factors when re-drawing the boundaries. Population is important, but by no means the only consideration. “In a perfect world, every riding would have 104,763 residents,” explained Meekison, but there can be deviations of 25 percent or more from that number. He said access and transportation routes were a big consideration for the commission. The Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act stipulates that historical patterns and communities of interest and identity must also be considered, and rural or sparsely populated districts should be “manageable geographic size.”

It seems that none of these factors were satisfactorily considered when they drew up the new South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding. “The proposed boundaries contravene the legislated principles of the Act,” said MLA Mungall. “The boundaries as proposed will put Kootenay residents at a disadvantage. We deserve fair representation, so please check our geographic realities.”

Many arguments were made under the “community of interest and identity” rule. Presenters spoke about the “tri-cities” of Nelson, Castlegar and Trail. They pointed out that the communities in Shadrack’s proposed riding are all represented on the same regional health board, share the same transportation system (Castlegar airport, public transit, highways), the same college (Selkirk), and the same regional government (RDCK). They share the same history, and work together on tourism, arts and culture. “They are connected in so many ways that it is easy to see them as one community,” said one presenter.

Many of the presenters expressed shock that the proposed South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding has a population of 114,676 – the largest constituency proposed for BC and one of the largest in the country in terms of population. To add insult to injury, it is also one of the largest ridings geographically. Many agreed with MP Atamanenko when he said that this doesn’t make sense. Area E Director Ramona Faust added that it goes against the democratic principle of fair representation.

“A smaller geographic riding is better suited to having a larger population,” said Atamanenko. “The Act says to strive for equal population distribution, but also for a manageable geographic size. Geography is more important than population when considering changes in the Kootenay-Columbia.”

He said the current riding is “big, but workable” and said Shadrack’s proposal “would continue to be workable. It would make it a bit larger, but not as big as the 114,000 that is proposed.” He feels that the current riding, which has a population of 97,000, allows his constituents fairly good access to him and his staff, with his offices in Castlegar and Oliver. However, in the proposed South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding, he would need two more assistants in Penticton, and his budget would not allow for this.

As for historical patterns, it was pointed out that Nelson has not been in the same riding as Cranbrook and Penticton for almost 100 years. Shadrack pointed out that the interior used to have ten ridings and now has only nine. “It is important to continue to have rural representation in this country,” he said. “South Okanagan-West Kootenay will be dominated by Penticton, so yet again we will lose the rural character of the riding. It’s a rural seat right now and we prefer to retain that way.”

Only the very last presenter was of a different mind than all the rest. Stephen Hill, BC Southern Interior Conservative candidate in the last federal election, proposed focusing the riding on Highway 3, from Castlegar to Trail to Grand Forks to Osoyoos, then up to Penticton and as far north as Big White and Heaven Hill. He proposed that RDCK Areas D (North Kootenay Lake), H (Slocan Valley) and K (Arrow Lakes Valley) all go to Kootenay-Columbia along with Nelson and area.

Kootenay-Columbia MP David Wilks, in a telephone interview, put forward a similar suggestion. He said the commission has been charged with increasing the population of the ridings, and with Kootenay-Columbia up against the borders of Alberta and the US, there is nowhere to go except west into the BC Southern Interior. He feels that if the Nelson and Salmo area are to move into the Kootenay-Columbia, it makes sense for Kaslo and Area D, and New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H to also move into the Kootenay-Columbia riding. If this happened, and he were re-elected MP, he said he would have offices in Nelson and in Cranbrook. He feels that Fruitvale and Montrose should not be severed from Trail, so should be put back into the BC Southern Interior/South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding.

“I am open to whatever the commission decides to do, recognizing they have a tough job here and they are not going to please everyone,” he said.
Guidelines for treatment of groundwater opposed at UBCM

by Jan McMurray

Drinking water regulations and guidelines continue to be a point of contention between local government and the Province.

At the recent UBCM convention, delegates passed a resolution opposing the groundwater guidelines that were issued by the Ministry in April. The UBCM resolution was put forward by the RDCK board, which had already passed a motion opposing the document at its July meeting.

The executive summary of the document explains that the Drinking Water Protection Regulation mandates the treatment of water from all surface systems and from groundwater that, in the opinion of a Drinking Water Officer, is at risk of containing pathogens.

The guidelines were developed to assist the Drinking Water Officers in formulating an opinion on whether or not groundwater (from shallow or deep wells) is at risk of containing pathogens.

RDCK Area D Director Andy Shadrack, in an interview that the guidelines give Drinking Water Officers an enormous amount of discretionary power in deciding whether or not groundwater should be treated.

“They decisions must be based on science, not their discretion,” he said. “We need an appeal process if it’s going to be like this.”

RDCK directors agree that all references in the document that indicate a groundwater system must be disinfected even when there is no proof that pathogens or other harmful substances exist should be deleted.

Another complaint of the board is that the guidelines seem to apply to all systems, no matter how large or small. They do not take into consideration that financial resources are very limited for small systems.

Perhaps the most offensive thing about the document is that it was drafted without the participation of any rural water users or local government.

Shadrack reported that former New Denver Mayor Gary Wright did some research in 2002 and found that, using Kootenay Boundary Health Unit data, only 8% of all untreated groundwater systems had coli and 5% had fecal coliforms, whereas 50% of treated groundwater systems had fecal coliforms and 75% had coliforms.

Shadrack said he would be pushing this issue at the UBCM level.

Community Forests Benefit from New Policy

CBT provides funding for Environmental Initiatives

The Valley Voice

October 17, 2012

News

Community Forests Benefit from New Policy

Submitted

BC Community Forests are welcoming a new permitting process announced by the government this week. The Single Cutting Permit policy change will support greater flexibility for harvesting operations and long-term stewardship and will help Community Forests to better positioned to respond to the needs of value added manufacturers.

A single Cutting Permit for the entire area eliminates multiple Cutting Permit submissions by the Community Forest and streamlines processing by government, lowering costs and administrative obligations for all. It gives the Community Forest licence flexibility to respond to market demand and to timely stewardship of the landbase. The new policy is the outcome of an ongoing collaboration between the BC Community Forest Association and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

“We see this new policy as recognition of the contribution Community Forests bring to forest based communities. It is recognition of the ability of Community Forests to contribute to local economies. The new permitting process will allow Community Forests to be more nimble in their management of the land base and more responsive to local needs,” said Jennifer Gunter, BC Community Forest Association Executive Director.

“This process will allow greater flexibility for Community Forests to support the needs of small, value-added manufacturers in rural communities,” said BCCFA President Kevin Davie.

Small, value-added manufacturers and Community Forests help support local economies by providing employment. This announcement comes at a critical time in our economy, and we are proud to have been able to work with Minister Thompson’s staff in achieving this important goal.”

Chris Liang, Manager of the Powell River Community Forest, was a participant in the year-long pilot project and has already experienced the benefits of a single cutting permit.

“We were able to see both time and cost savings when we did some blow down salvage. One hammer mark simplifies trucking and tracking. You are basically approved before you start. It does put more pressure on the manager to be in conformity with all systems, no matter how large or small. They do not take into consideration that financial resources are very limited for small systems. Perhaps the most offensive thing about the document is that it was drafted without the participation of any rural water users or local government.

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“We were able to see both time and cost savings when we did some blow down salvage. One hammer mark simplifies trucking and tracking. You are basically approved before you start. It does put more pressure on the manager to be in compliance with all legal requirements. You have to get it right.”

For more information go to the BCCFA website.
Hospitals and health centres in Kootenay Boundary to be assessed
by Jan McMurray

The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD) board received this news in a letter from Interior Health on October 10. Back in June, the WKBRHD board wrote to Interior Health asking that just such a study of facilities in the region be undertaken.

“I imagine our surprise to find out that the Province and Health Authorities were planning to do the very thing that we asked for,” commented Henning von Krogh, New Denver’s representative on the WKBRHD board. “We asked them to do the study to help with long-term planning.”

Jim Gustafson, WKBRHD board secretary, explained that together, Interior Health and the WKBRHD fund the capital improvements at all the health facilities in the Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area. HRH contributes 60 percent and the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary together contribute 40 percent. Every year, Interior Health presents the WKBRHD board with a list of capital projects, which the board typically approves without knowing much about the projects. “The board is trying to be proactive,” said Gustafson.

“We’ve taken tours of the facilities in Trail, Grand Forks, New Denver and Nakusp this year so we can see for ourselves the state of the facilities and what might be needed,” added von Krogh. “And this facility study should be a big help.”

The Province has contracted VFA Canada Inc to carry out the assessment of health facilities province-wide, which is expected to take five years. The field assessments of the facilities in the Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area are scheduled for November 2012, with the reports completed by May 2013.

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Get your free flu shot at:

NAKUSP - Nakusp Seniors Centre
Friday Oct. 26, 9 am - Noon • 1 - 3:30 pm
DROP IN

NEW DENVER - Slocan Community Health Centre
Monday Oct. 29, 9 am - Noon • 1 - 3:30 pm
DROP IN

NAKUSP - Nakusp Health Unit
Tuesday Oct. 30, 9 am - Noon • 1 pm - 4 pm
DROP IN

NEW DENVER - Slocan Community Health Centre
Thursday Nov. 1, 1 pm - 6 pm
DROP IN

EDGWOOD - Edgewood Health Centre
Friday Nov. 2, 9 am - Noon
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BURTON - Burton Community Hall
Friday Nov. 2, 1 pm - 3 pm
DROP IN

NAKUSP - Nakusp Health Unit
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1 pm - 6 pm
BY APPT
Call Nakusp Health Unit at 250-265-3608

Bring your care card with you!

Flu shots are safe, effective, and free for the following:

• People 65 years and older and their caregivers/household contacts
• Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
• Health-care workers
• Emergency responders
• All children age 6 to 59 months of age
• Household contacts and caregivers of children age 0-59 months
• Pregnant women who will be in their third trimester during influenza season and their household contacts
• Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
• People who work with live poultry and/or swine
• Aboriginal people
• Adults who are very obese
• And more...

To view a full list of those who can get their flu shot for free visit
www.interiorhealth.ca/FluClinics

The flu (influenza) is highly contagious. Getting your flu shot protects you and those around you – at home, school and work.

For more information contact your local public health office, or visit www.interiorhealth.ca

West Kootenay honoured for transit leadership

BC Transit congratulates the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) and the City of Nelson on receiving the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Award in the Partnerships category. The award was presented last week at the end of the annual UBCM workshop.

The UBCM Partnerships category recognizes two or more partners who have collaborated on a joint venture or initiative with outstanding results that “break down barriers, identify and promote common goals, and develop innovative solutions” to meet “the needs and aspirations of the partners as well as the broader public...”

BC Transit approached community leaders with nine separate operating agreements and encouraged them to strike their own regional transit committee. On June 6, 2012 the West Kootenay Transit Committee held its first meeting. The Committee, consisting of three area directors from each of the Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary Regional Districts along with a council representative from the City of Nelson will work together to best manage resources and funding.

“The high level of communication and cooperation demonstrated by the West Kootenay Transit Committee is exactly what the BC Transit Independent Review Panel recommended last August,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Mary Polak. “In September the Government of British Columbia announced an action plan to further partnership and innovation shown by the West Kootenay Transit Committee and the selflessness of local leaders who are working for the greater good of their constituents by introducing a unified riders’ guide and fare structure with the goal of creating seamless regional travel.

BC Transit throughout the province. We have a great transit system and a strengthened partnership approach will make it even better.”

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Family loses home to fire in Passmore

Passmore residents Tim Lucas, Angela Beebe and their nine-month-old baby, Zachary, were awoken at about 5 am on October 3 by their dog, Sirus, who was alerting them to a fire that had started in their chicken barn.

Thanks to Sirus, the family got out of their home and are safe and sound today. Their home and everything in it burned to the ground.

Tim suffered second degree burns on 20 percent of his body because he re-entered the home to get their cat, Wicca. He didn’t find her, but she showed up badly burned later in the day. She has been to the vet and is recovering nicely. Tim’s burns are also on the mend. The family first stayed with friends, and are now temporarily housed in Lemon Creek.

Both the Passmore and Winlaw Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the fire. Their quick response prevented the fire from spreading to neighbouring homes.

In true Kootenay style, there has been an outpouring of help and generosity from people and organizations in the Slocan Valley. And another chance to help is coming right up on Friday, October 26.

There will be a dinner and music by Father Paul and the Fireside Prophets, and Sally T and Rob Hay at Passmore Hall. The event runs from 6 pm to 11 pm and costs $10. Donations are welcome.

Donations are also being accepted at CBIC, account number 00270-83-47395. The account is in Tim and Angela’s name, so they are able to access the funds right away.

A Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PassmoreLoveLucasBeebe, is keeping people updated.

BC Transit requires equipment operators for the upcoming winter season at the Winlaw, New Denver, Kaslo, Nakusp, Edgewood and Nelson locations in the Central Kootenay area.

Minimum qualifications include Class 3 licence with air endorsement, previous driving experience and ability to carry out duties in an outdoor, all weather environment on both day and night shifts. Must be physically fit.

Please send/fax/email your resume along with a recent BC driver’s abstract and your preference of area to YRB (Kootenay) Ltd. 110 Cedar Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4H2
FAX # 1-250-352-2172 or EMAIL kootenay@yrb.ca

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Happy Sufferfest racer
My husband and I had our first road trip to the Kootenays, specifically to Kaslo, where I participated in the 25K trail run at the Sufferfest. I want to thank ALL the communities, locals, businesses, volunteers and race organizers for hosting such a first class event! I was so impressed with the number of volunteers that gave up their weekend to make all the athletes’ Sufferfest so enjoyable.

The yummy hamburgers at the end didn’t hurt either!

Will be back.

Andrea Stibbe
Victoria

Re: Telus begins the search for cell tower sites in Slocan Valley
I read with interest the cover story of Telus’s intent to install cell phone coverage in the Slocan Valley to penetrate every nook and cranny of Highway 6. This in order to make us safer by providing 911 service on our highway? Their argument that 60 percent of all 911 calls come from cell phones rings a bit hollow as a valley that has no coverage and has relied on the good old tradition of neighbour helping neighbour and not passing by stranded vehicles for generations.

Apprently, I am supposed to believe that Telus, in collaboration with our provincial government, believes that enabling texting and calling while travelling on our twisty highway will somehow improve me, my wife and two young children’s safety? This doublespeak would be laughable if it weren’t for the fact that they obviously believe their own spin. Corporations and government caring for the safety of the people – now that would be something!

Next thing we know they’ll actually respect the experience and opinions of those most affected by their so-called improvements. In fact the Industry Canada document that regulates antenna installations (located online – search for: CPC-2-0-03 Issue 4) requires Telus to undertake public notification and address all reasonable and relevant public concerns. I look forward to this opportunity.

Craig Stowell
Winlaw

Did I miss something?
I read in the last Valley Voice that Telus is looking for sites for cell phone towers between Nakusp and Playmor Junction. I have been telling people for years that our valley is a ‘clean zone.’ Did something happen to change this status?

Telus is looking for sites on both private and crown land. Would you like one in your backyard? If you are presently electrically sensitive or have a compromised immune system, this will make your symptoms even worse. If you are not yet electrically sensitive, chances are that the radiation from the new cell towers will begin to produce the beginning symptoms in the form of insomnia and headaches.

Are we willing to give up our ‘clean zone’ so easily? Keep in mind that these cell towers do not comply with Safety Code 6 as testing was not done on human tissue or on the response of our bodies to the radiation.

If you are still unsure about your body’s ability to withstand radiation, check into information from an engineering technologist at info@thermoguy.com.

Let Telus hear from you!

Linda Louise Passmore

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

GEDR: FROM THE VALLEYS

You will awaken remembering nothing about the Kalamazo River, Bosshill Creek, Romoeville, Virden, Elk Point Cromer Terminal, Fort McMurray, Weyburn, Clark and Rusk Counties Glenavon, Clearbrook, Kisbey, Cheecham Termi

STANLEY, Wilmar Terminus that Pumping Station in Montana, Eteboibiko

Nemadji River, Su Kerrrobert, GLE

Binbrook, INN

That Slough near Hardisty That Marsh West of CO

KEEP KASLO ER OPEN 24/7
It’s 8 pm. Z.S. goes out to call his pooch in. With a twist of an ankle, he slips and falls. Is it just a nasty bruise or a broken bone? January has past and gone! And IHA has found no solutions to keep the Kaslo ER open 24/7.

Should he call the ambulance or one of his neighbours? He can’t call his neighbour across the street, as he is still working his evening shift. His other neighbour is elderly and can’t see well enough in the dark to drive him anywhere, let alone Nelson. There are other neighbours but he doesn’t know them well enough to impose.

He could call an ambulance, but money is tight. Spending all that money for what could be just a bad bruise seems like a waste of money.

At some point in our lives this person could be any one of us. I don’t doubt that there are compassionate doctors who would not mind working on call, or politicians and bureaucrats who work hard to provide solutions, so, I would like to think that the IHA, our politicians and Solutions Group are also working hard for us to solve this dilemma. After all, we have nurses, firemen, policemen, etc working on call or doing shift work. Surely our little town is not so insignificant that it’s not worth the extra money or effort to find a workable solution, to keeping our ER open 24/7?

Christmas holidays will come soon enough, and people will start to think of shopping and holidays in the south. I urge everyone to contact our MPs, Minister of Health, anyone who can keep this issue on forefront, so that Kaslo ER is not forgotten and swept under the rug.

Wanda Ammon
Kaslo

Conservative changes punish the poor on employment insurance
Last spring when the Conservative government announced changes to a program that allows people to work part-time while they are receiving Employment Insurance (EI), it seemed like an improvement. Well, as usual the devil is in the details: the changes actually punish low-income Canadians by clawing back 50% of the very first dollar an EI recipient makes.

Until now, an ‘allowable earnings provision’ let people earn and keep up to 40% of their weekly EI benefit, giving them an incentive to work more. For example, if Kenny Gettabreak is receiving a $400 weekly EI benefit, he could earn and keep $160.

The Conservatives claim the new Working While on Claim program allows “claimants to keep more of their own earnings.” Yet they conveniently forget to mention that it eliminated the allowable earnings provision. While Kenny Gettabrack used to be able to keep the full $160 of earnings, now he only gets $80 since 50% of it is clawed-back.

They are forcing people in low-paying jobs or who only work a few hours a week to do with less.

Since Parliament resumed this fall, the Liberal Party has been demanding that Minister Finley reinstate the allowable earning provision. Not only is she unwilling to do so, she is unwilling to even admit that low-income Canadians are being penalized.

Knowing the dogma of this Conservative government, either they believe people working part-time are too lazy to work more, or it is just another hidden measure to force people to move out of our small communities. Either way, it is a punitive new program for low-income Canadians that reinforces my belief in these Conservatives: don’t trust them as far as you can throw them.

Rodger Cuzner, MP
Liberal Critic for Human Resources & Skills Development
A quiet environment for health, profit, clean air and water

Most of us who live in the Slocan Lake area do so because we want to be here. We are the same folks who favored the community ‘plans,’ support the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, and who seek appropriate park, trail, and heritage developments. We are the same people who want all the benefits of a relatively pristine environment, and want to keep it that way. I suggest that we want to keep it that way for reasons of health and to protect our investment in the community.

The summer tourists who stay to visit, as opposed to those just passing through, obviously spend more time and money here. Those who stay usually come to enjoy the quiet, and many come for non-motorized recreation. I suggest that they do this because ‘quiet’ is a rare commodity.

We need to protect our tourism ‘niche’ of quiet. As our valley is discovered, more and more motorized recreation machines are taking our ability to enjoy our valley that is a backbone of our commercial community, and the values that brought us here.

Power boats on the lake, particularly ski boats and ‘personal’ watercraft create an unacceptable din on the lake as the sound reverberates throughout the valley. They probably all meet some arbitrary noise level, but that is hugely exceeded when they cavitate, which is part of the normal operational cycle if you are playing with them. Further, illegal owners will attend to the hazing of oily tasting air that lays over or on the water’s surface, particularly on windless days. Some days, small lakes like Slocan are uninhabitable for this reason. According to a recent study, our wilderness symbol, the loon, is increasingly abandoned areas with power boats on it.

Unlicensed ATVs and off-road vehicles have driven many of my friends and ourselves from campsites that we used to frequent. Machines ran from dawn till dusk with most uncumbered riders – machines responsible for causing erosion problems which eventually cost us all money. The price of a vacation in remote area is wasted when ruined with incessant motor noise.

Sales studies substantiate that negative publicity spreads much faster than the good. We need to consider that when making any noise allowances.

We can best market ourselves as a tourist destination that offers to keep our noise level moderate, just as we can for our niche market guests who don’t add their motor noise. If we don’t keep the quiet we’ll simply end up competing for the same noisy business most other quiet areas with power boats on it.

The price for this reason. According to a recent study, our wilderness symbol, the loon, is increasingly abandoned areas with power boats on it.

Open letter to BC Minister of Health Margaret MacDairmid

I am writing to ask for your intervention and assurance that the rural areas of BC are as important to you as they are to us. I know you are looking into this by ensuring that the Emergency Department in Kaslo (and in other rural areas of our great province) retains its 24/7/365 coverage.

There are many creative ways to ensure that this happens. You have a team that can figure out solutions.

ED service is vital to prevent dispersed populations from being in an hour of an emergency service should the ambulance be needed for transportation, and where emergencies do not happen within hours becomes expensive. ED and RN service is vital for our seniors housed in the same physical facility as the Primary Health Clinic. There are many excuses to ‘cost out’ ED service – one of which seems to be the attitude of our young doctors who do not see their service involving ‘after hours.’ Do you know that in Kaslo all the doctors work half time? That’s 2 1/2 days a week. It’s insulting to us that they refuse to see critical situations in their off time.

Before the Interior Health Authority took over this area, the Nelson and Area Health Council (NAHC) had plans in place for a Primary Health Centre that was based on best practices and could serve primary and secondary care needs with emergency communication links – one being telehealth which is still not operational to its full capacity, primary care, and expanded scope of practice, complementary practices, etc. This model was to be unique and excellent, and was in developmental stages until the recent municipal town council gone off the rails and the government closed the health center.

The Health Council (NAHC) model was inclusivity and the principles of the Canada Health Act, both of which are presently lost or waning.

A good start to solving the Kaslo situation has been made with the formation of a committee which includes both local IHA representatives. This follows a terrible beginning where the IHA decreed the closure. The people of Kaslo and area and our politicians have shown that they will not accept this fourth-rate plan, euphemistically called health service delivery, and they deserve and expect better. Your government has shown that they can and do legislate, in a speedy manner, the changes that they want to see. How about legislating 24/7/365 ED service in all 14-member of the province, and after-budget service from physicians as part of a contract, and that IHA adhere to the Vision Statement of the Victorian Health Center of Kaslo, which states, “The Kaslo Health Center will promote partnerships with the community to provide health service and to enhance the health and wellbeing of Slocan Valley residents?” We believe in that, do you?

I look forward to your actions to ensure quality health care in Kaslo.

Sincerely,
John O’Keefe
Johnson’s Landing

Open letter to local government

I submit herewith my participation in the Slocan Lake Survey. It is my understanding that the questionnaire was created by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) through a painstaking community process with the aid of a 14-member advisory board. This was admirable transparency. I assumed that the questionnaires would go directly to government. I was astonished to learn that government was not only a private consultant of the SLSS. I fully understand why the SLSS board would not want to be the recipient of the surveys, but the need for an independent third party in whom the public can have confidence is not solved by the SLSS hiring a private consultant. All the transparency in the world in creating the survey will not help if, in the end, the process of counting the votes, and the critical step of analyzing the results, goes on in a black box represented by a single private consultant. The final step in transparency should be to put the surveys in the hands of someone who represents the public interest.

It is my understanding that the Regional District and other levels of government were funding partners in the project of creating Kooper fund went into it. And these governments apparently intend to use the results to create a Lake Management Plan. Yet, the regional district did not have anything to do with the surveys that brought us here. We are the same folks who want all the benefits of a relatively pristine environment, and want to keep it that way for reasons of health and to protect our investment in the community.

Two of the guiding principles of the NAHC model were inclusivity and the principles of the Canada Health Act, both of which are presently lost or waning.

A good start to solving the Kaslo situation has been made with the formation of a committee which includes both local IHA representatives. This follows a terrible beginning where the IHA decreed the closure. The people of Kaslo and area and our politicians have shown that they will not accept this fourth-rate plan, euphemistically called health service delivery, and they deserve and expect better. Your government has shown that they can and do legislate, in a speedy manner, the changes that they want to see. How about legislating 24/7/365 ED service in all 14-member of the province, and after-budget service from physicians as part of a contract, and that IHA adhere to the Vision Statement of the Victorian Health Center of Kaslo, which states, “The Kaslo Health Center will promote partnerships with the community to provide health service and to enhance the health and wellbeing of Slocan Valley residents?” We believe in that, do you?

I look forward to your actions to ensure quality health care in Kaslo.

Sincerely,
John O’Keefe
Johnson’s Landing

Let's have a slogan contest to promote Slocan Quiet!

If we want to keep Kaslo, Johnson’s Landing, and the Slocan Valley as a tourism destination, we need to ensure that we maintain a relatively quiet environment. This is the only way to keep tourists coming back to the area. We have already seen the effects of noise pollution on the quality of life in the Slocan Valley. The noise from power boats on the lake, particularly ski boats and personal watercraft, is causing a negative impact on the tourism industry.

As a member of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), I urge all members to participate in the Slocan Quiet! campaign. This campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a quiet environment in the Slocan Valley. We need to work together to ensure that the Slocan Valley remains a beautiful and peaceful place.

To participate in the Slocan Quiet! campaign, please join the discussion on the SLSS Facebook group or website. We encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can work together to promote Slocan Quiet!
Kaslo council, October 9: Bear Smart certification to be explored

by Jan McMurray

• Bear Aware Coordinator Gillian Sanders and Conservation Officer Jason Hawkins spoke to council about the 2012 bear season—it’s the worst yet in Kaslo. Sanders will provide information about becoming a certified Bear Smart community to the Municipal Services Committee.

• Bruce Doyle of IXL Driver Training and Gerry Mackinnon, retired RCMP member and former instructor, presented to the council with the RCPM, attended to ask for the use of the airport runway for a winter driving course. They would pay $100 per day in rent and $10 for snowploughing, which would be done by the Village.

The proposal was referred to the Municipal Services Committee.

• Council received several documents regarding the new water intake dam. The contract to build the dam, which has been awarded to Gross Ventures Ltd. for $339,240.

The construction schedule puts the completion of the project at October 31. Bernie Penner is the project manager. Design and Financial Assistance has been approved, but the eligible amount has not yet been determined. At the October 3 Development Services Committee meeting, Foreman Walker reported that the construction project was a bit behind, but going well, with changes being made to the design as they go.

• The final report on this year’s Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival was submitted. Although overall attendance continued to significantly decline, focused budgetary constraints and an excellent effort by staff and volunteers appears to have produced our first operating surplus since 2008.” Preliminary financial statements show a surplus of $53,696.96.

• A letter from Imperial Oil dated September 13 states that maintenance contractors would visit the old Esso site to cap off the wells and then the Village would receive a licence agreement for signing. The Village is planning to lease the property for a parking lot.

Kaslo is one of seven communities in the CBT Water Smart program that is looking to have a Water Loss Management Plan prepared. A completed, Kerr Wood Leidal out of Victoria, has provided a cost estimate of $13,943 to complete Kaslo’s plan. Kaslo budgeted $30,000 in 2012 for water loss detection, and $20,000 of this came from the CBT. CAO Sawyer points out in a memo to council that Kerr Wood Leidal does not simply study, plan, but includes technical capacity of utility staff in water loss management.

• Council is going paperless as of November 1 for an initial cost of $5,200 and incidental expenses.

The Kaslo Housing Society will be advised that the Village does not support its proposal to build affordable housing on the Kumbell Memorial property. The society will also be asked to file its presentation with the Village office for the next week for OCP review.

• Several items on the zoning bylaw were received, including a bill for $33,965.04. The draft bylaw will be refered to the Municipal Services Committee. A public hearing will be held before the bylaw is adopted.

Mabel Manning bequest and Kaslo emergency department discussed at regional health board meeting

by Jan McMurray

Two Kaslo issues came up at the October 10 meeting of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board, held in Nakusp.

• Linda Basran of Interior Health reported that a community meeting would be held Monday, October 15 in Kaslo regarding the proposed reduction of emergency department hours from 24/7 to Monday to Friday 9-5. She said the change had been postponed until January 2013, and the Kaslo physicians had agreed to provide 80 percent coverage of the department until then.

• Director Shadrack spoke on the issue of the Mabel Manning bequest to the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo. He is very upset about Interior Health’s lack of communication with him and Mayor Lay on this, and he wants the issue discussed at the regional health board’s 2013 budget discussions.

Mabel Manning, a long-time Kaslo resident, left $500,000 of her estate for improvements to the health facility. The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board made a proposal to Interior Health in an effort to match the bequest. The board, however, could only contribute $51,000 available for the health centre upgrades. The proposal was that the WKBRHD would contribute $200,000 and Interior Health $300,000.

Director Shadrack believed that the WKBRHD board was engaged in negotiations with Interior Health on this proposal, and then discovered through a press release that IH had decided to go ahead and spend the bequest on a new nurse call system, a refurbished tub room, new entrances for the emergency and primary care areas, a secure door to the emergency trauma bay, and a new permanent suction system in the emergency department.

“There was a complete breakdown in communication around the way the Mabel Manning bequest will be spent,” he said at the meeting. “I have been embroiled in negotiations with IH and then I discovered otherwise. The hospital auxiliary in Kaslo is extremely upset about this whole situation.”

Mabel Manning bequest to Kaslo to become the basis for new Kaslo Liquid Waste Management Plan open house

by Jan McMurray

At the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention during the last week of September, Area D Director Andy Shadrack was appointed to the UBCM Executive Board for two years. Shadrack is president of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG). He was acclaimed AKBLG president in April.

At the UBCM convention, Shadrack reported that the RDCK board met with the premier and Minister of Justice regarding the recovery of Johnson’s Landing.

He also reported that he met with a BC Parks representative regarding Cody Caves. This popular tourist attraction has been closed for the past three seasons, ICO was informed of the fee for the park operator. The park operator chose not to renew his permit for the 2010 season because of the increase, and the government has not found another operator since. “I’d like to be hopeful that we’ll get the park open next year,” said Shadrack.

The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board met with Dr. Halpeny, CEO of Interior Health, at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. “A better process for press releases and announcements is going to be discussed at an IH executive meeting coming up,” she said.

Director Shadrack feels that he and Mayor Lay were “completely blindsided” by this. “I don’t think that should happen again and I want a discussion about the decision that has been made. What are we going to do about that? I have a concern about money not being spent in smaller centres.”

Improvements to health facilities in the region are funded by Interior Health (60 percent) in partnership with the WKBRHD (40 percent). Shadrack pointed out that in the proposal to match Mabel Manning’s bequest, the board asked IH for only 33 percent of the total $1 million budget.

“I want it on the agenda for budget discussions this year,” he said.

Health Centre

Finally, the RDCK board met with the Minister of Health on small water systems, specifically the recent groundwater guidelines released by the Ministry, point of entry and point of use for long-term pasteurizers. The feedback received will be reflected in the final report. If you are unable to attend, a draft of Stage 1 of the LWMP will be made available online at www.true.ca/kaslo and your feedback on the plan can be sent to kaslolwmp@true.ca.
Potential renovations to Silvertown Gallery presented to public

by Jan McMurray

Four different options for renovations to the Silvertown Gallery interior were presented to about 20 members of the public on October 9. Ken Butler, who has completed a ‘Conservation Brief and Feasibility Study’ on the building for the Village of Silvertown, made the presentation. Historian Bob Turner of Victoria also worked with Butler on the study, but was unable to attend the meeting.

The different renovation options were shown with the aid of a model of the building, complete with interchangeable floor plans. The model was created by Michael Dorsey.

The people at the meeting favoured option #4 – also the one recommended by Butler in his study. Called “Addition Concept, Option 4: Silvertown Gallery & Fire Hall Connection,” the renovation would see a 14-foot-wide addition connecting the gallery building to the fire hall building. This would essentially bring the portion of the fire hall not currently being used by the fire department into the gallery.

The New Denver and Area Fire Department, an amalgamation of the New Denver and Silvertown departments, uses the Silvertown Fire Hall bays to store equipment. The department no longer uses the portion of the building that faces the gallery and that includes a meeting room, office and washrooms on the ground floor, and a kitchen and meeting room on the upper floor.

Connecting this portion of the fire hall to the gallery would solve two of the main issues raised by gallery users – the lack of an adequate kitchen and the lack of washrooms upstairs in the gallery. In Butler’s option #4, the kitchen in the gallery would be decommissioned and converted into a wheelchair-accessible washroom, and gallery users would use the kitchen in the fire hall. There would need to be two lifts/elevators in the addition to ensure wheelchair accessibility to all areas.

The cost estimate for option #4 is $103,000, not including the lifts/elevators. Butler says lif/elevators range in price from $25,000 to $60,000 each.

Included in option #4 is the decommissioning of the two downstairs washrooms (pink and blue washrooms). This space would be converted to display space for the museum. A wheelchair-accessible washroom would be created on the ground floor by converting the existing art workshop washroom and part of the darkroom.

Whereas it makes sense to renovate rather than restore the interior of the building because it has very little left of its historic fabric, Butler said the exterior could be restored to either the 1970s period with full stucco at an estimated cost of $170,000, or the 1950s period with stucco and cedar siding at an estimated cost of $180,000. Butler recommends the 1950s restoration because it reflects two periods of the gallery’s history and “will result in an attractive and functional exterior for the building.”

No matter which option is chosen for the exterior, Butler recommends replacing the flat roof over the main entrance with the original gabled roof entranceway. In the 1950s, the gabled roof entranceway was replaced with the large, flat portico roof. The flat roof captures the snow and has resulted in water damage and rot in the main entrance and extension walls where the building meets the roof.

Other recommendations for the building in the study include upgrades to the plumbing and septic systems, electrical systems and heating systems, the preservation and/or replacement of windows and exterior doors, installation of a fire suppression system, fire separation between floors, and an energy audit.

Butler said that an environmental assessment would be needed as well, to determine whether there is asbestos and/or lead-based paint in the building. The estimated cost of this assessment is $500.

Butler also mentioned that they addressed the bad smell that has plagued the building for years. He said he believes the cause of the smell was a combination of many things. They cleaned all vents and sewers, the entire building, and aired it out.

At the meeting, Butler thanked the Village, Gallery Society and CBT, which all provided funding for the study, as well as the committee that oversaw the study. He also thanked all those interviewed and all those who sent in their concerns and comments about the building.

The study will be posted on the Village of Silvertown website.

New winter hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10:30 am to 5:30 pm*

* closed October 28 through October 31 for stock-taking

Slocan Lake Tennis Club tournament held recently in Silverton was fun for all. (back row, left to right): Ron Friesen, Richard Allen, Bob Fulton, Mark Adams, Evelyn Goodell, Gary Wright; (front row, left to right): George Meier, Bruce Cottingham

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The Slocan Lake Tennis Club held its fall Men’s Doubles Tennis Tournament on Sunday, September 29 Ga. $ 2.79/ LIN FT ( $.93/SQ FT)

ALSO:

DEK-TILE 26 GA COLOURED $2.02/SQ FT

PROLOK 26 GA COLOURED $1.95/ SQ FT

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Slocan Lake Tennis Club tournament held recently in Silverton was fun for all. (back row, left to right): Ron Friesen, Richard Allen, Bob Fulton, Mark Adams, Evelyn Goodell, Gary Wright; (front row, left to right): George Meier, Bruce Cottingham
Nakusp council, October 9: Waterbridge Steel buys Music Fest building outside the Village.

The Chamber will hold a meeting to plan the Community Christmas Celebration. Council agreed to their request for the use of the Emergency Services building at no charge.

Mayor Hamling reported that the Downtown/Park Select Committee has received quotes and information about banners, and has passed it on to Public Works. The new banners are expected to be installed in spring 2013.

Mayor Hamling reported on the West Kootenay Transit meeting in Trail on September 18. BC Transit is looking at adjusting schedules to provide better service to Selkirk College and Pacific Insight. The schedules will be reviewed by staff and operators, and then there will be a request for public input. After that, it will take two to three months to implement new schedules.

Mayor Hamling reported on the Nakusp Fall Fair.

Councillor Mueller reported on a forum she attended at the UBCM convention on Wireless Antenna Siting. “We are not the only Village struggling with the lack of formalized siting practices and procedure,” she said. The demand for wireless technology is growing very quickly, and she feels it will be important for council to review the zoning bylaw, as there will likely be proposals for more cell phone towers to be erected in the area.

Councillor Zeleznik reported that NACFOR has finished logging in the Slewiskin area and has started on a block in the Summit Lake area. Reitmeier Logging will be cable-yarding the block, and logs will be hauled to Halfway Yarding terminals.

NACFOR board and manager would like to meet with the Village insurance company to find out if additional coverage is required because logging operations occur in the community forest.

Mayor Hamling reported that the Village does not believe the building is unsafe structurally, but there is remedial work required to satisfy fire regulations.

Councillor Duchaine reported that the business directory project of the Nakusp and Area Development Board has been delayed due to technical difficulties. They are working with the web developer and should be up and running soon.

Karen Marshall is the new secretary. The board met with Diana Brooks of the Regional Economic Operations Branch. She can put Nakusp in touch with other regions working on biomass wood waste projects.

Councillor Mueller reported that new daily opening hours at the Nakusp Library have been well received. The library has held two successful fundraisers and donated the proceeds ($400) to the Archives.

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Selkirk College hosts clean energy workshop with Bill McKibben

submitted

Anyone familiar with the environment movement will have read articles or books by Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org. Now is your chance to hear him speak at an event hosted by the Selkirk College Environmental Engineering Program, in conjunction with the Costeroola Gastropod Festival. The event will be possible for the entire planet to switch to renewable energy in a spectrum of 30 years, with greater energy reliability and a much smaller environmental footprint.

A acclaimed author and environmental activist, Bill McKibben, will provide the keynote address. McKibben will examine the environmental impacts of the fossil fuel industry, the need to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for its environmental effects, and what that means for our energy future. Both Jacobson and McKibben will deliver their addresses via videoconference and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions after each of these presentations.

Local geothermal expert Dr. Adam James will discuss how we can manage our energy needs more sustainably by putting renewable heat to work, and Darren Anderson of Solar Electric Light Fund, will discuss the many uses of solar photo voltaic technology based on his own experiences of installing these systems around the globe.

The workshops will also include technical demonstrations of a number of diverse, clean energy technologies. A renewable energy trade show and an exhibit will also be part of the two day event.

To carry the energy theme throughout the conference, the event will be highlighted by a musical performance by a songer/co-writer, Logan Carlstrom, whose sound system will be powered by a bicycle-powered generator operated by Selkirk College students.

Cost of the two-day event is $75 for the general public and $50 for students, which includes refreshments and lunch.

For the event, trade show or art exhibit, please complete an online registration form at http://solkirk.ca/energizing-kootenays or for further information about the event, contact castlegate@selkirk.ca or call 250-365-1261.

FUNDRAISER EVENT AT CAPITOL THEATRE FOR WOMEN’S ROLLER DERBY TEAM

submitted

The West Kootenay Women’s roller derby All-Star team, the Kootenay Kannibelles, are heading to the Canadian national championships in early 2013. To finance their adventure to the nationals, the Kannibelles, even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations, even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations, ’even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations,’ even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations, ’even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations,’ even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations,’ even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations,’ even mixing in a bit of meditative ritual and interactive incantations,’ along with the EP’s six ‘electro-Blues Emergency tour comes to Silverton and Kaslo

submitted

‘Blues Emergency tour comes to Silverton and Kaslo

submitted

Morgan Davis will join him on stage as the Electric mandolin virtuoso. “He’s one of the greatest

submitted

Anybody familiar with the great original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen. He’s one of the greatest original delta bluesmen.
Popoff pursues pulp mill sludge and transportation issues at UBCM

by Jan McMurray

Area H Director Walter Popoff reported that he pursued two issues at the Union of BC Municipalities convention in late September: the use of pulp mill sludge as a soil amendment and road maintenance.

Popoff met with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture on the pulp mill sludge issue at the convention. This issue surfaced this spring when pulp mill sludge from Zellstoff Celgar was applied to a property in Krestova in close proximity to the community hall that runs children’s programs. When the sludge was applied to the same property in 1996, the community protested loudly and won the right to be notified if the sludge was to be applied in future. Residents are upset because no notification was given this spring. They also feel the testing of the sludge required by law is inadequate.

Director Popoff told the ministry representatives that he wants the residents’ concerns addressed, and he wants amendments to the legislation so that additional testing of the material would be required. He also asked for amendments to the legislation so that the sludge would be prohibited on ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve) lands.

Popoff explained that he asked for the prohibition on ALR lands because so many farms on ALR land in the area are organic. “If we can’t grow organic food on the land after the industrial material has been applied, then that’s a concern,” said Popoff. He reported that the Ministry of Agriculture representative did not know if the sludge would meet the standards for organic farming, so will investigate and get back to Popoff. Last week, Popoff met with Chris Stroich and Rochan DeSouza of the Ministry of Environment office in Nelson on this issue. They indicated that legislative changes are beyond their jurisdiction, but they offered to contact Zellstoff Celgar to ask if the company could do other tests on the material. “They were very helpful with what is within their jurisdiction,” commented Popoff.

At the UBCM convention, Popoff met with Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Mary Polacik. “I outlined my concerns on the YRB maintenance of the roads and the accidents that have occurred as a result of the cold patching they did,” submitted Popoff. BC Hydro is partnering with local retailers to offer incentives for the purchase of energy-efficient products during October, Power Smart Month. Power Smart discounts are available to customers for in-store purchases of energy-efficient lighting, telecommunications, and appliances. Participating retailers include Home Hardware in New Denver, and Home Hardware and Overwaitea Foods in Nakusp.

Every year during October, Power Smart Month, BC Hydro shows British Columbians how easy it is to make smart energy use choices and save money on monthly electricity bills. BC Hydro provides increased rebates and incentives to help encourage energy conservation throughout the year. Customers can save up to $6 on select Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulbs and up to $8 on Energy Star LED bulbs. Some retailers are also offering additional savings on Energy Star fixtures like ceiling fans, and other energy-saving devices like motion sensors for lighting and power bars. Some outlets offer a 12 percent discount on select energy-efficient Star rated televisions and major appliances, as well as double the mail-in rebates on select clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers.

LEDs use at least 75 percent less energy than incandescent and halogen lighting and can last up to 25 years. Energy Star rated appliances such as televisions use up to 30 percent less electricity than non-rated models. Refrigerators and freezers 20 percent less energy; washing machines are 36 percent more efficient and a front-loading washing machine can cut water use by nearly 40 percent.

More than 700 retailers in over 90 communities across the province are participating in Power Smart Month incentives. For a complete list of all rebates and specials and for more information visit powermart.ca.

First annual Pickle Palooza festival planned for Vallican Whole

The first annual Pickle Palooza festival celebrated all the produce we preserve and canned for the whole family, will be held Saturday, October 20 from 10 am – 2 pm at the Vallican Whole. This year’s theme ‘can it up the harvest’ event is sponsored by the Valley Permaculture Guild. Admission is $2 and a Tasting Ballot is also $2.

Spend the day ‘relishing’ new food preservation techniques. Learn from experts about canning, fermenting and storing food. Enter your preserves in our canning contest and jar swap. Taste your way through all of the entries, or just participate in a jar swap. Stock up on supplies. Meet and support local farmers and groups working towards sustainable food futures for the Slocan Valley.

Come on out and be a part of your community’s thriving local ‘food shed.’

What better way to turn your jelly abundance into salsa? Or turn your pickled peppers into preserved pears? Bring six jars, take four new jars and have a chance to win the pantry stock up prize – one of each jar filled with preserves. We are still looking for experts and vendors to participate, along with more volunteers. For more details contact vpg@rbrand.ca or 226-7402 Check out the blog details contact:
vpg@rbrand.ca

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)
NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING
2012 SLOCAN VALLEY / BONNINGTON BY-ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given to the electors of the SLOCAN VALLEY/BONNINGTON Electoral Area that a By-election by voting is necessary to elect one School Trustee for the remainder of a term ending after the general election in 2014, and that the persons nominated and as candidates for whom votes will be received are:

SCHOOL TRUSTEE – ONE (1) TO BE ELECTED

Surname
Price, Bob
Walsh, Sheri Joanne

Residential Address
3838 Aaron Rd., Bonnington BC
4318 Poplar Ridge Rd., Crescent Valley BC

GENERAL VOTING DAY will be WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2012 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

School Board Office
570 Johnston Rd., Nelson, BC

ADMISSION IS $2 AND A TASTING BALLOT IS ALSO $2.

School Board Office
570 Johnston Rd., Nelson, BC

Eligible Voters:
The Local Government Act sets out the qualifications for electors entitled to vote at Local Government Voting and if you qualify, you are not on the list of electors, you may register at the time of the voting. The returnee will be available at the voting place. Notice: a person may be registered as an elector in only one trustees’ electoral area for any one school district. To register you must meet the following qualifications:

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A RESIDENT ELECTOR:
Must meet all of the following requirements:

• on General Voting Day you must be eighteen years of age or older, and you must be a Canadian citizen, and you must be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately preceding the day of registration;

• a Canadian citizen, and a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately preceding the day of registration; and

• a resident of the School District No. 8 electoral area for which the voting is taking place for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of voting; and

• not disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

Resident electors whose names are not on the voters list and wishing to register on voting day will be required to produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). The identification must prove identity and residency.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NON-RESIDENT ELECTOR:

Must meet all of the following requirements:

• on General Voting Day you must be eighteen years of age or older; and you must be a registered owner of real property in the trustee’s electoral area for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration;

• a person who is registered owner of the real property, either as joint tenants or tenants in common, are individuals who are not holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust;

• must not be entitled to register as a resident elector for any other trustee electoral area of the school district;

• if there is more than one registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may, with the written consent of the majority of the owners, register as a non-resident property elector.

By order of the Board of Education
A. Mackenzie, Chair Election Officer

Oct. 10, 2012

[Note: The text continues with additional information related to community events and sustainable practices.]
Nakusp boat launch to be built next spring

by Jan McMurray

The new Nakusp boat launch will be put to tender on the BC Bid website over the next few weeks, with construction expected to start in late winter in March.

Audrey Repin of Columbia Power Corporation was on-hand during a telephone interview, reporting on a public meeting in Nakusp on October 3. “Based on feedback from the mayor and councilors, the community is happy that this project is going ahead. They’ve been waiting for a long time,” she said.

Repin explained that CPC has partnered with BC Hydro on the project. “The Columbia Power Corporation’s role is to build the ramp, using the design finalized by BC Hydro,” she said. “Once the ramp is in place, BC Hydro takes over the maintenance.”

The design drawings were shown at the meeting, and were presented to the public previously by BC Hydro as well. The ramp is wider than the existing one and is about the same length, with a slightly increased grade. It is covered with concrete, making it a non-slip surface. There are various boulder clusters underneath the ramp to benefit fish and other aquatic species, as the new wider ramp will have a larger footprint than the existing one.

The initial design included parking on the ramp, but that was not approved by agencies due to potential leakage of automotive fluids into the lake. Repin said that because the ramp is wider, the design does not include a breakwater, and this was questioned at the meeting. Repin said she will take this issue back to the board at its November meeting.

Pianist Jane Coop kicks off Concert Series submitted

On Saturday, October 20, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting the first concert in this season’s Concert Series. Jane Coop is performing at the Bonnington Arts Centre, part of the Arrow Lakes Arts Council’s School, on the corner of 6th Avenue and 4th Street. The concert starts at 7:30 pm.

“Elegant,” “experienced” and “brilliant” are some of the words to describe pianist Jane Coop. Renowned for her highly appealing performance style, she is considered Canada’s premier Mozart interpreter by the University of British Columbia where she serves as Professor of Piano and Chair of the Music. A class act in every sense, Jane Coop’s musicianship is timeless.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank Margo’s Sunnnyhill Lodging for hosting the performers.

Another Nakusp issue was brought forward by Mayor Hamling at the meeting. Hamling explained that a year or so ago, Interior Health did some re-organizing and changed the designation of the Arrow Lakes Hospital from an acute care facility to a community care facility, even though it is still an acute care hospital with a complex care unit.

“This has caused quite a serious disconnect for our physicians looking after acute care,” she said. “They feel this change does not serve the community.”

In an IH-ordered review of Nakusp’s health services, it was recommended that the Arrow Lakes Hospital be moved back to acute care. However, in its response to the review, IH indicated there was no need to move Nakusp back. Mayor Hamling met with Dr. Halpenny, CEO of Interior Health, on this issue last year, but he did not

Applications Close
November 2, 2012

Tickets: Adults: $20.00; Seniors: $15.00; Students: $10.00 (80 & over) (17 & under)
Available at Bon Marche’ Dollar Store and at the door
The Village of Nakusp Hot Springs
Margo’s Sunnhyill Lodging

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Nakusp Hot Springs will be closed for Fall Maintenance from Monday, October 29, 2012 to Wednesday, October 31, 2012 inclusive.
We will re-open on November 1, 2012, from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Sorry for any inconvenience, see you when we re-open.
The Last Wishes Society is holding an open house at the Hidden Garden Gallery on October 26 from 1–4 pm. Last Wishes is a non-denominational, volunteer community society, formed to provide information to its membership regarding private funeral arrangements, including planning for burial or cremation.

In British Columbia, it is legal to make private funeral arrangements, as long as the person providing the information is not financially reimbursed. Detailed information regarding burial or cremation may be obtained from the Last Wishes Society.

Because a death in the family is exceedingly stressful, Last Wishes encourages pre-planning. In this way, decisions regarding the disposal of the body of the deceased will have already been considered and documented by the time of death. A pre-planning workshop will be held in November with presenters for Last Wishes being Kay Costley-White, retired MD, and Mike Sweeney, lawyer. Date and place to be announced.

The Centennial building addition is coming along. The exterior is finished, and interior work will continue over the winter. Another $120,000 is needed to complete the building. All donations, no matter how small, are greatly appreciated. This is a project of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, Nakusp Public Library and the Nakusp and District Museum Society. It is hoped that the addition will be finished by fall 2013.

The addition to the Summit Lake Ski Hill building has been under construction all summer. Here, a work party crew raises the walls the old fashioned way. The addition is hoped to be at lock up before the snow arrives, and to be operational for the 2013/14 season. Eric Waterfield reports that 15-30 people have shown up for every work party.

Camp sponsored by the Fauquier and Edgewood Golf Club.

Unrepentant

The Story of an Era by Gary Lee Wright

The U.S. State Department places Gary Wright on internal exile because of his ties to the SDS, a radical 1960s anti-war group. Drugs, sex, rock ‘n roll, principles and politics fill the pages of this darkly humorous memoir of his escape to Canada, career as a traveling musician, and rise to political office in the Great White North.

Unrepentant

The Story of an Era by Gary Lee Wright

with a special chapter by Corky Evans

The wind-up featured a fun tournament and long ball, chipping and putting contests followed by hot dogs, chips, pop. There were awards and prizes for all at the end of a happy summer of golfing.

Do you have youngsters who would be interested for next year? Watch for the club’s posters on local bulletin boards in the spring.
Kootenay Co-op gives $73,101 in Patronage Returns to Membership

Starting on October 9, member-owners of the Kootenay Co-op who spent more than $578 at the store between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012 are eligible to receive a patronage return.

This marks the reinstatement of this member benefit, which was on a three-year hiatus as the store saved for the purchase of a new building.

“Given the co-op’s strong financial position and the length of time since our member-owners had last enjoyed this benefit, the board felt confident in recommending the reinstatement of the patronage return”, said Abra Brynne, board president.

This money represents 15% of the co-op’s net profits from the past fiscal year.

“This redistribution of profit to our member-owners is both a real financial benefit and a symbol of the co-operative difference,” says General Manager Deirdrie Lang. “Co-ops are built on the idea of collective ownership and collective gain. The patronage return is another great example of how co-operative businesses can contribute to the local economy; by sharing the business’ profit with the people responsible for its success.”

Youth Co-op Stories Travelling Art Show Opening

Don’t miss the Youth Co-op Stories art show at the Craft Connection at 378 Baker in Nelson this weekend. The opening is on Thursday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 pm.

This project was spearheaded by the BC Co-op Association, and brought young people together from across the province to unearth stories about co-ops and credit unions in their regions.

The stories were then translated into visual artworks. The show is touring across the province to co-op and general audiences in Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and the first stop – Nelson!

Everyone is invited to the opening, where artists and local co-operators will be present.

Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

The Youth Co-op Stories art show will be at the Craft Connection at 378 Baker in Nelson this weekend.
Did you know that 18 million Canadians are a member of at least one of the 9,800 co-operatives across this country? In fact, many members themselves might not even realize that they belong to one. I’m hoping that we can change this during Co-op Week in Canada, which runs from October 14 to 20. This year’s celebration is especially significant since 2012 is the International Year of the Co-operative.

The co-operative model has proved highly capable of meeting people’s needs where the private sector does not foresee a high return on equity. As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has said, “co-operatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.”

Last Spring, as the Liberal Party’s new Advocate for Co-ops, I got Parliament to create a special co-operatives committee to study the sector. We found that co-operatives, particularly new ones, have trouble accessing capital to expand and that governments can play an important role in bridging that gap. A little government funding can leverage big results in the co-operative community. In 1986, the federal government provided $10 million to help capitalize the Arctic Co-operative Development Fund. Over the past 26 years, it has advanced over $300 million in financing to member co-ops that build up essential services for northern communities, everything from delivering food and fuel to television broadcasting.

Unfortunately, the federal government has declimated its funding for co-operatives, eliminating the Co-operatives Initiative and gutting the Rural and Co-operative Secretariat. The full report and a reply by the Liberal Party are available at http://1pc.ca/4osd. If you support the findings and think the government should once again enthusiastically support co-operatives, please let your MP know!

I encourage everyone to participate in this year’s Co-op Week by taking a close look at some of the co-operatives that serve their communities and perhaps even joining one.

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**Twelve reasons why co-operative enterprises build a better world**

1. Co-operatives are DEMOCRATIC organizations owned and controlled by their members on the basis of one member, one vote.

2. Co-operatives are VALUES-DRIVEN enterprises that are guided by seven internationally recognized principles.

3. Co-operatives have SOCIAL as well as ECONOMIC objectives and put PEOPLES before profits.

4. Co-operatives are more DURABLE than other types of businesses; research has shown that new co-ops are more likely to remain in business than other new enterprises and are more resilient in economic downturns.

5. Co-operatives are part of a dynamic GLOBAL MOVEMENT with more than a billion individual members around the world.

6. Co-operatives are ROOTED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; the jobs and wealth they create remain in the communities in which they are located.

7. Co-operatives EMPOWER people to take control of their own economic lives and futures.

8. Co-operatives respect the ENVIRONMENT and are recognized as leaders in environmental sustainability.

9. Co-operatives are the businesses of choice for MILLIONS OF CANADIANS.

10. Co-operatives can be found EVERYWHERE in small villages and big cities, in every region of Canada and most of the world’s countries. They exist in virtually every sector of the economy, from retail and financial services to agriculture, housing and health care.

11. Co-operatives CO-OPERATE with each other, working together at the local, provincial national and international levels. Canadian co-operatives are actively involved in assisting co-operative partners in developing countries.

12. By proclaiming 2012 the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES, the United Nations has recognized the important role co-ops play in the social and economic development of communities worldwide.
New Denver Council, October 9, 2012: Mayor reports
by Dan Nicholson
• New Denver Mayor Ann Bunka reported that every municipality in the province sent a delegation to this year’s annual general meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities. She reported on an unsatisfactory meeting with representatives of BC Hydro, while attending UBCM. “First off, we proved that we blew out their averages, in terms of frequency and duration of power outages. They responded with talk of vegetation management. They seemed to think that smart meters would solve the problem.”

• She mentioned that new docks were installed over the Thanksgiving weekend, and commended all those involved. The project cost $40,000 and was funded from Village reserve funds.

New Denver’s new boat launch facilities completed
The Council of the Village of New Denver invites residents of the village to take a stroll through Centennial Park and have a look at the new boat launch facilities.

Thanksgiving Day saw the completion of the much-anticipated Centennial Park Boat Launch Project, Gordie Burns of Nelco Marine Ltd. and his crew arrived in New Denver around 10 am and proceeded to install the new docks at the boat launch ramp, under the watchful eyes of Mayor Ann Bunka, Councillor Henning von Krogh, Councillor David Hodsall and friends. The docks consist of three eight-foot wide by 20-foot long sections, an eight-foot wide by 10-foot long hammer at the end of the docks and a 16-foot gangway, and are a much needed improvement over the old antiquated wooden docks.

The new structure is considerably different from the old one and is designed to guard against debris flows. It includes a 7’-8’ high concrete wall on the creek bank behind the weir to keep the water in the creek channel, a weir with a removable plank, a diversion chamber with intake screen and sluice gate, and a removable bridge with a davit arm.

When built, the water will stop behind the weir and will be directed through the intake screen to the diversion chamber. The intake screen will filter out large particles. From the diversion chamber, the water will enter the existing watermain to the reservoir. There will be a sluice gate on the diversion chamber, so sediment can be flushed out of the diversion chamber by the Village when necessary.

When sediment is backed up against the weir, the plank can be removed to flush it out. The plank can also be removed to regulate the creek flow. To remove the weir plank, a Village crew member will operate the davit arm from the bridge. The davit arm will swing around and lift the weir plank. The bridge will be removed only in extreme flow conditions.

Kaslo water system under construction
by Jan McMurray
Work has begun in earnest on Kaslo’s new water intake dam on Kemp Creek. The aimed-for completion date is October 31.

This reporter visited the job site with project superintendent, Bernie Penner, on October 3. A crew of five people were on the job. Penner said the crew would grow to six to eight people, and half would be from Kaslo.

Two pipes had been installed temporarily to divert the water out of the creek to create a dry work site while the new dam is being built.

The new Kaslo water intake is under construction. Water has been diverted out of the creek to make for a dry work site.
**How to get stuff done – helpful advice for small business at Community Futures conference**

by Veronika Pellowski

Small business, at least in the Kootenays, often means that all the functions are carried out by you, you and you! So how do you keep everything moving and your business active and vibrant without burning out?

This was one of the topics covered at the provincial Community Futures 2012 Conference, held September 30-October 2 in Nelson. The theme of the conference was ‘Productivity to Profit.’

Hugh Culver, best known as past owner of the world’s only tourism company in Antarctica, gave a talk called ‘Give Me a Break,’ based on his book with that same title. The book is for anyone who has a to-do list that never seems to end and is tired of always being busy. He also led a workshop at the conference called ‘Get Stuff Done: how to create high return results in less time.’

Culver’s message in a nutshell is to plan and prioritize. He encourages small business owners to look at their activities in three categories – boulders, pebbles and sand.

The boulders are the long-term business goals – ones that involve many steps, meetings, and time to help you achieve your long-term goal.

Pebbles are the stepping stones to the big goal. Pebbles are all the smaller tasks, usually achievable in a day or less, that lead you to your long-term goal.

But stay away from the sand – those small tasks and interruptions that can keep you busy indefinitely but really have low value and waste your time. You’ll feel busy, but will end your day feeling like you have achieved nothing. Stay focussed on the big goals.

“Get out the jumper cables and jump start your day – whether it starts at 6 am or 6 pm,” said Culver.

**Small Business BC hosts webinars during Small Business Month**

For entrepreneurs interested in attending other Small Business Month activities, Small Business BC also hosts an online events calendar featuring networking, educational and business events across BC for the month of October.

“Small Business Month is a time to celebrate the contributions, growth and successes of BC’s nearly 400,000 entrepreneurs,” says Hunter. “It’s also a time to showcase the resources and learning opportunities available to support small business owners.”
After 38 years it’s the last year for the Organic Mechanic

by Daphne Fields

Bob Lerch, who co-founded Organic Mechanics in Crescent Valley with Jeff Mock and Rick Ortega 38 years ago, is still hard at it – but not for much longer. He will be 65 years old this November and hopes for more just another one more year.

“The shop’s 25th anniversary seems like a long time ago,” said Bob. “Lots of stories, lots of recycling, lots of alternative, common sense approaches to car maintenance.”

The shop was once Bob’s home as well, complete with kids, a big garden, chickens and goats.

Bob recalls the time when Jeff chased a goat that had snitched a cork valve cover gasket. He chased it in and out through the open doors of the car he was working on – several times – and that the much household spent each year, and shift ten percent of it to local first. Working with business organizations, this campaign was initiated because its union’s members live and work in just about every community in the province, and they care about where they live. Good jobs, safety and secure communities, and quality public services depend on resilient, prosperous and sustainable local economies.

You can take the pledge at www.tenpercentshift.ca. The website also offers a portal for small, locally owned businesses that haven’t yet signed up to get on board and advertise their offers.

Support for small and local business knows no bounds – CUPE BC, CFIB join forces to support local enterprise

Don’t rub your eyes or consider re-narrating that laser surgery you’ve been putting off: the headline you’re reading is correct.

It has long been established that the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) doesn’t agree on many public policy issues. Yet the health of our communities is something all can agree on.

For years now, CUPE BC and CFIB have advocated spending your dollars at local, independent businesses.

If you want to put your shift to immediate action, the perfect opportunity is coming very soon to every community in BC.

On October 20, CFIB is presenting Small Business Saturday. This special day represents an opportunity to commit to supporting local families and local jobs by shopping local.

To start, there’s CUPE BC’s Ten Percent Shift campaign, which asks people to do something very simple: calculate how much your household spends each year, and shift ten percent of it to local businesses. Working with business organizations, this campaign was initiated because its union’s members live and work in just about every community in the province, and they care about where they live.

Good jobs, safety and secure communities, and quality public services depend on resilient, prosperous and sustainable local economies.

You can take the pledge at www.tenpercentshift.ca. The website also offers a portal for a province-wide database of locally owned businesses.

If you want to put your shift to immediate action, the perfect opportunity is coming very soon to every community in BC.

On October 20, CFIB is presenting Small Business Saturday. This special day represents an opportunity to commit to supporting local families and local jobs by shopping local.

Beyond providing one-of-a-kind experiences unavailable at big-box stores, offering unique product lines and unsurpassed product knowledge, participating business owners are even sweetening the pot with distinctive deals for that day.

To find out more about the benefits of shopping in small your community on Small Business Saturday, October 20, go to www.shopsmallbc.ca. The website also offers a portal for small businesses that haven’t yet signed up to get on board and advertise their offers.

Small, locally owned businesses are the heart of British Columbia communities. They create vibrant cities and towns, provide jobs and grow our local economies. These businesses matter to our communities, and to our friends and neighbours.

The importance of making short- and long-term choices to spend with retailers and manufacturers who operate where you live goes beyond the bottom line. Your choices and actions help support the businesses that in turn support and sustain your communities.

It’s a concept that is more important than politics or posturing, even if we see the world from very different points of view.

CFIB and the CFIB can support each other’s plans to boost local business, ask yourself, “What am I prepared to do?”

Bob Lerch, the Organic Mechanic, is retiring from his Crescent Valley business soon. Bob has been keeping Slocan Valley vehicles road-worthy for 38 years.

Send it in to: orgmec@shawbiz.ca.

But Lerch’s biggest recycling story is happening now, in the form and power of the story on the lot to be prepared for the crusher. So if you ever left a car there and want to trip down memory lane, go for one last look.

How will Bob fill his days when his owner/mechanic responsibilities are loosened up a bit? “No problem – I have tons of stuff I’ve never had the time or money to do: farm work, more honey bee keeping, working on my crafts. I picked up a couple of free drums from Christie’s closing sale the other day – maybe I can finally do that.” Lerch has made some beautiful jewelry, and he’d like to teach what he knows and be able to rest a little more.

Help Bob put the word out for a new mechanic/buyer to phase into the business. And if you’re in need of a repair or part, call 359-7625. Do you have a story you’d like to share from the old days, maybe to be put together with others for a party in November? Send it in to: vgcme@shawbiz.ca.

Good luck Organic Mechanics!
New tools help British Columbia businesses prepare for PST return

A recent province-wide mailing to more than 180,000 businesses and new tax bulletins posted online are among the ways government is helping keep businesses informed in advance of the April 1, 2013, transition date. Services available to businesses with questions include:

* One-on-one consultations with a ministry tax specialist – submit a request online.
* Calling a toll-free number with questions about the new PST (1-877-388-4440).
* Emailing questions to CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca.

A new provincial sales tax notice, ‘General Transitional Rules for the Re-Implementation of the Provincial Sales Tax’, has now been issued. The transition rules describe how and when PST applies to transactions that straddle April 1, 2013. They should be read in conjunction with federal transitional rules for the elimination of the HST in BC. The rules outlined in the notice are subject to the approval of the legislature.

Over the coming weeks and months, businesses will be able to participate in online webinars and in-person seminars. Government has reached out to chambers of commerce and business associations to offer presentations with information businesses will need to prepare for the transition. Registration for PST will start on January 2, 2013. The government has issued a bulletin, ‘Registering to Collect PST,’ to help businesses understand whether they need to register.

Links to these bulletins and notices, the online sign-up form for the one-on-one tax consultations and the federal transitional rules, along with additional information about the return to the PST, can be found in the business section of: www.PSTinBC.ca.

A new e-services option, eTaxBC, will also be available for online registration, return filing and payment and account maintenance. The new online service is one of the improvements that will make administration of the sales tax easier for businesses. This service will be live on January 2, 2013. As committed, the PST is being re-implemented on April 1, 2013, with all permanent exemptions. Consumers will pay PST only on those goods and services that were subject to the tax before July 1, 2010. Consumers will again not pay PST on purchases like food, restaurant meals, bicycles, gym memberships, movie tickets and others, nor for personal services like haircuts.

Two trees were planted at the Kemball Memorial Centre in Kaslo on October 4, thanks to a grant from Home Hardware. Councillor Leathwood, also Jewett School vice-principal and teacher, brought her students to the tree planting ceremony, and Ms. McMullen brought her grade 3 students from JVH. Eric Early of Kaslo’s Home Hardware and Mayor Lay did the planting, and Mayor Lay gave a talk about trees.

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2 or 3 BDR HOUSE in Silverton with frontage on the main street. Large yard, garden, Washer/dryer, $650 plus util. 250-358-7855.

ROOM, BATHROOM: Lease, View: 1/3500. 350-1090

ROOM AND BOARD: Perfect for a working person or long term visitor. Includes: Private room and bathroom, housekeeping, breakfast, boxed lunch, dinner, use of TV room, Wireless internet access. Rooms are clean and quiet. Downtown Nakusp close to the lake. Great home cooking, meals organized for shift work. No Pets. Call 250-265-2178 for more information.

FOR LEASE: 2 bedroom house in New Denver 5600 month plus utilities. Call 250-352-6164 Email belenholt@gmail.com.

SPACIOUS 3 BDR HOME in Canyon Mobile home park, Nakusp. Available November 1. Includes fridge, stove, washer, dryer. No dogs allowed in this park. References required. $675 per month includes pad rental. Contact Shirley at 250-265-8040 or shscovius@telus.net.


BOTTLE DRIVE Saturday Nov. 3rd, 10am to 2pm. For Nelson and Area Elders. Contact in New Denver: 358-7904 or 358-7158; Nakusp 265-8404; Kaslo 353-6358; Nelson 358-2206; Slocan Lake 770-6628; Trout Lake 250-358-6628. thankyou@yahoo.com

SELKIRK COLLEGE offers ADVANCED Computer Training, Tuition free to eligible participants in advanced computer training on Selkirk campus in Grand Forks, Nakusp, Nelson and Kaslo. Call 250-362-5037 or 264-36676. Funding provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement.

SELKIRK COLLEGE offers PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING - Class 1. Tuition free to eligible participants in 14-week professional driver training program through Selkirk College in Castlegar. Begins Oct. 22, 2012. Call 250-362-5037 or 264-36676. Funding provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement.

SENIORS INFORMATION EVENT

Seniors Information Event is Friday, Oct. 26. Showing at 7:30 pm: Rocky Horror Picture Show. Admission is by donation. Come and inquire about the biological effects of electromagnetic fields. Most knowledgeable MDs in the US on the historical effects of the electromagnetic fields.

He bridges traditional and complementary medicine, together with a high level of scientific research. He is knowledgeable in the field of New Medicine, together with a high level of scientific research. He is knowledgeable in the field of New Medicine. He is the director and founder of the Klinghardt Academy (www.klinghardtacademy.com) located in New York City. He has been the personal physician of a number of prominent individuals. He lives in Los Angeles.

Help wanted

Executive Director: Castlegar & District Community Services Society. Responsible for overall program management, staff accountability, community development and growth of the Society. Full time position with a competitive salary and benefits package. See www.cdcss.com for employment details.

For information on AA, NA, OA, ACOA or ALANON meetings contact in New Denver: 358-7904 or 358-7158; Nakusp 265-8404; Kaslo 353-6358; Nelson 358-2206; Slocan Lake 770-6628.


Spacious 3 BDR HOME in Canyon Mobile home park, Nakusp. Available November 1. Includes fridge, stove, washer, dryer. No dogs allowed in this park. References required. $675 per month includes pad rental. Contact Shirley at 250-265-8040 or shscovius@telus.net.

For $275 per month you can own your own property. A 2 BDRM, 2 BATH HOUSE. 1000 sq ft, very clean and quiet. $275 per month includes hydro, heat, use of yard, kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, use of full kitchen.

For $200 per month you can have your own slice of paradise. 1 bedroom studio, 2 summer months available, $200 per month plus utilities. Call 250-355-1050.

HELP WANTED

Nelson and District Seniors Information Society (Slocan Lake Stewardship Society) is seeking a Program Coordinator to develop and coordinate programs. For information contact in New Denver: 358-7904 or 358-7158; Nakusp 265-8404; Kaslo 353-6358; Nelson 358-2206; Slocan Lake 770-6628.

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Marchand from Woodstock, NB as well as Stewart from Castlegar; and Valerie (Dennis) River; Brian Guidon from Kamloops; Debra Prairie, AB; Patti (Rick) George from Powell

Gerald, Keith, Harold, Ralph, and Shirley of her siblings - Ted, Thelma (Thompson), with games like Scrabble or Upwords, as well as sewing, and she liked to keep her mind active in other home-based activities like knitting and her “hobby”, her actual interests were Blanche moved to Vernon in 1998, then to Trail in 2005 and finally Castlegar in 2007. She greatly treasured her independence, and although it seemed as though laundry was her “hobby”, her actual interests were other home-based activities like knitting and sewing; she liked to keep her mind active.

In 1960 they relocated the family to Nakusp farm, to raise their family of seven children. After the war, they settled in Burton, on the family homestead which Alphonse Guidon during WWII and, after the rest of their lives. She met and married Eheler while the family was living in the.

The Valley Voice  October 17, 2012

COMMUNITY

Blanche was predeceased by her eldest daughter, Yvonne Wegner, in 1975; her husband Al in 1977; her parents; and all of her siblings - Ted, Thelma (Thompson), Elise (Boehm), Clarence, Dorothy, Gordon, Gerald, Keith, Harold, Ralph, and Shirley (Hicks). She was loved and remembered by the remaining six children - Lawrence (Colleen) Guidon of Nakusp; Lynda Davis from Grande Prairie; Art (Rick) George from Kamloops; Brian Guidon from Kamloops; Debra Stewart from Castlegar, and Valerie (Dennis) Marshall from Castlegar. Blanche and Ron raised their thirteen grandchildren - Wray (Heidi) and Dwayne (Alisha) Wegner of Ranchs Santa Margarita, CA and cucumber, WA respectively; Paul (Jan) Guidon of Nakusp; Luke McKenzie of Grande Prairie; AR. Lara Detu of Kamloops; Brent (Daila) George of Vancouver; Aaron (Darlene) George of Victoria; Kyle(Jeff) McMillan of Woodstock, NB; Jason (Julie) Davis of Grande Prairie; Kirsten (CB) Lovercheck of Pendleton, OR; Robyn Guidon of Fort St. John, MB; Meghan Marchand of Sydney; and Melissa (Jarrod) Teimdl of Nakusp as well as twenty-six great grandchildren – Courtney, Blake, Gage, Cade, Amalie, Lucy (Yvonne’s); Hannah, Rebecca, Mikkel, Hunter (Larry’s); Maria, Justin, Cassandra, Janet, Caleb (Lynda’s); Grace (Patti’s); Luke, Kelsey, Reilly (Brian’s); Mackayla, Kailyn (Debra’s); Russell, Nya, and Hunter (Valerie’s). Blanche’s final resting place is beside her devoted husband in Burnett Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Blanche can be made to the Cancer Society at Dollar Dollar in Nakusp.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

Sensual products
• New Age cards & books
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Traditional wood-fired bread oven
Avail at Ruta’s, a New Denver - Slocan Village Market.

Slocan Valley Village

CLOTHING

www.jonesboysboats.com

Slocan Village Market
Groceries, fresh produce, fresh meat, Agency Liquor, organic foods, in-store deli, in-store bakery.
Open 7 days/week, 9 am – 8 pm
Slocan 250-353-2211 / Fax 250-353-2216

The Valley Voice  October 17, 2012

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Nakusp Mayor Hamling’s UBCM report

Council members and our CAO recently attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) meetings in Victoria. This is where issues that we are facing are discussed and voted on. UBCM was formed 105 years ago to provide a common voice for local government. It represents municipalities, Regional Districts, First Nations and Regional Health Districts. At this point, there is 100% representation from all the members.

At this year’s convention, for the first time, there is 100% representation from all the members.

Council met with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to review the proposed new ferry and stay in place once the new ferry is completed, and the importance of our airport. We were informed that there is no funding for upgrades at the present time, but council will continue to search. We also requested that the fixed link be kept on the long range plan.

The Village of Nakusp was presented with a Climate Action Award for the work done at the Nakusp Hot Springs with the installation of heat pumps and recirculating of hot springs water. It’s great to have our work recognized.

We each attended different cabinet panel meetings and councillor Hughes and I chose the Healthy Community panel. I brought up the need for Canadian graduates of medical schools to be able to access positions in Canada in a timely manner. This is currently not happening and there are a number of Canadian citizens who are qualified and have problems working in BC because of receiving their training in another country.

The premier’s address was the last piece of business and it was an interesting one. She mentioned Nakusp and bringing a trade mission to us. That’s the second year in a row that Nakusp has been mentioned in the premier’s address. The convention was a busy time and a very worthwhile experience.

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WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
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359-7815; 1-877-376-6593
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VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE OF 2013 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS
Section 224 of the Community Charter allows Council to exempt from taxation property:

(f) in relation to property that is exempt under section 220(1)(h) [buildings for public worship];
(i) an area of land surrounding the exempt building

The following properties are proposed for exemption:
1. Lot 6, Block 14, Plan 9501, District Lot 542, Kootenay District (Turner Memorial United Church);
2. Lots 7& 8, Block 35, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District (St. Anthony’s Catholic Church);
3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District & (1) Lot 26 (2) Prd A (KM82543) (St. Stephen’s Anglican Church), commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 26, Block 45, thence north fifty-five feet, thence east one hundred feet, thence south fifty-five feet, thence west one hundred feet to the point of commencement;
4. Lots 1-3, Block 48, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District (Pentecostal Church);

For the year 2013

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

October 17, 2012   The Valley Voice

Nelson and Area Elder Abuse Prevention Program info session submitted

The Nelson and Area Elder Abuse Prevention Program will present a very informative day at their information session to be held October 24. The location will be provided to the participants.

In the morning, the Bank of Montreal and the Nelson and Area District Credit Union will be speaking on how to protect your assets, Power of Attorney consequences and alternatives to sharing PIN numbers, reverse mortgages and other related topics.

In the afternoon Crown Counsel will do a brief presentation on Criminal Law as it relates to elder abuse. This will be followed by a panel presentation on the theme, “What Happens When Elder Abuse Is Reported?” The panel will consist of Nelson and Area District (NAD) RCMP local Crown Counsel and a provincial representative of the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Lunch is provided but pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please email prevention@radus@shdbmail.com or call Clinton at 250-229-2107 and leave a message.

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Slocan council, October 9: RCMP officers attend, promise to be more visible in Slocan

RCMP officers attended the Slocan council meeting (November 13) to discuss the possibility of using robotics at some points in town.

RCMP officers also gave a brief presentation on how to protect your assets, Power of Attorney, consequences and how to protect your assets.

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Kaslo Sufferfest sees almost 600 competitors

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Sufferfest continues to grow exponentially. The number of entries has doubled every year, starting with 150 in 2010, followed by 300 in 2011, and this year, there were almost 600.

Janis Neufeld, race director, reported there were 435 racers this year, with many competing in multiple events. About 55 percent of registrants (245 people) were from multiple events. About 55 percent of registrants were almost 600.

The new race this year, the Loonie Toonie, was a 200K trail run between Kaslo and New Denver. The three-day race included two overnight stays at Retallack Lodge. Neufeld reported, “We had six overnight stays at Retallack Lodge.”

She persevered and ran 20 hours on an injured ankle to finish the grueling Day 2 of the Loonie Toonie. She ultimately pulled out on Day 3, diggin so deep and completing what she did!” said Neufeld.

The biggest surprise this year was the huge number of entrants for the 10K trail run – 150 people. Neufeld reported, “We had six competitors in the inaugural year of the Loonie Toonie. They did amazingly well, especially on Day 2, which proved to be an extremely difficult day – we are revising day 2 for 2013!” The winner was Madeleine Martin-Prenery from Revelstoke, and she was just over three hours ahead of the next competitor at the finish line.”

Five women and one man entered the Loonie Toonie, and only one was local – Jessica Lupton of Kaslo. She earned the title of ‘Greatest Overall Sufferer,’ which comes with a cash prize of $100.

Winners of the Sufferfest Loonie Toonie race, Madeleine Martin-Prenery from Revelstoke, crossing the finish line. The Loonie Toonie was a three-day 200K run with a 10,000-metre elevation gain overall in the backcountry between Kaslo and New Denver.

Two candidates for Slocan Valley school trustee

by Jan McMurray

Sheri Walsh and Bob Price are the two candidates in the byelection for Slocan Valley trustee. The seat recently became vacant when Barbara Lindsay, current trustee, accepted a volunteer position to work with the Ministry of Education in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

The byelection will be held November 10. Sheri Walsh is a forestry consultant who lives in Crescent Valley. Currently in her second year as secretary of the District Parent Advisory Council, she has also sat on the Parent Advisory Councils of both Brent Kennedy and Mt. Sentinel Schools in the past. As a member of the DPAC executive, she is involved in several school district committees.

Bob Price lives in Bonnington and is a realtor and past publisher. He served on Brent Kennedy’s Parent Advisory Council for several years and then as the PAC chair. He also served as Brent Kennedy’s DPAC liaison for one year. He was a member of the Slocan Valley Facilities Advisory Committee, which looked at ways to strengthen education for all students in the Slocan Valley family of schools.