The little paper that could – the Valley Voice makes it to 20 years

by Jan McMurray

Twenty years ago, on December 11, 1992, the first issue of the Valley Voice hit the streets. It was four pages, no colour, produced by New Denver residents Katrine Campbell and Bonnie Greenwood.

Katrine and Bonnie had some checkers when recalling the early days in the small office behind the liquor store in New Denver. Katrine set up her MacPlus computer, typed up everything in a word processing program, printed it out in columns, and glued it all to the newspaper flats for the printer.

Katrine moved to New Denver in 1991, bringing with her a newspaper and communications background. She was doing some freelance writing for the Express newspaper in Nelson and one of her assignments was to interview Bonnie Greenwood, who had done an analysis of the employment and entrepreneurship needs of women in the Slocan Valley to Nakusp.

The interview took place at the Apple Tree Sandwich Shop in New Denver, and as we all know, the very best business ideas and partnerships begin in the coffee shop.

"After the interview was over, we had a coffee together and talked about the need for a newspaper in the valley," said Katrine. "I told Bonnie that I liked a lot of newspaper experience, but no business background. Bonnie said she could do the books and the sales. That’s how it all started – and the rest is history.”

Bonnie said the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission had identified the need for a newspaper in the Slocan Valley. She signed on with Community Futures and received a cheque for $200 a month to set up the paper. “It took a little while to get it together, but we did it,” she said.

The concept behind the Valley Voice was that it be a true community newspaper with a local focus. “A lot of issues that were important to us were not being covered by the other papers,” said Bonnie. “We wanted to fill that gap.”

The most popular section of the paper – Voices from the Valleys – was Katrine’s idea. "I wanted valley issues discussed, so we committed to making two pages available for that. We encouraged people to write in and focus on things affecting our coverage area.”

Bonnie added that the section ended up being a benefit to the business, because it showed that people from all over the area were reading the paper and engaged in the paper.

In spring 1993, Katrine had to leave the Voice for family reasons, and handed over her share of the business to Bonnie. From then until Bonnie sold the paper to current owners Dan Nicholson and Jan McMurray in 2003, Bonnie was the sole owner. She bought the old fire hall on the main street of New Denver in 1994, renovated it, and the Valley Voice office remains there today. She hired several people over the years – Karen Harris, Leah Mann, Brent Morrison, Dave Good, Rob Kiley, Nicki Borromand, and Moe Lyons. Gary Wright did the proofreading for $10 and Karen Hamling was the Nakusp correspondent for several years.

In 1997, Katrine came back as editor; she still does some work for the paper today. The Valley Voice started out as a Slocan Valley paper, and then expanded into Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes Valley and later into Kaslo and the North Kootenay Lake Valley.

"It was great fun," said Bonnie. "I can only imagine how many mochas and hot dogs I had covering hockey games at the Nakusp arena over my ten years here! I’m just really pleased that I was able to sell the paper to a local family and the newspaper is still a true community newspaper."
Glacier-Howser independent power project terminated

by Jan McMurray

Many people will be very happy to hear that the Glacier-Howser independent power project was terminated by the Environmental Assessment Office on November 27.

This proposed power project was extremely unpopular with the public. More than 1100 people showed up in Kaslo on June 23, 2009 to attend a rally and a public meeting to express their opposition to the proposal, with Southern Interior MP Alex Atanackovic and Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall among the protesters.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety played a key role in the campaign against the project. “After fighting this proposal for over five years, we are celebrating the final nail in the coffin,” said West Kootenay EcoSociety’s David Reid. “This is a great example of how good science and a strong public voice can work together to protect our ecosystems.”

The Environmental Assessment Office suspended the environmental review of the project on September 2, 2009 and asked the proponent, Pacific Green Power (subsidiary of Montreal-based AXOR), to provide more information about the impacts of the project on fish and fish habitat in both Glacier and Howser Creeks, and a fish and fish habitat compensation plan. Three years later, the EAO is not satisfied with AXOR’s attempts to satisfy these requirements.

Associate Deputy Minister Dave Nikolejsin outlined the reasons for his decision to terminate the environmental assessment of the project in a letter to the proponent’s project manager, Simon Gourdeau. Nikolejsin said the information for Glacier Creek was not provided, the information for Howser Creek was deemed inadequate to support the withdrawal of flows from Howser Creek during winter, and a fish and fish habitat compensation plan was not submitted. A formal redesign of the project had not been submitted, public comments in 2009 had not been responded to, and a number of environmental issues identified by the Working Group had not been addressed.

AXOR disagrees with those statements and is very concerned that the project was not evaluated fairly. In a letter to the EAO dated November 15, Gourdeau says that the extensive field work done by Summit Environmental, the consulting firm hired by AXOR, conclusively shows that the project’s fish population is low and reversible. He says members of the working group claimed that other studies existed that would dispute Summit’s findings, but these studies were never produced.

Gourdeau also states that all parties understood that the fish and fish habitat compensation plan and the redesign of the Glacier Creek facility could not be submitted without resolving the other information requirements of the EAO and discussions never moved past those.

Gourdeau says AXOR submitted its response to the public comments to the EAO, but agreed with the EAO that final responses should wait until the suspension of the review had been lifted.

It was not until October 22 that AXOR was informed that the suspension had ended on September 1.

“Throughout the entire review process, Purcell Green Power has asked for only one thing: that its project be evaluated objectively and on the basis of actual facts. Over the many months of the process we have experienced growing concerns about the fairness of the process… Purcell Green Power will consider any and all options at its disposal to seek redress.”
Concerns about Meadow Creek Cedar forest licence aired at public meeting

by Jan McMurray
Blue Ridge, the new company that is managing Meadow Creek Cedar’s forest licence, held a public meeting in Meadow Creek on December 6. The company was represented by owner Trevor Kanigan, woodlands manager Rod Arnold, Dale Giles and Jeff Ryder.

Although company owner Trevor Kanigan wanted to talk about positive solutions and opportunities available to the community now that Blue Ridge is managing the licence, the people at the meeting were more interested in knowing what is in place to make sure Meadow Creek Cedar owner Dale Koener is safely out of the picture.

Kanigan explained that Meadow Creek Cedar still owns the licence, but has signed over all responsibility for managing the tenure to Blue Ridge. Blue Ridge intends to have a purchase agreement in place for the licence in one year’s time, after determining what the liabilities amount to and after proving to the ministry that the company can do a good job of managing the licence.

The licence is still under suspension, but the ministry has amended the suspension to allow Blue Ridge to manage it. Under the agreement with the government, Blue Ridge must report to the ministry every three months and follow a plan to pay the fines, debts and liabilities racked up by Meadow Creek Cedar to the government.

The payment plan consists of putting aside $5 for every cubic metre of wood harvested. This fund will be used to pay off the approximately $120,000 in fines and debts incurred by Meadow Creek Cedar to the government, and to deal with liabilities regarding silviculture and road issues. Kanigan said no one knows how much the liabilities are, but he estimated them to be somewhere between $3 million and $8 million.

As part of the management agreement, MCC owner Dale Koener agreed to drop all of his appeals of the ministry’s decisions penalizing him for his terrible track record with the forest licence.

Community members were concerned that too many doors were left open for Koener to come back. Kanigan and Arnold explained that the agreements with MCC and the government were designed to protect against that, but “there are no guarantees,” said Kanigan. “We are working towards buying the licence because it’s good for us and I hope to create some opportunities here and eliminate some of the negativity. Hopefully there are enough people working with me at the ministry so we won’t get shafted — that’s all I can tell you.”

Arnold said that if Koener tried to sell the licence tomorrow, he would be breaking the agreement and the licence would go back into full suspension. He added that the ministry would not allow Koener to control the licence again.

Kanigan assured the community that no money was going to Koener under the management agreement. If Koener cancels the agreement, the silviculture fund remains in the control of Blue Ridge. He said the only way Koener could get some money out of the deal was if the purchase price exceeds the liabilities.

Richard Brenton said if there were any way that Koener could be held to a maximum selling price for the licence. “That’s the next step,” replied Kanigan. “We have to sort out the liabilities and I can work on firming up a deal that legally he can’t walk away from.”

People wondered why Blue Ridge was getting involved in this mess. “Why not just let Koener take?” someone asked.

Kanigan, Arnold, and Richard Brenton said that according to District Manager Gart Wiggill, if the licence reverted back to the ministry, it would be tied up for approximately 15 years while the ministry dealt with the appeals and liabilities. Wiggill told them he would not be able to ensure that the quota stayed in the community, and said it might be carved up and given to other tenure holders like the community forest and the woodlot.

When Kanigan asked the people at the meeting what they expected of him, they indicated they wanted jobs and they wanted to see the mill back up and running.

Kanigan said they were planning to log 40,000 cubic metres between now and spring. Arnold estimated that the company would have 60-65 people working this summer on road maintenance, tree planting, brushing and at the log sort yard. The company has opened an office at the Kamloops Memorial Centre and has some staff there.

As for the mill, Kanigan said he does not have the capacity to start it up, but would be willing to help get it up and running and see other business opportunities for the property. “If you want to start up the mill, I’ll supply the logs,” he said. He also explained that the government has lien against the mill property because of the money Meadow Creek Cedar owes, so nothing will happen at the site until the Blue Ridge payment plan takes care of the debt.

Another person said that if Kanigan were willing to put it in writing that 70 percent of the wood from the licence is available at fair market value to anyone who wants to start up the mill, “you would have the confidence of everyone in this valley.”

Kanigan responded that he is not opposing to committing fibre to a plant, whether it be bioenergy, co-gen or the existing mill. “If someone is interested and needs a secure source of fibre, we’re more than willing to look at proposals,” he said.

Season’s Greetings from all of us at Cornucopia in Keremeos!

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Dec 24 – 9:4
Dec 25 & 26 – closed
Dec 31 – 9:4
Jan 1 – closed

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Community Calendar

Thursday, December 13
WorkBC Information Session
Buttertubs Centre 10 am - Noon

Friday, December 14
Dinner at the Club
Tues., Wed. & Thurs., 7pm-9pm

Saturday, December 15
The Wilde School Blue Moon Café
Window Hall 5:30-7 pm
Film: Smart Meters
Hidden Garden Gallery 4:30 pm
Local Artist Market
Kelo Hotel 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 16
KLA Christmas Collection
Kamloops Exhibition Centre 2 pm

Wednesday, December 19
Late Night Shopping
Carols by Candlelight
Downtown Nakusp 5-10 pm
Buttertubs Community Hall 7 pm

Thursday, December 20
McKeanon Country Open House
2-1006 3rd St, Castlegar 1-5 pm

Friday, December 21
The Wood and Costume Party
Kelo Hotel 9 pm

Saturday, December 22
Local Artist Market
Kelo Hotel 10 am - 3 pm

Monday, December 24
Mental Health
Catholic Church, Sicamous 7 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 26
Bowling Queens Mini Skates
Mir Valley Station, Sicamous 1-4 pm
Kelo Hotel 8 pm

Thursday, December 27
Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 31
New Year’s Eve with Rucksack
Kelo Hotel 8 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave

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Will melting ice affect Jumbo Resort?

In the Province of November 30, 2012, there was an article called ‘Canadian data contributes to best study yet on melting ice’ by the Canadian Press. A study believed to be the most comprehensive ever done of the planet’s ice sheets shows that, overall, they are melting faster and faster.

Does this apply to glaciers as well? Are the glaciers up at the Jumbo Ski Resort melting faster and faster? How could any of them? How long might they last? You might not want them in the company.

E. Irene Varty

Winlaw

Energy – draining it or keeping it: wireless awareness

Please come to the ‘hot off the press’ documentary night December 14 at the Winlaw School gym, 5:30-7 pm. Specifically, learn about the smart meter situation – what is happening worldwide, and have the hashish conversation experienced by the experts.

Sorry about the clash with the Valhalla Community Choir concert in New Denver. We’re getting much better as a community about not double booking our party or public energy, but we still slip up! I think we’ll all ‘see’ how energy goes, and how there are times when things happen and times when they don’t! This is the end of the Dragon Year (new Snake Year is second new moon after solstice), so hoop it up! The documentary movie rights end and ends early (5:30-7 pm) so we can get a whole lot of information in a short time, the custodian can be accommodated, and we can all get back to our busy lives. (Maybe I’ll even get up to Silverton for the last part of choir?) My experience is that if you can’t get ‘out of the soup’ (like we all can here, so far), it’s just darn hard on the immune system, and drains one’s energy. So, see you there, and help getting our energy back if you can.

For less mass, and maximum energy at Christmas,

Daphne Fields

Slocan

Hunting in residential areas

Residential areas are good pickings for unscrupulous hunters.
The deer are accustomed to people and cars.

We live at the end of Passmore Upper Road. There are six households nearby. One can be seen from the road. There are three active children. At 7:30 am, November 30, a truck stopped in the road and someone shot a deer on our property. The hunter dragged the deer and put it in his truck. The road was well lit, and the hunter was hunting illegally.

Unfortunately, we didn’t see his plates. The Conservation Officer said he was liable for three charges: shooting from the road, killing a deer on private property, and shooting in the proximity of dwellings – possibly a further charge if the deer was a doe.

Conscientious hunters can do their bit by having a serious chat with the unscrupulous types. Your reputations are being tarnished.

The rest of us need to be aware that there are hunters who do not feel bound by laws. Safety and ethics are not a concern to them. Report questionable vehicles.

In September, a buck died in our yard. There was an arrow shaft in his stomach. Bowl hunting season continues till December 20.

The Raits Family

Passmore

Kootenay Lake levels

I am sure everyone around Kootenay Lake saw or heard of the high water level on the lake last spring. What you may not be aware of is why.

We are given the excuse that Cushman Narrows holds back the lake’s outflow and is the reason for flooding, along with high water from the river mouth – it is out of BC Hydro’s hands.

The Narrows does restrict the outflow. However, the excess flooding is caused by the lake being too high before freshet starts.

Last year, the lake was four vertical feet higher than it should have been when freshet started. The Narrows have no trouble lowering the water over the winter when there is very little inflow as long as the downstream dams gates are letting the water out, which they are.

The water is being held back and I can only assume it is to guarantee a water supply for hydro. If the lake had been lowered to its proper winter level, we might have had a two-foot flood over maximum full pool and all the damage and commercial property damage could have been avoided.

It is easy to say we had a 150% snowpack and lots of rain that filled the lake to the flood levels we saw. What we did not hear was the lake was four feet high to begin with. That is a lot of water. If the ice breakup is half when you start adding water, you can’t expect the worst.

I can see only this can be a ridiculous flooding and BC Hydro should be held responsible for all the damage done.

As a last note, it has been four years since the lake has been lowered enough to handle the normal freshet. The last three years, the lake’s been raised almost two feet vertical. Tenning the dams downstream yesterday, I see there is no water being let out of the lake but what exists the power sections.

Bill Neil

Koko-na-

Revitalize the CBC

I urge you to write a CBC that reflected Canadian art and culture back to ourselves and strengthened the artistic community in the province.

As a young freelance performer during the 60s and 70s, I had ample opportunity to earn a living in Vancouver. I was co-host of the CBC Radio ‘School Music’ program, a regular performer on TV shows such as ‘Scenes of Those Days’ and ‘Choirs Gentlemen’.

I had a two-seater gig as writer and performer on a little TV series called ‘Gilbert & Sullivan’ as well as a quirky little comedy series called ‘A Second Look’ and wrote and hosted dozens of educational documentaries. There was also the occasional vocal recital for CBC Radio and a memorable radio production of Mozart’s ‘Cos’ Fan Tutte’ featuring Vancouver opera performers. I was a regular member of the Vancouver Opera Chorus, a founding member of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, and a broadcaster at The Voice Under the Stars. All that made it possible for me to make a living as a freelance performer.

By the mid-70s, however, freelance opportunities, especially at the CBC, were beginning to dry up and I moved on to other forms of employment that seemed more secure, but never as much fun. I have remained a loyal CBC fan, but I have also watched with dismay as the richness of CBC programming has given way to dependence upon a few ‘Personities’ who inhabit our airwaves, but do not necessarily reflect the regional diversity that exists in our country. Stuart McLean has become THE Canadian storyteller, but just about every community in the country has writers and storytellers who deserve to be heard, but are essentially being ignored because of the way the CBC programming decisions have become so centralized and, thus, insular.

I truly hope that regional CBC programming survives and that production values can, once again, allow a diversity of voices to be heard across the country. CBC hearings are currently under way and I encourage all CBC fans to let their voices be heard.

With fingers crossed,

David Kendall Stewart

Argenta

THE VALLEY VOICE

Volume 2

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake valleys from South Slocan/Plum travelling to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Circulation is 7,500 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

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THE VALLEY VOICE OPINION

Vol. 2 No. 22 December 12, 2012

The Kaslo Hotel is open for lunch and dinner every day at noon. Ask about our New Year’s Getaway package! The Kaslo Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the author.
Act of God or BC Government?

Everyone is talking about the weather changes these days as we watch the news about Vancouver Island earthquakes and the floods in New York City. Is this an act of God? Could the Mayan Calendar really spell the end of our days on Earth? You can solve part of the mystery of the bad weather by visiting http://www.weatherfordification.com and look under projects and clients. You’ll learn that the BC Ministry of Forests and BC Hydro and Power Authority are two of the four Canadian clients who purchased the services of these planes that leave the long-lasting trails in the sky in an effort to ‘seed’ clouds. So if you’re wondering who’s paying for those planes...it’s you. Enough already!! Better go dig another water way in my already soggy backyard.

Shonna Haynes Nelson

Reasonable and Relevant Concerns – December 6, 2012

Economically minded citizens can rest easy about the crazy infatul hot pot idea. But ignore health concerns, because according to Industry Canada’s guideline (CBC 2-0-03 Issue 4); questioning Safety Code 6 is ‘not a reasonable and relevant question.’ Safety Code 6 is clearly intended as an occupational health code with a maximum of six-minute exposure limits. Let’s remember toores in people’s backyards will be there for decades, not minutes.

We are building a new infrastructure in this valley. And we have a chance to do it differently. With that in mind, here are a few reasonable and relevant concerns. On page 24 of the Telus phone book, the company commits to ‘meet our security, health and environmental concerns when possible, yes, go beyond!’ To live up to this commitment, Telus must address health and property devastation concerns.

Industry Canada guidelines state that Telus MUST investigate sharing or using existing infrastructure before proposing new towers. So why is Telus proposing NEW towers in people’s backyards and not proposing use of existing towers which provide nearly full coverages of the highway (especially from Lorne Creek to Lebohda flats)?

If the provincial government has a mandate to make cell coverage available to 1700 km of OUR highways, how much of OUR tax dollars are going to Telus’s pockets to subsidize these towers? What is the relationship between the cell tower positioning and Fortis’s plan for household wireless service?

Telus has an incredible opportunity to use our mountainous landscape to our advantage and put towers in high spots, building this new infrastructure in a smarter way and laying towers away from people as much as possible. The way I see it, putting towers away from populated areas will actually benefit the local economy by ensuring local fallers, road builders, etc. are hired instead of making a run for the mountains and starting new roads and power that may be required.

So, will Telus live up to its ‘Future is friendly’ slogan and work with and not against us? As a community (citizens and the KDCK) we should expect nothing less of Telus.

Craig Stowell Williams

Open letter to Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Gerry Ritz

The BC federal NDP caucus would like to express our support for BC Fruit Growers and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in their resolve to reject the introduction of genetically engineered tree varieties in BC and ultimately in the rest of Canada.

This resolve has come about over the potential threat to the apple industry in the event of an outbreak Sapronan Fruit Flies. is awarded government approval in their application for the unconfined environmental release of their genetically engineered nano-engineered Arctic Apple (G7434 and G58974): BC apple growers, both organic and conventional, have reasonably rejected any notion of a genetically engineered (GE) apple being introduced into their apple growing environment fearing contamination of non-GE apple trees via pollination, pest backsliding and devastate harm to their markets. Furthermore, non-browsing apple varieties are already available as a stock-taking the genetically engineered Arctic Apple entirely unnecessary.

We strongly urge the Minister to bring forward legislation that will provide the government with the current raining but necessary mechanisms to consider the potential for market harm in its approval process of genetically engineered fruit trees. Please be assured that the federal NDP/PC caucus stands in support of the UBCM resolution calling for the establishment of a GE Free BC when it comes to our fruit trees.

Alex Atamanenko

Open letter to Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations re: British Columbia sponsored killing of wolves

I heard on CBC Radio that your Ministry is accepting comments from the public on the government-sponsored killing of wolves.

We are told this is in defense of the woodland caribou, which are endangered. This reasoning is so preposterous as to sound diabolical.

Woodland caribou need old-growth forests to survive because in the winter these herbivores subsist on lichen. Lichen grows on trees, very slowly. It takes a lifetime of years for them to reach a density of such a thickness that they can support a population of caribou. Chop down the trees and the lichen will go with them; so will the caribou. We don’t have any alternative, valuable species of lichen are disappearing and indigenous species of lichen are the 1,000-year old trees of the Incompleats were assigned for logging.

In addition, caribou that are already winter-stressed are being disturbed by snowmobiles that thunder through their habitat, causing the animals to waste precious energy, in turn slowing snow to get away from the disturbance. I witnessed this person. On my skis in the Monashee mountains, I was observing a group of six woodland caribou from afar through binoculars when suddenly they bounded away as a group of snowmobiles thundered through the scene.

I do not hear the government instilling and, more to the point, enforcing, a program of closures to motorized vehicles in caribou habitat. Why not? Would that not be a better way to spend the money? Two years ago, there was talk of flying sharp shooters around in helicopters to kill wolves. What on earth could be a better use of money?

This government keeps approving measures that threaten the very system that we rely on for food and water. Two years ago, Whitewater was given permission to expand into caribou habitat. This government has approved the very mining that harms the fish, the yet-to-be-populated municipality already has a mayor – appointed, not elected. Of course the animals are not going to be found foraging on the Jumbo glacier, they are in their environment and its infrastructure is bound to increase pressure on wildlife in adjacent ecologically productive areas. These are the reasons why this government is left to find food wherever else possible, including calves on ranges... and so we kill wolves “to save the caribou”? Or we kill wolves because we make inconvenient neighbours?

Sadly, we are likely to lose the woodland caribou. Are we to lose the wolves as well? Are we to “manage” nature by reducing everything to the minimum common denominator? Who is to profit from the killing?

Kootenay Rockies Culture published a price of $125.11 for a wolf pelt. That is a obscene price for the life of a magnificent creature, but killing 20 wolves a month would amount to pretty substantial beef in top of that, the government pays for it.

Quite aside from the economical or ecological consideration, the killing of these intelligent animals is an outrage. A couple of days ago, CBC Radio broadcast a different story – about the man who was accosted of a large black bear between Kinbasket and the Wapiti as a result of the downsizing following the Winter Olympics. There were too many dogs so they were summarily eliminated. There ensued a public fury, the perpetrator was brought to trial, government officials scrambled to join the chorus of public outrage. Why, may I ask, is it not done for those ease officials to plan the slaughter of wolves? What is the difference between the two scenarios? In both cases, intelligent social animals are killed because someone decides they are a surplus. If it is bad for dogs, how could it possibly be okay for wolves? I am offended that my government would use my tax money to perpetrate such a deed.

Danielle Gabelli

Bonomi

Open letter re: Jumbo

Recently, Mr. Bennett approved incorporation of the Jumbo Pass ski hill as a Mountain Resort Municipality, paving the way for a controversial and highly contentious development high in the wilderness of the Purcell Mountains.

This is a boondoggle of the highest order and reflects some of the most ill-informed, dishonest and preordained decision making in the history of British Columbia. First because there are already a dozen or so ski hills in the region that are struggling to stay afloat for lack of paying customers. This decision will add yet another hill to an already over-served market, with 23 ski lifts and accommodations for 10,000 skiers. Then there is the fact that this government is guaranteeing that development on a Hill that has a population of 21 would benefit the community. Without the support of the local residents opposed to this reckless development and passed a resolution to that effect.

This resort will be located 75 kilometers from the Columbia River Valley, at the head of a rugged canyon, upon which a road will have to be built – and not just any road, but a modern two-lane paved highway capable of handling heavy traffic loads daily. Who will pay for this road and who will pay for its upkeep and maintenance, especially in winter when it will be plagued by avalanches and snow and will when it will suffer washouts?

Is the $250,000 Mr. Bennett gave this new community refusible or repayable, or is it an outright gift? And if it is an outright gift, why should the taxpayers of this province be required to pay the startup of a resort that few of them will ever see, let alone enjoy, and which will wreak havoc on our pristine wilderness, threaten the viability of its grizzly population, and probably put local ski hills out of business?

Mr. Bennett knows full well that the great majority of people of both East and West Kootenay have voiced strong opposition to this development for the better part of the past two decades. Does Mr. Bennett know what the word “majority” means? Does he care? Both seem doubtful.

And he knows the Kumshe First Nation is also opposed to this development. This is why the Kumshe First Nation chairwoman said, the Province has not listened to Kumshe concerns over the environment and over the special significance the mountain region holds for the First Nation.

“We have clearly and consistently indicated that if this resort is built, it will critically damage our religious rights and freedoms, as well as our aboriginal rights, all of which are recognized by the Canadian Constitution,” she said.

But Mr. Bennett appears to think he knows better than the majority of people living in the region. His announcement of this approval included his appointment of a mayor and two council members to form the mountain resort municipality. Pardon me, appointed? Whatever happened to the democratic process? How can there be a municipal government if there are no people in residence to govern? Mr. Bennett’s idea of democracy stretches one’s credibility beyond the breaking point.

This project has often acted in ways that are contrary to the best interests of the people of British Columbia and by doing so has just shown anti-urban politics that is for the next election. And Mr. Bennett can rest assured that it will be his fate when the majority of voters in East Kootenay get through with this whole thing.

This project makes absolutely no sense on any level whatsoever, including the figure Mr. Bennett has quoted as representing the amount of foreign investment it will bring – $500 million – which is twice what the developer himself has said he will invest – $450 million – and my bet is that the local road will be built using millions of taxpayers dollar.

This can only lead to people thinking there’s something else going on here. Approving a resort municipality in a remote situation needing a multi million dollar road built to drive down ski area miles and threatening the abundant wildlife and scenic values of a landscape that’s owned by all British Columbians, not mention its impact on existing ski areas, isn’t just stupid – it’s downright and unnecessarily ignorant and toxic to the best interests of British Columbia.

Unless of course there is something else going on, something to which the public is not privy. And any of who would be foolish enough to believe that.

You all should be ashamed of yourselves.

I need not remind you what the political consequences of this will be, but I doubt it’ll involve any champagne for you come the next election. No, you will be trash – and British Columbians will wallow in cool tidiness, and that will be a good thing.

Seon Rooney

Vailman
Climate change – time for action

Last week the World Bank issued a climate change report that warned about temperature increases of 4°C (7°F) by 2100. We’re on track for a 4°C warmer world marked by extreme heat waves, declining global food stocks, loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, and life-threatening sea level rise. Such a world is hard to imagine. Arctic ice would be all long gone.

Another new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) warns that two-thirds of the coal, oil, and gas we already plan to develop, most likely will need to stay in the ground (not to mention the stuff that might be hiding in the seabed under the melting Arctic ice). It’s not even the high end of projected warning for 2100 if we stay near our current emissions path.

How do you react to reading this?

Do you skip to the next page? Do you reject it as ‘headline política’? Or is it just too much to take in when the laundry is spilling, dinner is just about to get cooked, and your back hurts already even if peak oil (laundering water and firewood without machines) is not even here. Please note your response, name it, and move on.

As Hurricane Sandy showed, shocking news or even disasters might not scare us into action. I think most of us are too numb, too anxious, and too tired from our feelings. Recently, I heard local scientist Mel Reasoner talk about predicted climate scenarios for the Kooomans (www.wwf.org), and it clicked. Maybe I was the only listener crying but grief seems to be the most appropriate reaction to the unknown future of our future children. I hope others feel the same bewilderment and urgency and behind it all, love for this lonely planet and its life force.

But creating sustainable structures needs to be paired with actions to slow down the current destruction of the planet. We must stop irresponsible forestry, oil pipelines, fumio, and the tar sands and make the fossil fuel big business accountable. Fossil fuel companies intend to burn about 3000 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere, which both the world and the country can use in order to have a chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C. Canadian Forest 2050.org is asking for divestment – to stop universities and pension funds investing in the fossil fuel industry. Why would pension funds invest in companies that they know we would like to plan to retire in? Where are your investments? What is your next action?

Maksim Choussenova

More problems with gravel pits

This letter is further to our letter to the editor in the October 31 Valley Voice, responding to Peter Ferguson’s ‘Gravel pits and planning’ letter. My home in Glen is 100 feet from the gravel pit. I am concerned about the noise from working gravel pit operation, and I empathize with my friends who live in the area of the proposed Slocan Park gravel pit.

We in Glen have found that operators and the regulatory agencies do not manage many conditions laid out in the ‘permit to operate properly’ or effectively as specified in the British Columbia Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia. We feel the following issues need to be addressed by the permitting agencies.

Mine planning: The mine plan is said to be a key document that allows the mining agencies and operators to understand what activities will be carried out during a specific period of time, where ore/material will be mined, how is the mining carried out, what is it going to be processed, and all other aspects of the operation. This plan is to be updated every three months (as per section of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code). Our neighborhood gravel pit has not had an updated plan since the initial permit was granted in 1992. When plans are to be updated, it seems that no one will end up to the process and the operator is granted unlimited extensions. This process has gone on for three years and there is still no acceptable plan in place.

Inspection frequency and operational oversight: With regards to mine inspections, our local community members began to complain about the operation that the permitting inspector came to look. When the inspector was asked about this operation, they knew nothing about it and had incomplete files. When meeting with the inspector, we were asked if we could share our information as they did not have copies of the mine permit or other information relevant to maintaining compliance.

Mine closure funding: Mine Reclamation Fund established by the provincial permitting agency (MREM) set the reclamation bond for Glen at $150,000. Considering there would be tens of thousands of dollars of equipment to run an operation like this, it is somewhat disheartening that there is not sufficient funding available to complete the reclamation.

Last, but certainly of concern, is the fact the Regional District of the Okanagan (RD) only has authority over properties permitted under the Mines Act. Very limited means of recourse are available to address our grievances regarding the impact those operations have on our lives and our right to quiet enjoyment. Determining if the neighbor(s)/power lines are out, etc. No one in mid-mount is sorta OK to ask these questions; but around 7:35 pm late in November, if my lights etc. go out at once, followed by nearly a minute of flickering and fishing, during which I scramble around trying to shut things down before they fry or worse, then ask someone else or everyone else to check for blackness then, yes, I’m instantly sure this is an actual outage.

All subsequent calls to POWERON and updates from BC Hydro require you to believe estimated times as to when power will be restored and assurance that the aile you are given is the same as that available to BC Hydro. What a crock! And the ongoing TV public service spots are just as bad. Messy.

Suggestions for BC Hydro POWERON

We have recently experimented (by my reckoning) the four major BC Hydro outage in 2012, this time almost exactly 20 hours long (and as of today, December 1, 1 hour and 14 minutes). As a result of calls starting coming into the system, the Hydro centre somewhere that doesn’t know where I am – “New Denver – is that on Vancouver Island?” – I have been asked at the past.

It is not that an initial message speedily be made available to POWERON or callers’ numbers associated with this circuit (or the secondary circuit(s) affected if already identified) as to the fact of an outage, its category and cause, if known or stated as unknown, expected time of response similarly and the promise of an update if available and within a given period – an hour for example would be reasonable – or after a stated time. The reported outage times are wildly inaccurate, which is the design and bono failure implementation.

This is an intelligence information recipient: If the issue is on the primary transmission line, such as on Friday night, with no generation (115 kV line, 115 kV pressure), power is not coming back on until it is safe for crews to reach the site and then make the repairs. BC Hydro external Affairs lead Matt Sturk and the rest of the rest of us may not be aware that it is standard procedure. No one at all will know for any individual outage unless BC Hydro tells us that this is the situation. Telling us that the “expected time of restoration is 11pm” before they know the score, and even after that, will not be helpful in this. It’s pointless and ultimately downright silly. I am sure that with the first hour, from POWERON inquiries, BC Hydro would know where the problem was to an accuracy that would confirm whether there could still be a fire by 11 pm or not, and almost everyone listening is asking the questions that it would not be until daylight that crews could safely attend the outage site, and have a message available to POWERON informing customers appropriately. They might even be able to estimate a minimum likely time to do the repairs. Then the successive updates of “Friday November 30, 11 pm,” “Saturday December 1, 8 am,” “Saturday December 1, 2 pm” would not be regarded by such as myself as utterly meaningless and more only the “Saturday December 1, 3 pm” as one somewhat encouraging – I wouldn’t have been that surprised to be still waiting now (6 pm Saturday evening) with the test of inaccuracy that I have been through. Knowing when the line, motor vehicle accident, tower or pole collapse, mudslide, substation problem (and which one), snowslides, fire (however caused – see below), supply interruption from the greater power grid, Corona Mass Ejection, zombie invasion etc. when probably key people and agencies/or organizations be promptly informed and updated – Fire Chiefs, RCMP, other emergency response organizations (who I know exist somewhere) of this circuit or that part affected, which as I have said before has a specific reach and coverage. Not like a metro area.

Equipping any transmission towers in line of sight of a cell phone or internet provider tower with a transmitter suitably solar-powered charged that will contact BC Hydro as a change to in power flux such as a cessation or surge to improve speed of notification and location of problems. I am sure there are other electrical utility jurisdictions somewhere that do this. Maybe even some satellite link(s) (in the remotest or most inaccessible states) of this long rural circuit.

Not only have the misleading misstatements on POWERON as outage caused “by a fire” when it turns out the decipt BC Hydro pole structure/energized lines caused the burst fire in the first place – this one was one of this year’s incidents.

Any misstatement of fact reduces future credibility unless owned-up to or corrected.

For your personal are needed for the above, possibly the soon-to-be unemployed(s) could be used.

Stephen L. Phillips
New Denver
Smart meter - internet interference discussed at Red Mountain Internet Society AGM

by Jan McMurray

The internet outage caused by BC Hydro smart meter infrastructure in July was among the topics discussed at the Red Mountain Internet Society AGM on December 3 at the Hidden Garden Gallery.

Wendy King, RMIS board member, said that the outage caused by the BC Hydro collector (smart meter infrastructure) on DeRosa Drive in Rosedale in July cost the society approximately $11,500. BC Hydro has agreed to reimburse the society with $5,000 only.

Jason Clarke, director on the RMIS board, added that BC Hydro had made it clear that this was a one-time payment only.

King explained that RMIS and some other community wireless internet service providers contacted BC Hydro many months ago to express concern that smart meter equipment could possibly interfere with their wireless internet network equipment. At that time, community providers understood that BC Hydro would inform them before activating any smart meter equipment in their area.

However, without notifying RMIS, BC Hydro turned on a collector on DeRosa Drive in Rosedale for testing in July. RMIS customers started experiencing internet outages, and King said there was a “domino effect” that spread through the entire network. “We didn’t know about the collector, so that really wasn’t fair,” she said.

“They were supposed to inform us, but didn’t. It took two weeks of solid labour to get the system back up again.”

In September, an engineer and three others from BC Hydro came to the area for a field visit. The results of their testing confirmed that the internet outage was caused by interference with BC Hydro smart meter equipment.

“We are not optimistic that there will be a solution soon, because there are 112 independent internet service providers in BC and some are easier to fix than others. BC Hydro is trying to find a common solution, but they are finding that each network is different and the terrain is different,” said King.

Both the smart meter equipment and the wireless internet equipment operate in the 900 MHz frequency band. This is an unlicensed band, available for any devices that satisfy Industry Canada requirements. So, King said, BC Hydro’s position is that when there is conflict between devices, it is the responsibility of all parties to bear the costs.

One RMIS customer at the meeting encouraged the board to contact the CRTC about this “to exact penalties on BC Hydro.”

King also reported that the seasonal equipment in Silverton caused “a lot of headaches” in 2012 that cost about $5,000 to fix.

She said the society lost some clients because of the outages this year, and revenue is down about $6,000 from last year. As at the end of November, revenues were $45,000 for 2012. She said operating expenses are roughly $42,000 every year.

The RMIS network includes towers on Red Mountain Road, Rosebery and Hills. The capital cost of establishing the network was $171,200 and was paid for mainly through grants from Network BC, Columbia Basin Trust, the Sts’lkan Valley Economic Development Commission and RDCK. RMIS President Larry Lavan has also contributed personal funds over the years.

Best wishes for a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Please shop smart—support our local merchants!

Alex Atamanenko, MP, BC Southern Interior
337 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar
1-800-667-2393 www.alexmp.ca
Columbia River Treaty session in Nakusp: “Why did we give up so much for so little?”

by Katrina Campbell

“What would you like us to change if we could?” We will take the answers to cabinet.”

This was the promise made to a crowd of about 50 attending the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) review public consultation in Nakusp November 29. The speaker was Kathy Eichenberger, the CRT review’s executive director and an employee of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas. The treaty expires in 2024 and decisions about its future after that date, from either side of the border, have to be made by 2014.

The review process includes a committee made up of local government representatives; Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling is the vice-chair. At the start of the meeting she explained the committee members are drawn from across the basin, and work as a team for the benefit of the whole basin, not just for their own sub-regions.

Presenters from BC Hydro outlined scenarios for three options – terminating the treaty, continuing it as is, or continuing with amendments – with costs and benefits outlined. In brief, terminating the treaty would give BC Hydro more control over water levels, affecting fish and wildlife habitat, erosion, recreation on the river and on the shore, and vegetation levels.

It would also mean major financial losses. On the Arrow/Columbia system, for example, although the average energy gain would be worth $5 to $20 million per year, the Province would lose between $100 and $300 million in entitlements from the US. (This amount is not paid in cash, but in power which is then resold.)

George Poolefoh, Select College’s former Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development, is a technical advisor to the committee. He outlined the social and economic impacts of the treaty, including fish and wildlife compensation, water use planning and job creation (33,000 person years). Columbia Basin Trust, formed in recognition of the negative impacts of the dams on Basin communities, had $18 million to distribute this year and that amount is expected to double by 2017/18.

After the presentations were made, there were a number of questions and comments from the people attending. Foremost on many people’s minds was trust.

“How do we know what we want will be taken into consideration?” asked one person, to a murmur of agreement from the crowd.

The answer, from Eichenberger, was that the report would be shown to Basin residents before it went to cabinet.

The second priority was inequity. “We’re the most affected but with a small population we have the least support...we get less than Cranbrook. We are so affected but get so little back,” said an audience member.

“One thing that jumps out,” said Eichenberger, “is that communities that were less affected got more benefits.” She said they would put that in the report and recommend to cabinet that the imbalance be fixed.

“You know when there’s always been inequity?” was the next question.

“Because the treaty review open door to bring up these issues. Just because things haven’t worked before doesn’t mean they can’t be changed.”

Several questions arose that Eichenberger couldn’t answer right away; she promised to find out and get back to the questioner.

It’s going to be a tough job putting the report together, as there are a lot of conflicting viewpoints. For example, water levels: Eichenberger said boaters want them high, while ATVers want them low.

The treaty between Canada and the US expires in 2024. Either country can cancel or amend the treaty; the deadline for notice of intention is 2014, so the provincial government and BC Hydro are asking residents of the Columbia Basin what they want.

When all the input is compiled, a report will go to cabinet, which will make the final decision on continuing, terminating or amending the treaty. If changes are recommended, the Province will ask Ottawa to handle the negotiations with the US State Department.

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Tuesday, December 25, 2012, Wednesday, December 26, 2012 & Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Facilities that are normally open will CLOSE at 2:00 pm on:
Rosebery, Slocan, Edgewood transfer stations & Nakusp landfill will have alternate days of opening on Thursday, December 27, 2012. Slocan will be also open on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 and Edgewood on Thursday, January 3, 2013. Details can be found on our website at www.rdcc.bc.ca/publicinfo/news.

Christmas trees will be accepted at Resource Recovery facilities during December & January. Residential disposal user fees are:
1 tree = $2.00; 2 trees = $4.00; 3 or more trees = $5.00

During the months of December and January residents of the RDCK (non-commercial only please) can drop off strings of old Christmas lights at any waste facility FREE OF CHARGE.

For more information contact the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 1-800-667-4321 or RDCK at 1-800-268-7325

Happy Holidays from Nakusp Hot Springs

Holiday gift tickets available for purchase as stocking stuffers!

Holiday Gift Tickets:
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Go to our website to find more Hot Deals this winter! www.NakuspHotSprings.com

Airborne survey completed on Slocan Valley flake graphite property

by Jan McMurray

The strange-looking aircraft with the large hoop attached to its underbelly flying in the Slocan Park area last month was searching for high-quality flake graphite.

Between October 25 and mid-November, Anglo Swiss Resources Inc. conducted an airborne electromagnetic (EM) survey on its Bluff Star Flake Graphite property in the lower valley.

Chris Robbins, vice-president of Anglo Swiss Resources Inc., a Canadian based exploration company, explained that this recent airborne survey was complimentary to an airborne survey the company did in 2010 of another portion of the Bluff Star. He said the data from the two surveys will be combined and results will be available early in the new year.

Robbins explained that the EM technology can “see” into the ground a few hundred metres and produce an image similar to an X-ray. “It’s amazing technology for finding concentrations of minerals,” he said.

Flake graphite is used in the high tech sector – in electronics, green energy, and automotive engineering.

“[The market] has blossomed in the last two to three years, and prices are quite healthy again,” Robbins said.

The Bluff Star property adjoins Eagle Graphite Corporation’s flake graphite operation, which is one of only two natural flake graphite mines in North America. Eagle Graphite has the largest holding in the area geologically known as the ‘Vathalla Metamorphic Complex.’

Anglo Swiss has held the second largest land package in the complex, covering 6,473 hectares, since 1995.

Eagle Graphite is based out of Courtenay on Vancouver Island and has a graphite mill near Passmore. The operation re-opened in 2007 and produces high carbon flake graphite for the worldwide market.

“The fact that there is already a producing mill here bodes well for our company,” said Robbins.

Robbins said there is also a nice variety of gemstones on the Bluff Star property. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Anglo Swiss did work on gemstones and graphite on the property until the price of graphite dropped in 2002. The company then turned its attention to its Keminbll Gold Mine property outside of Nelson. Now that the demand for graphite is increasing, the company has started up its graphite exploration again, while continuing to work on the Keminbll property. Robbins said graphite operations are shut down now until the spring.

In addition to its Bluff Star and Keminbll properties in the Slocan Valley, Anglo Swiss also holds the Landsdowne House, Ring of Fire Nickel-Copper-PGE property in northwestern Ontario.

Salon of the Arts at the Langham

Submitted

During the month of January the work of some 35 North Kootenay Lake artists is on display in both galleries at the Langham Cultural Centre; opening night reception is on Friday, January 4. This annual show attracts new work by established artists as well as by newcomers. The works can be viewed during regular gallery hours Thursday through Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.

The Salons Performance and Auction Night takes place on Friday, January 18, at 7 pm. This popular event is a melange of performances by Kaslo and area actors, musicians and storytellers along with the live and silent auction of items solicited from local individuals, businesses, galleries, and artists.

This annual fund raising event assists the many projects of the North Kootenay Lake Arts and Heritage Council: the Art Walk, Saturday Market, banner project, and the scholarship. The auctionists always inspire generous and competitive bidding while local performing groups entertain.

General inquiries can be directed to David Stewart at 666-4623 or 351-4268.

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Early December brings power outages to Nakusp & New Denver

by Jan McIvor

The overnight power outage in the Nakusp and New Denver areas from Friday, November 30 at 7:39 pm to Saturday, December 1 at 2:41 pm was the result of a broken cross arm south of Nakusp.

Mary Anne Condon of BC Hydro reported that crews from Nakusp and Vernon were called out immediately on Friday night, and searched for the problem throughout the night without success. A helicopter was dispatched at 1st light on Saturday and the broken cross arm was located.

The replacement of the cross arm took approximately three hours once the problem was identified.

On Friday night, 3,428 customers were affected, including customers in Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton and along the Monashee distribution line. The 529 customers on the Monashee distribution line were restored at 10:48 pm on Friday. The remaining customers from Nakusp to Silverton were restored at 2:41 pm on Saturday, December 1.

Despite rumours to the contrary, Condon reported that BC Hydro has a crew in Nakusp, which consists of three power line technicians. There are also two other BC Hydro staff members in the Nakusp office.

Another power outage occurred in Hills, Rosseau and part of New Denver on Wednesday, December 5, due to a tree falling on the wires. This outage lasted from very early morning to 12:30 pm and affected 425 BC Hydro customers. Crews from Nakusp arrived at 11:30 am, as soon as possible after attending to two other emergencies they received that morning. They removed the tree and re-energized the line in just over an hour.

Condon and BC Hydro is continuing its efforts to improve reliability in the Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton area. “The majority of outages in the area are caused by hazard trees, which is why we have invested significantly to address this issue in New Denver,” she said. From 2009 to 2011, BC Hydro spent over $275,000 along the circuit doing mowing, pruning and slashing.

In addition, in 2009 the company did a major review of its rights-of-way, looking for trees that may fall on lines, with particular focus on the section from Nakusp to New Denver. Over $55,000 was spent on tree removals and pruning. This year, BC Hydro has spent over $160,000 on hazard trees in the area.

During an outage, BC Hydro asks that customers turn off all appliances, including computers and peripherals, especially those that generate heat. This helps prevent hazards or damage when service is restored. For more information on what to do during an outage, visit bchydro.com.

Columba Powe was a sponsor of this year’s Celebration of Light in Nakusp. Audrey Roper, Director of Stakeholder Relations, met up with the organizing committee on November 21: “We are so pleased that we could support this event for the community and say ‘Thank you.’ From left to right: Audrey Roper, Gary Ducharme, Dawn Dean, Kathy Brown, Val Stock and director from, Donna Paton.

Hospice Memorial Tree ready for your ornaments

submitted

Christmas is a special time of remembering and honoring our loved ones in the past and building new memories to bring forward into the future. For many people it is a bittersweet time, because memories of those who are no longer with us bring both smiles and tears.

Nakusp Hospice is once again pleased to have the support of Hab International/Barton Insurance to host our Memorial Tree. The Memorial Tree will be on display until December 31 during regular office hours to take donations large or small. Anyone can inscribe the name of a loved one on an ornament and hang it on the tree. Tax receipts will be sent to donors who request them.

The Nakusp Hospice Society provides support to individuals and families who are experiencing terminal illness. There is no charge for this service, which can be provided in hospital, care facility or home. In co-ordination with the health care team members, trained volunteers offer physical, emotional and spiritual support as determined by the individual’s wishes and family.

Anyone wishing to inquire about accessing Hospice services may contact Helen Scovon at 265-4137 or visit nakusp.hospice.com.
Kaslo council, November 27: Columbia Power Corporation delegation

by Jan Murray

• Columbia Power Corporation representatives attended as a delegation. President and Chief Executive Officer Andrew Tremmel introduced himself and talked about the public consultation process that is underway to determine future directions for the corporation. Her presentation and brochure are available at the Kaslo Library.

• An email from the Imperial Oil real estate branch confirms approval of the License Agreement between the company and the Village for the old Esso property in downtown Kaslo. The Development Services Committee was given the task of planning for parking on the property.

• Jerome Mango BCLS will be engaged to further investigate the acquisition of Crown land in the area of the Kaslo Leggero Sports site, and will be sent a deposit of $500 for this purpose.

• Council received a letter and application form from Transport Canada regarding the proposed new boat ramp in Kaslo Bay. The Village has applied provincially for the ramp, and Transport Canada informs council that a federal consultation is being initiated. Staff was directed to respond to Transport Canada.

• Council will meet with Director Sharon Cashmore and Chris Snow and Badry to further discuss a new fire hall on December 10.

• An information package from Imperial Oil was received. It states that it would cost $2,500 in start-up fees for Kaslo and Area D to join the organization. The package was referred to the Municipal Services Committee and the Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce for information.

• The term of the Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee was extended for another year to December 31, 2013. The committee will receive a municipal grant not to exceed $500 in 2013, and will be required to provide periodic reports and recommendations to council.

• Discussion of the Short Term Action Charter was deferred until a full consultation meeting can be scheduled. Full consultation has not been completed with the assistance of a facilitator in spring 2013. Administration was directed to arrange a strategic planning session, and to engage a facilitator for a maximum stipend of $3000.

• Correspondence from Kaslo Trailblazers Society about pedestrian bridges during the Kaslo River festival was received. Council agreed that the Village

Would make application for appropriate tenures at ForestCoast BC as long as all application fees are paid by the society.

• The Village of Kaslo will have a platinum sponsor at for an event of $50 from the Kaslo & District Minor Hockey Association.

• The Village will contact Transport Canada, all aerocare hangar owners and Flying Club members and invite comments by December 5 on the XLJ proposal to conduct a winter diving survey of the Kaslo seaplane runway. Bruce Coy of XLJ Driller Training attended the November 19 Municipal Services Committee meeting and presented his plans for a diving operation to conduct aerial coverage, confirmed snow removal cost would be entirely covered by XLJ, and said classes would take place on Saturdays.

• Russ White, President of the Kaslo Flying Club, wrote with some concerns about XLJ’s proposed use of the runway. He stated that the airport is and always has been open during the winter, even when the runway is covered in snow.

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Kaslo, BC 250-353-2205 405-4th St. Kaslo

Branch No. 74 was approved.

• An email from Natural Resources Canada informs council that a link to the Kaslo and Area D Climate Change case study will be posted on the Natural Resources Canada website. This case study was done under Columbia Basin Treaty’s Communities Adapting to Climate Change initiative.

• Land Use Bylaw No. 1130 was given two readings.

• Bylaw 1131, Development Regulations Bylaw, was reconsidered and

SEASON’S GREETINGS
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Season’s Greetings to all. Wishing everyone health and happiness for the coming year.

— From James and Shirley, former owners of Kaslo Drugs

PARKING

The Village did negotiate a License Agreement with the Enso property, thanks to the efforts of Bruce Freeman, and the crew will be getting the site ready for parking for the next summer season.

LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This is well underway and information is available to view at the Village office.

Our new public and campground washrooms are operating (seasonally):

• City Hall welcomes donations. Thanks to Ken Bitt and Gerald Garson for their donations to City Hall! Remember taxable receipts can be issued.

• Regular Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. Check our calendar and our website for times and dates of meetings.

• Last Council meeting in December is called the Christmas.

THE VILLAGE OF KASLO STAFF AND MAYOR AND COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY AND ALL THE BEST IN 2013.

Count on Holly Leathwood for Village of Kaslo Council
Telus tells it like it is in Trout Lake: No direct connection in the near future

by Jan McMurtry

Some Trout Lake community members, dissatisfied with their community wireless internet service, have formed the ‘Direct Connect Committee’ and are pushing for a direct Telus connection.

Steve Jenkins of Telus came to a public meeting at the Trout Lake Community Hall on November 29 to make it clear that a direct Telus connection is not an option in Trout Lake.

“I’ve come here to be totally transparent. What does internet in Trout Lake mean? I hope this will be educational,” he said in his opening remarks.

Jenkins explained that in 2006, the CRTC (telecommunications regulator) ordered Telus to set aside funds in a ‘deferral account’, and to use those funds to deliver internet service to rural and remote communities.

Trout Lake was one of the communities on the deferral account list.

Jenkins said the CRTC wanted to promote competition and small businesses, so Telus was told to bring fibre optic to an access point in the community and then hand off “last mile” service to homes, businesses and institutions to an internet service provider (ISP).

In the event that no ISP came forward or if the ISP had no customers for one year, Telus would be able to apply to the CRTC to deliver retail or “last mile” service in that community, Jenkins explained. If the application to the CRTC were successful, Jenkins said Telus would come in with ADSL. One DSL switch costs $100K to put in, so it would only make economic sense for Telus to install one switch in Trout Lake. One DSL switch has a limit of 4.1 kilometres, so people who live further than 4.1 kilometres away would not get the service.

“I would need seven switches to give the same coverage that the Trout Lake BC Internet Society can give,” said Jenkins.

“If I wasn’t forced by the federal government to come here, there would be no service coming to Trout Lake. Not now — but not now. We need a 2-year return on investment because our shareholders expect that. Other communities that can meet our two-year return on investment come first,” said Jenkins. “Your options are that you get an extremely slow Internet or wireless through Telus Trout Lake Internet Society.”

Jenkins announced that Telus had just completed bringing fibre optic cable to Trout Lake from the Hill Creek junction the day before, on November 28, at a cost of $1.2 million. He said the community internet service would be much faster once it was switched from the copper line to the fibre optic line. “Obligation to Trout Lake under the deferral account program is done and can begin,” he said.

Paula Burns of the Direct Connect Committee disagreed. She read from a letter from MP David Wilkins, who had contacted the CRTC. The letter stated that Telus was obliged to provide deferral account communities with the backbone, retail high-speed service to residents, and wholesale high-speed service to competitors.

Jenkins responded that this was not his understanding, and it was impossible to resolve the issue that night. Burns vowed to follow up and file a complaint the next day.

Some Trout Lake BC Internet Society (TLBCIS) customers are concerned about the security of their email accounts. Jenkins assured that no ISP, including Telus or Google, can monitor the content of their customers’ emails. "Privacy is an issue. I’m happy to come back and talk about everything you can do to protect yourself from online threats," he offered.

Another question from Paula Burns was if there were any criteria that the internet service provider had to meet. “Why didn’t you put it out to tender?”

Jenkins replied that the deferral account program is not a Telus program, but a federal government program, so Telus is not responsible for it. “But the criteria is simple — you have to be interested,” he said. “When Trout Lake was identified as a deferral account community in 2005, I got one phone call — from John Will. He has invested immense amounts of hours trying to understand what it takes. He’s invested six years. It’s a massive commitment to maintain, manage and sustain a system like this. John is getting to 70 percent more of you than Telus would be able to do.”

Jenkins offered to help get people connected who are “on the fringe of this technology.” He said he would come to the community with a bucket truck and a technician, and in partnership with TLBCIS, he would “do everything I can to get people hooked up.”

Most people at the meeting seemed happy “to make it work” with TLBCIS. A small group stayed behind to discuss further actions that could be taken by the Direct Connect Committee.

ALAC presents a Christmas Celebration Concert

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces a Christmas Celebration Concert to be held Sunday, December 16 at the Bonnington Arts Centre, starting at 2 pm. This concert is a fundraiser for the Arts Council’s support of the Concert Series it has held every season for 35 years.

Come out and support talented local artists as they help you celebrate the Christmas season. These artists all come from the Arrow Lakes and the Slocan Lake communities, and are pleased to showcase their talents for you.

Some of the artists performing are the Arrow Lakes Community Choir, the Fauk Singers, the Savage School of Music Choir, some of the students from Marshall Massey’s studio, and the Slocan Arrow Community Musical Ensemble.

There will be a donation jar at the door for your contributions towards our Future Concert Series. Doors will open at 1:30 pm and open seating means you get to pick your seats for this concert.

Season’s Greetings & Warmest Holiday Wishes from Jim & Patti

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IRLY BUILDING CENTRE

TIM-BR

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice December 12, 2012

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Phone: 359-2293
Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588
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IRLY BUILDING CENTRE

TIM-BR
Summit Lake Racers prepare for another exciting season

submitted

The Summit Lake Racers are preparing for another exciting season on the slopes and, thanks to the support of parents, volunteers and local organizations, we are off to a great start. There has been an excellent turnout of racers for our pre-season dry land training as well as a positive response at the recent annual meeting. Check out the cool Summit Lake Racers video on YouTube.

The Summit Lake Racers is a ski and snowboard race league for children and youth based at the Summit Lake Ski Area. The volunteer-run league has been active for almost 25 years, providing a fun and exciting opportunity for ski and snowboard racers in the Nakusp and New Denver areas. We emphasize development of a life-long love for winter sports, and building skills through team-centered practice and race participation.

Racers develop technical skills in a supportive, motivating environment as they prepare to experience the challenge and rewards of competition. The SLR members belong to the provincial governing bodies, BC Alpine for skiers, and the BC Snow Board Association. All events that we participate in are sanctioned by these organizations.

Younger racers participate in the West Kootenay zone of the Nancy Greene Ski League. High school racers participate at the annual provincial ski and snowboard championships. Alumni of the SLR have competed at the provincial, national and Junior World levels for skiing and snowboarding.

The SLR clubs work closely with the Summit Lake Ski Area to deliver a successful racing program. Practices are held at the hill every weekend from January to March. Each year our organization hosts the Summit Lake Club Races, a hugely popular event for ski club members, racers, families and everyone in between. We also host a Nancy Greene zone race with competitors coming from Salmo, Whitewater, Red Mountain and Phoenix Mountain in Grand Forks.

Last year was a great year for participation in the SLR program with many new racers joining the ranks. It was great to see all the new faces and enthusiasm. We would like to thank all the board members, coaches, and co-ordinators who volunteered countless hours to make the 2012 season such a success.

As some of our racers grow out of the league, our parent volunteer coaches will also be moving on and new coaches are needed to ensure the program is maintained. Coaches working with the Nancy Greene Ski League must be CSA certified. We encourage anyone who is interested to take the training and become a qualified CSA coach. Please contact one our of board members or coaches listed below for more information.

If you are thinking about taking the certification, assisting our coaches is a great introduction to understanding the requirements. We encourage parents to get involved and help out; there are many ways you can contribute to the success of the program.

Registration for the 2012 season was held November 24. For more information about the SLR club or registration, please contact Frances Swan 250-265-4818, Troy Clark 250-265-2127, Barb Lewis 250-265-3076 or Brenda McQuaid 250-265-4377.

Nakusp council, November 26: Snowmobile offered to ski hill

by Kaitlyn Campbell

• Council approved the sale of the Village’s surplus snowmobile to the Summit Lake Ski Hill for $1,000. It will be used to transport anyone injured on the hill. Councillor Uli Mueller asked if the Village could donate the machine. Mayor Karen Hamlin said they had

2012 Nakusp Celebration of Light Winners

submitted

Here is the list of winners from this year’s Celebration of Light in Nakusp.

Downtown Merchant Draw (2 x $200 worth of gift certificates): Eileen Allon, Lorna Clemens (Edgewood).


House Decorating: 1st: Dennis and Jody Stanley, 2nd: Andy and Bar Moffet,

2012 Nakusp Celebration of Light Winners

3rd: Amy and Dan Friedelburger.


Floats, organization: 1st: Nakusp Miner Hockey, 2nd: Grade of 2013, 3rd: Season.

50/50 draw: Jillian Heagy from Nakusp.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!
Best Wishes for 2013!

From all of us at
Royal LePage Selkirk Realty
Nakusp, BC
(250) 265-3635
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Wishing you and yours a safe happy holiday season from Dennis & staff at O'Brien's

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Nakusp, BC
250-265-4577

May the Blessings and Joy of the Christmas season be with you throughout the coming year.
Box Lake Lumber Products Ltd. • Nakusp, BC

Season's Greetings!

To all our business contacts, friends and neighbours: Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Crossley, Shawn and Dean
Scot Norsemen Enterprises Nakusp, BC

Warm Holiday Wishes to all our friends and customers

Holiday Hours:
Dec 24th 8:00am - 4:00pm
Dec 25th Closed
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Dec 31st 8:00am - 4:00pm
Jan 1st Closed

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The Partners and Staff at BDO would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season
We look forward to continue working with you in 2013.
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www.bdo.ca

The Kumbie Choir put on a wonderful performance at the Kaslo Light Up celebration.

Kariyln Morrison collects gifts from Elina after completing the scavenger hunt at Kaslo's Light Up celebration December 1.
WANETA Plaza
The City of Christmas

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• Transit service from Nakusp to Trail Tues and Thur. call 250-265-3674 or 1-877-843-2877
• 30 stores and services

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What’s Happening at Waneta Plaza

• Have your picture taken with SANTA Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Christmas. Pick up your Santa photo before you leave the mall or we can mail it to your home.
• EXTENDED HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS until December 23
  Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 9 pm
  Saturday and Sunday 9:30 to 5:30
• Free kids play area, ball pit and Tarzan swing

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2nd Floor
Professional Offices
Dr DeGreef, Plastic Surgeon
Dr LeMoel, Chiropractor
Dr Morency, Ophthalmologist
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Grinch unsuccessful in attempt to ruin Christmas by the Lake

by Art Joyce

Warm, rainy weather and a 20-hour power outage combined to make the perfect storm at the sixth annual Christmas by the Lake, causing a 25 percent drop in attendance. Silverton Mayor Kathy Provan says the answer may have been that the Grinch was just too busy trying to steal Christmas.

According to eyewitness Sue Mistrutta, the Grinch was seen in the Silverton area and was spotted trying to steal Christmas decorations. The Grinch was later seen in the town square, where he was surrounded by police officers.

The event, which took place on December 25, featured a parade, tree lighting ceremony, and various musical performances. Despite the Grinch's attempts, the event was a huge success and drew thousands of visitors.

For more information, please visit the Silverton Community Center website or call 503-555-5555.
Christmas and the winter holiday season: how to cope if you’re bereaved

Submitted by New Denver Hospice Society

New Denver Hospice Society extends best wishes to you and your family. The Tree of Remembrance will be at Kootenay Savings Credit Union December 13, 14 and 17, 10 am to 3 pm. You are invited to place a card on the tree in memory of someone you love and miss.

For many people December is the most difficult time of the year. Memories of past celebrations with family members or friends who are no longer here can magnify feelings of loss, and you may want to avoid reminders of celebration and togetherness. As the holidays approach, it can be helpful to share your concerns, feelings and apprehensions with someone. Let people know what is difficult for you, and accept offers of help.

There isn’t a right or wrong way to handle the day. Some people prefer to follow family traditions, while others decide to change them. Remember, what you choose to do this holiday can always be changed next year.

Consider cutting back on your holiday traditions by not sending cards, or by enlisting the help of other people with meals and decorating. Create a special decoration and give it a place of honour.

If you find Christmas shopping upsetting, it may help to shop early, to shop by telephone, the Internet or by catalogue, or take along an understanding friend or family member. Family can also be asked to do shopping for you or you may decide to go “shopless” this year and provide gift cards.

Understand that this may be a time of heightened emotions and low energy for you and your family. Aim to be kind and patient with yourself and each other. Remind yourself that these special days will be different now, and that your family is just beginning to learn how to cope with those differences.

Children and youth may also experience changes in their grief during special days and holidays, but your child may not have same difficulties with the holidays that you do and may not share your reactions and feelings. Be curious and ask about your child’s thoughts and feelings. Find out what is most important and remember to include your child while making any plans.

You can ask: What part of this day/event is most important to you? What about this day/event do you think might be hard for you? How would you like to remember the person who died on this occasion? Is there any part of this day that you don’t want to participate in?

New Denver Hospice Society provides individual and group bereavement services.

Visit our website at www.newdenverhospice.ca or contact us at 250-358-7828.

May Peace and Happiness be yours over the Christmas and the coming New Year.

The hours: December 24: 9 am - 3 pm
December 25: 25 - 26 closed
January 1st: closed

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE COUNCIL & STAFF OF THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Please note the following holiday schedule:

NAKUSP SPORTS COMPLEX:
Monday, December 24, 2012 – Saturday, January 5, 2013
Closed Dec. 26, 26
Public Skating: Admission: Adults $3. Youth $2, under 5-free

HOLIDAY ICE SCHEDULE:
Regular ice schedule from December 24 to January 6 except closures on December 25, 26 & January 1.

Junior Hockey
8:30 am: 10:30 am $2
Public Skating
10:45 am: 12:30 pm $2
Hockey
12:45 pm: 2:00 pm $0
3:00-5:00: Private Rentals Available-85/hr
Please check with Arena Staff 250-265-4000 or 250-265-1171 for more information.

VILLAGE OFFICE: (91 1st Street NW):
Open regular hours December 27, 28 & January 2
Closed: December 24 – December 26 & January 1

PUBLIC WORKS:
Garbage pick up for December 26 will be moved to December 27 all other garbage pick up remain on regular scheduled days.
Emergencies Only: 250-265-3861

HOT Springs
December 23 – normal winter hours 1 pm to 9 pm
December 24 – open at 10 am to 5 pm only
December 25 – open at 10 am to 3 pm only
December 26/27 through January 1/3 – 9-30 am to 9:00 pm
January 2, 2012 – back to regular winter hours 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm

NAKUSP FIRE DEPARTMENT:
The Nakusp Fire Department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.
Please be holiday safe: be careful with candles and electrical overloads.
Remember to change smoke detector batteries
In an emergency call 611

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!
From Pat & Peggy and the staff at Mountain Valley Station, Slocan
“Your little store with more for less!”

We will be open on Christmas Day & New Year’s Day 12 - 4

On Boxing Day, we will be hosting our 6th Annual “Family Fun Skate” at the outdoor rink in Slocan from 1 - 4. We supply the hotdogs and hot chocolate – You supply the FUN!!!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all our valued customers for your continued support.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and A Prosperous New Year.

Holiday Hours:
Dec 24th 8:00am - 4:00pm
Dec 25th Closed
Dec 26th Closed
Dec 31st 8:00am - 4:00pm
Jan 1st Closed

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Holiday Store Hours
December 17th – 22nd
10:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday through Saturday)
December 23rd – 24th
Sunday, Dec 23rd * 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday, Dec 24th * 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
December 25th – 28th Closed for Christmas
December 29th – 31st Open for New Year's
Whole School celebrates 40th anniversary with fundraising campaign

The Whole School, BC’s oldest, non-affiliated independent school, will celebrate 40 years in May 2013. In celebration of this anniversary, the school has launched its ‘Build a Legacy’ fundraising campaign to raise $50,000 for a down payment on its current rental location. The school hopes to secure and maintain its immediate location in Winlaw, so that the children of the Slocan Valley will have this unique opportunity for years to come.

The next fundraising event is the annual Blue Moon Cafe on Saturday, December 15 at the Winlaw Community Hall. There will be a delicious Italian feast, holiday silent auction, decadent desserts and live music. The Whole School, a most notable treasure of the Slocan Valley, has long succeeded in creating a unique, open and nurturing learning environment for children.

Nine-year-old raises money for Nelson SPCA

Two months ago, 9-year-old Adriana Martinez of Winlaw decided to put her creative talents to work to raise funds for the SPCA. She spent hours and hours making greeting cards, tooth fairy pillows, felted flowers, earrings, bracelets, cushions, and pretty heart pouches.

“I love animals so much,” she says, “and the SPCA is a great organization.”

Then, laden with all that she had created, she set up a booth at the Queen City Christmas Craft Fair to sell her products and donate 100% of the proceeds to the Nelson SPCA. She also brought her happl to play, much to the delight of the passerby.

With the community’s generous response — from young children to adults with a big heart for animals (and children working for a good cause) – she was able to raise $384.

“It was so much fun, meeting all the people, figuring out the change, having my own store, and having my friend, Ahh, help me for the day.”

For info about the Nelson SPCA, please visit: http://www.spcabc.ca/branches/nelson/

Winter’s coming & we’ve got the COMPACT EQUIPMENT models early in the new year...watch for upcoming announcement.

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St. Mark’s Anglican church in Kaslo invites all to services

Church’s Great Thanksgiving.

The first Sunday of the 12 Days, December 30 at 10 am, we’ll offer the traditional English Christmas Lessons and Carols. The Sunday of the Epiphany, January 6, we’ll gather for a wonderful candle-filled Feast of Light at 4 pm, followed by potluck and the surprise-filled Epiphany cake.

We welcome all who wish to draw closer to the Holy One.

Kaslo Christmas Market coming up

The Kaslo Christmas Market is happening again this year on two Saturdays: December 15 and 22, from 10 am to 3 pm, in the Kaslo Hotel. West Kootenay artisans will offer a variety of high-quality, locally made, organic and fair trade handcrafted goods and holiday treats.

Nancy of Creesant Moon will offer her delicious freshly baked homemade breads and desserts of many flavors including chocolate, pumpkin, and vegetable and dessert breads.

Dana of Glacier Soaps will be there with her lovely handmade soaps, jellies, jams, and bath products.

Sanja and Deni Gehr of Spirit Bear Body Care will offer their all-natural aromatherapy body care products, essential oil blends, and handmade soaps and lotions.

We also have some exciting new artisans this year. Elky from Abel Studie will bring her one-of-a-kind artistic and functional pottery. Lynny of S&K Truffles will offer her irresistible organic fair trade chocolate truffles. Bob of Ontario, Myra (Turkey), the saint who loved children and reminds us to be generous, and who later morphed into Santa Claus.

Christmas Eve at 4 pm we offer for younger children and their families worship with carsols around the tree and crèche; at 5 pm we enjoy pre-worship Celtic harp music, singing carols, story and prayers and Communion at Epiphany...the festival of lights.

Seasonal Sing-along in Vallican submitted

There’s nothing like getting together with your friends and neighbors and singing your heart out. On Sunday December 23 at 3pm everyone is invited to come to the Vallican Whole Community Centre and do just that. The newly formed Vallican Whole Choir is hosting a Seasonal Sing-along featuring tunes we have all known and loved forever. We could sure use some choir members.

There will be mulled cider to drink, you are encouraged to bring cookies and other goodies, and admission is by donation. Any money raised beyond expenses will go to the Sloots Food Bank. Weather permitting, the choir and anyone else who is so inspired will go about the neighborhood at the end of the event and serenade a few lucky neighbours. While we sometimes get tired of carols everywhere we go, singing our festive favorites together is something very different, helping us to take back the season and remember why this is a special time of year. It doesn’t matter if you can’t sing, there will be enough harmonious voices to carry you along so you can enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate winter and all it means to us here in these northern climes.

So come to the Vallican Whole, 3762 Little Sloots River Road, raise your voice in cheerful melody and just take joy in being part of the community we all love.
Kaslo’s new water intake on Kemp Creek comes online

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s new water intake on Kemp Creek is expected to be online by mid-December, and the majority of the cost of the project will be paid for by the Province.

Mayor Greg Lay reported that Emergency Management BC has approved the Village’s application for approximately $402,460 in Disaster Financial Assistance for the new intake. The Village has also filed a claim with its insurance company and is waiting to hear back on that. The total cost of the project is estimated at $604,800.

Designed to withstand a debris torrent, which is what destroyed the original intake on June 24, the new structure is anchored to bedrock with epoxy-coated rebar. About 50,000 cubic metres of concrete and hundreds of feet of rebar went into its construction, according to project manager Bernie Penner. Mayor Lay explained that the structure was designed so that a debris torrent would bypass it by flowing over it and back into the creek.

Some changes were made to the original design, done by Urban Systems, as the project progressed. Mayor Lay thanked Foreman Glen Walker for the part he played in modifying the design to better meet the needs of the village. He said these design changes and difficulties getting components delayed the project, which was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

When the original intake on Kemp Creek was destroyed in a debris torrent on June 24, Kaslo council discussed its options and decided to stick with the gravity fed system on Kemp Creek because gravity fed systems are the least costly to operate. “The alternative of pumping water out of Kaslo River would cost more than $2 million to build, plus the annual cost of pumping the water uphill to let it run downhill,” said Mayor Lay.

Public Works was able to put a temporary intake on Kemp Creek to supply the Village water system while the new structure was being built. Lay was very happy that they didn’t have to pump water out of Kaslo River for long. Kaslo River water, the Village’s secondary water source, can sometimes have a lot of sediment in it, which drives up costs of pumping and treatment. Lay reported that council has recently found out that there is a potential source of well water on airport lands – another possibility for a back-up water supply for the Village. He hopes a test well can be drilled in the future.

The Village had to put out another Water Quality Advisory November 21-30. Lay explained that the cause of this lies about halfway up Kemp Creek, above the intake, where there is a three-metre-wide vein of “rock flour material.” When the material washes into the creek, it flows into Kaslo’s intake. The material is so fine that the water treatment plant cannot remove it from the water supply. Because it increases turbidity, a Water Quality Advisory must be issued under health regulations.

Supporting our local business community

by Leah Main

What can we do to maintain the business community we have – to grow it, to make it thrive? How can we find out what supports and services are needed for our businesses to thrive?

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, partnering with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, is determined to figure this out by undertaking a Business Retention and Expansion program beginning in January/February 2013, under the direction of the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute.

This BR-E program will help us support healthy, vibrant communities in the Slocan Valley by identifying immediate concerns of local businesses, in order to establish and implement a strategic action plan that will promote economic growth and job creation.

We need to know exactly where we are, in order to set a course to the future we want. To gather the needed information, the two local organizations will conduct a series of small meetings and conversations, and employ a survey asking questions directly related to the challenges and opportunities for future growth.

With your participation, we will be able to identify our strengths and challenges, opportunities and impediments to healthy growth, and create a follow-up plan to apply all available resources to respond to business needs and to get results.

We’ll publish more information, and invitations to participate, over the coming weeks. Meanwhile, if you are eager to add your input to the process, please contact the project partners at: slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com or Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, Box 25, Winlaw BC V0G 2R0.

We look forward to talking with you in the coming months about the potential for economic growth in the Slocan Valley.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from the Mayor & Council
the Village of Silverton

Holiday Schedule
Dec. 25 & 26 Closed
Dec. 27 10 – 4 pm
Jan. 1 Closed
Jan. 2 & 3 10 – 4 pm

HOLYDAY GREETINGS

from the Mayor & Council
the Village of Silverton
November was a busy month for New Denver council and staff

by Michael Daney

November was a busy month for New Denver council and staff. The following council notes are from the November 13 and 27 New Denver council meetings.

- Councillors Fox and Raynolds attended the Power of Place Workshop at Heart’s Rest Retreat, conducted by Peter Forbes, and reported discussions regarding sense of place, community core, strengthening local economy, how to connect the lower and upper valley, environmental and recreational ideas and how to protect the place where we live.

- Council reported on the final report from the Hills Rocs Society regarding the Garlic Festival, noting 5,000 paid attendees with 100 vendors, 100 volunteers, and 300 shuttle trips. There is one year left in the current three-year agreement, and this was Ellen Kinzel’s last year as organizer. It was noted the pay phone was not working, and vendors used canopies and portable water stations. There is a discussion that branches be trimmed higher up on some of the large trees to avoid collisions. The event was a success, though weather reduced attendance.

- Councillor Fox reported on the campground debriefing, noting that July was a slow month due to rain, but the good weather in October helped bring visitors. The attendees informed council that there were insufficient campsites in peak periods and that they would like a form of traffic control to catch campers who arrive after 11am and leave before 5am. They said they will pass wood, had prepared those more loads of gravel for roads, and would like a weekly vacuum for cleaning.

- Rates for 2013 will be set and will be rounded numbers. Mayor Bunak stated that there will be a meeting in January to discuss details.

- Council Communications reported a successful series of Council Cafes, and published the Council Communications Letter for the Year 2012, which addressed issues and requests from New Denver residents. This was mailed out and is available at drop-off points in local businesses and the Village Office. Council plans to continue the communications.

- The Heritage Committee met with the Silvers Slimo Museum and Kwikwetlem Societies to discuss the year’s progress, and noted that the museum would like an outing for the side entrance to protect the building from rain damage. A new member for the committee will be required, as Ken Butler, a volunteer for 20 years, is resigning.

- Public Works and Water reported on a successful Arbor Day. Crews collected brush and deposited the contents at the chipping site, saving many dollars on transfer fees.

- Recreation Commission #6 news was reported by Councillor Hodaiil. A volunteer has come forward to do the yogurt fundraiser. Hodaiil said the Recreation Commission had completed the funding process, using a new system of weighting that worked well. The commission will revamp facilities and programs, and will examine insurance issues for the gym and sponsored events. They are looking for a mechanism to aid persons with low income to attend events. Hodaiil said this could be in place by next year.

- Councillor von Krugh reported on the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District. He noted that the board will contribute $200,000 toward a new CT scanner for the Trail hospital. This unit will be a new Optima 660 and will cost $500,000, which is about half the cost of a scanner and emits less dose of radiation. Interior Health will contribute the remaining $300,000. Board Secretary Jim Gustafson has retired and is replaced by Brian Carruthers, the new CEO of RDCK. The Ministry of Health and RBC facility is studying and will report findings in May 2013. The board is looking at the financial future, including suggestions from former Secretary Gustafson that the board build its reserves to maintain and improve facilities, and major expenditures are anticipated in the future. These issues will be discussed in the next meeting, January 23 in Castlegar.

- In RDCK news, Mayor Bunak reported that the budgets for the Rosseau Park and Trails Commission, Recreation Commission #6, and the Stoney Valley Economic Development Commission were approved with no major changes from 2012. The Agricultural Program was approved in principle. The fire truck was sold to New Denver for $10. West Waste will be upgrading their weigh scale software. Staff will be talking about small water systems, which will be applicable in regards to drinking and irrigation water. Village appointments for 2013 will be the same: Councillor von Krugh - regional hospital board, Councillor Hodaiil - Recreation Commission #6 and Councillor Raynolds - Chamber of Commerce.

- In Chamber of Commerce news, Council’s Raynolds reported that the Chamber is working on memberships. Merchants’ Night, bylaw changes, partnering with EDC on the Business Retention and Expansion Project, working on a five-year plan, and that the new website at sdnewdenver.ca was operating, and authorized final payment to Spark Design.

- Council noted that the new Village website, newdenver.ca, was operating, and authorized final payment to Spark Design.

- Council entertained a delegation from REACT (Real Environmental Action Created by Teens) and noted they will hold a public meeting December 13 at Roslin Hall from 5 to 8 pm, with Soup du Jour catering, to discuss the green bag proposal.

- The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada was granted permission to use the paved parking area across from Villalana Pies and part of Green Park for the Kootenay Ice Challenge MS Bike Tour August 17-18, 2013.

- The Village will submit a grant application for improvements to the Mini Trail in the second intake of the Provincial Parks and Recreation Grant program.

- An offer of employment will be made to Momoko Ito, the preferred candidate at the position of Manager, Nakâe Centre.

- Staff will obtain all permits required for the removal of the collapsed house below Green Park.

- Staff will prepare a rental agreement between the Village and the Kwikwetlem Society for Centennial Hall.

- A letter will be written to Premier Clark, Adrian Dix, Minister Bennett, MLA Katrine Conroy and UBCM, expressing opposition to the Mountain Resort Municipality legislation, the establishment of the Jumbo Mountain Resort municipality and the subsequent appointment of an unelected mayor and council to a municipality with no resident population.

- The tailgater side will be sold for parts to Dan Brown for $200 and applicable HST.

- Rebecca and Cory Peck’s application for a Development Variance Permit at 610 Bella Vista Street to allow for garage construction was denied.

- Shae and Hodaiil will be recommended as the New Denver representatives to Recreation Commission #6.

- The Village office will be closed December 25 and 31, and the December 25 council meeting was cancelled.
Mount Sentinel says, “Think before you drink”

by Katie Szabo

Mount Sentinel Secondary’s Interact Club, founded in the 2011/12 school year by Ruby Payne and students, has a mandate of service, both locally and globally. The club’s sponsor is Nelson Daybreak Rotary member Andy Leathwood.

We realize that our actions can make a difference.

Our first initiative was to eliminate bottled water from our school. This task was led by 2012 graduate, Arden Knopik. After participating in a group called Development and Peace, Dana learned about all the negative effects of bottled water.

“Aside from the ridiculous prices we will pay for something that is often more expensive than municipal tap water in a pretty package, plastic bottles are polluting our environment and risking our health,” Knopik said.

Her solution was to apply for a grant to purchase a special water fountain that would fill bottles, count the plastic saved, and even filter the school’s water-tainting water. Her application was a success and we were one step closer to her vision of a bottled water-free school.

This fall, our club continued with an awareness campaign to educate the school about the harmful effects of bottled water. With our slogan, “Think before you drink,” we received further support from our school’s PAC and finally raised enough funds to purchase the new fountain. It was successfully installed thanks to the talented even from SD8’s maintenance department.

“I am so happy that this year’s Interact club is continuing to bring awareness to this important social justice and environmental initiative,” Knopik said.

Now, we are ready for our last step, removing bottled water from our vending machines. With this almost complete, there are still many other projects we are taking on. Our seven members, Karin Szabo, Savannah Nielsen, Annette Lisk, Danielle Vernon, Kara Smith, Sian Nielsen, Lena Price and our new teacher sponsor Kashi Knopik will continue to help locally and we have plans to provide a global service as well. Our group plans to travel to Oaxaca, Mexico to install a solar water heater in an orphanage called Hijos de la Luna. With this trip taking place in only a few months, we have begun fundraising by selling baked goods and fair trade products at school.

We are trying to make a difference. Anyone wanting to contribute to the fundraising efforts of this year’s group, please contact the club at interact.mtsentinel@gmail.com or visit our website, http://interact.mtsentinel.ca.

COMMUNITY

Wild Books: A fun, free book exchange program
submitted

As British Columbians, we are lovers of the wild. We hike, mountain bike, ski, hunt, fish, and talk about our encounters with the untamed. The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) would like to introduce a new ‘wild’ experience into your experience.

‘Wild Books’ is a catch and release reading adventure just waiting for you to discover it. Keep your eyes peeled for the ‘Wild Books’ label on a seemingly discarded book at a coffee shop, grocery store, park bench... you get the idea. If you find one, pick it up – it’s there for you! Then, take it home and read it. When you’ve done reading, release the book back into the wild (anywhere you want). Sounds fun, right?

Slocan Library author series: Anne DeGrace
submitted

On November 4 the Slocan Community Library held the second reading in its 2012 authors’ series with special guest Anne DeGrace. A large audience listened intently as she shared her interest in writing novels and read excerpts from her books, Treading Water (which won the Kootenay Librarians’ Choice award) and Flying with Swallows, her latest book.

As an accomplished writer, illustrator, award winner and librarian, DeGrace had much to tell about her experience including the ups and downs of working with various publishers and the trials involved in getting her books published. DeGrace stated positively that the three-day novel writing weekend was the best experience she had made her writer a better author.

The camaraderie of other authors working in the same room, and the always looming deadline make it an intense, challenging experience.

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VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
NOTICE
Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence. There is a $15.00 discount for all dog licences purchased by February 15, 2013.
License fees are:
Unspayed Female $50.00
Spayed Female $40.00
Unneutered Male $50.00
Neutered Male $25.00

Christmas hours: Nakusp Glass will be closed from Dec 24-Jan 1.
Reopening with regular hours on Jan 2.

Wishing everyone a Joy Filled Holiday Season

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Making headway on Johnson’s Landing water supply problems
by Jan McMurray
There is finally some promising news for the 14 households in Johnson’s Landing whose water supply was wiped out in the July 12 landslide.

Larsbocher, the Gar Creek Water Users Association in Johnson’s Landing reported that a test well was drilled on December 9, and drillers are optimistic that this is a very good well. Residents should have all test results by the end of the month.

If the test results look good, residents will likely choose to move forward with installing the well their permanent water supply. They have raised $80,000 towards the permanent system so far, from Community Works fund grants from the RDCK. Funding to drill the test well came from the RDCK and an anonymous donor.

The July 12 landslide destroyed the water intake on Gar Creek that was serving these 14 homes. Soon after the slide, residents installed a temporary intake on the creek, but this was also destroyed when a large rock sloughed into the creek and cracked it.

Larsbocher explained that residents decided against fixing the temporary intake because the water they were getting from it was often muddy.

Instead, residents are getting their water from a spring on private property. Water from the spring is feeding the water box via 1100 feet of pipe, with 100 feet of it suspended over a gully. This emergency system will continue to be the water source for these residents over the winter.

“It’s a spring on private land, and we have permission in an emergency but it’s not meant to be a permanent solution,” said Larsbocher.

The landslide also wiped out part of the Gar Creek water users’ distribution system, which volunteers restored by late October. “A lot of volunteers from our community and our neighbouring community helped with this project, rolling out the pipe and covering it,” said Larsbocher. The Gar Creek Water Users Association has applied for Disaster Financial Assistance funding to cover the majority of the costs associated with this project. The balance will be paid for from donations made to the community since the landslide.

Tree of Remembrance at Kaslo KSCU
submitted
A Tree of Remembrance has been set up at the Kaslo branch of Kootenay Savings Credit Union until Saturday, December 15. For those who have lost loved ones, this is an opportunity to hang a decorative name tag on the tree in their memory.

Kootenay Lake (HSNKL), which became a registered non-profit society in July, has taken on the responsibility of continuing to offer hospice care in Kaslo and Area D.

For four Thursdays in October, nine people from Kaslo and area travelled to New Denver to take volunteer Hospice training, so there is already a cohort of local residents who are prepared to help out in times of need.

Start-up funding and Nelson Food Cupboard hosts 7th annual reading of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol
submitted
Ebenezer Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future will once again delight audiences and evoke the Christmas of this year’s ‘Like the Dickens’ event.

The Nelson Food Cupboard Society and CBC radio invite you to their annual dramatic reading of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol featuring another all-star line-up of Nelson celebrities: actor and comedian Lucas Myers; news director Glenis Hicks; actress, director and writer Jane Sichard; pastor David Boyd; and novelist Anna DeGrace, Mayor John Dooley, the evening’s host, will provide lively commentary and Irish charm, and the Nelson Heritage Harmony Barbershop Chorus will offer the sounds of Christmas to warm hearts and lighten spirits.

Enjoy this dramatic Dickens classic at 7:30 pm, Sunday December 16, at the Nelson United Church. Doors will open at 7 pm and admission is by donation (donations over $20 will receive a tax receipt). The Food Cupboard will also accept donations of non-perishable food items at that time. After the event, guests will be invited to meet the administrative assistance that has come from HIA, RDCK, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, and the Kaslo Victorian Hospital Auxiliary. Efforts are currently underway to re-connect the telephone service and to establish an e-mail link.

Please visit the Tree of Remembrance at the Credit Union and consider becoming involved, as a member, or volunteer, or with a generous donation.

Kaslo Hotel and Brew Pub

The Kaslo Hotel and Pub will be closing for the winter from January 6 to May 1, 2013. The Hotel would especially like to thank all of its employees for their hard work over the past 4 years, and all of our customers for their patronage since we opened. The Hotel and Pub is looking forward to re-opening for business on May 1, 2013, and will be ready for another great year of serving you, our valued customers. Thank you for your business and continued support!

Check out all of our events happening before we close for the season...sure to be a great time had by all!

End of the World Costume Party –
Come dressed as you have always wished to be, prize for best costume! Drink Specials! Live music! 9 PM Friday Dec. 21

Open Mic night at the Kaslo Hotel 8 PM Saturday Dec. 22

Boxing Day Breakdown –
DJ Sleuth and friends will be hosting this annual bash! Come and dance the night away! 8PM Wednesday Dec 26

Wondering what to do for New Years Eve?
Come ring in the New Year with Ruckus at The Kaslo Hotel! From 6 to 9 PM we will be offering a special New Years dinner menu starting at $23, or just come for the party...$20 at the door after 9 PM! Call and ask about our New Years Getaway package!

Drain the Taps weekend Bash at The Kaslo Hotel!
Amazing prices on food and drinks all weekend long. Friday January 4 is Karaoke! Saturday January 5
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www.kaslohotel.com
Leading by example: Ashram lightens its ecological footprint

submitted

Yasodhara Ashram is now officially carbon neutral—the successful culmination of a five-year program to address the global warming crisis. The Ashram is like a small village with 115 acres on the east-shore of Kootenay Lake in the mountains of southeastern BC. The year-round population averages 50 to 55 people, with seasonal peaks of 100 to 110.

The Ashram has demonstrated that reducing green house gas emissions is possible in a small BC community and it can be done in a way that has inspiring economic and quality of life benefits.

"By striving for carbon neutrality," says Dr. William Rees, professor emeritus of the University of BC, an internationally acclaimed ecological economist and winner of a 2012 Blavatnik Prize, "Yasodhara Ashram shows that communities can take significant steps to address global warming that are neither arduous nor a threat to their economies and lifestyles. Other communities should follow this example as if their lives depended on it—because ultimately they do."

Starting in 2007, the Ashram began to develop a strategy to be carbon neutral by 2013, its 50th anniversary.

The Ashram’s Carbon Neutral program included a shift in local food sourcing and menu planning, converting to an integrated geothermal/solar heating and domestic hot water system and shifting to more fuel-efficient vehicles. This has led to an 83% reduction in direct emissions. The outstanding emissions are being handled through the purchase of carbon offsets from Pacific Carbon Trust’s portfolio of BC-based greenhouse gas reduction projects.

At each stage of the program it became apparent that financial benefits were emerging. Arlene Truithan, a volunteer who led the final phases of the program says, “Reforming the menus to local and seasonal items not only decreased costs, it also better focused the use of the Ashram’s garden and began to support a complimentary network of local farmers.”

Paris Marshall Smith, a director of Ashram Society says, “We embrace the ‘learn by doing’ and ‘lead by example’ concepts. Both, she added, have personal as well as institutional application. “It is also a practice of sanaya, which means living truthfully, in ourselves, in our community and on this planet. We simply must lighten our environmental footprint. What we are doing together here at the Ashram is one way that works.”

Michelle Mungall, MLA Nelson-Creston agrees, “The work Yasodhara Ashram has done to become carbon neutral is commendable, and goes to show that these positive steps are possible in rural areas of BC.”

Puppy teaches JVH students empathy

submitted

Roots of Empathy, a program which is part of the BC school curriculum, aims to help children develop the important virtue of empathy. Usually, a mother and her baby are invited to come to the class on a regular basis, so students can track development and observe changes in the child. Students also discuss and share what they learn about the needs of the child and how important it is to be constantly adjusting these needs.

The grade 4/5 class at JVH has thrown a unique twist into this program. Instead of having a baby, as the focus of Roots of Empathy, Ms. Frankie’s class has a puppy named Bella. Bella visits on a regular basis. She also has her grandchild Felix come in once a month. The students will be part of a documentary which will illustrate how having a puppy in the classroom teaches empathy. One of the students is helping to produce this piece, and many others are part of it.

Students have the opportunity to learn about the needs of a dog. Bella has been with the class for two months. From the age of six weeks on, she has been quite the learning experience.

“Bella teaches us about empathy because the teachers teach us how to care for others,” says Sofia, one of the students. “I look forward to coming to school more, knowing that Bella will be here.”

A survey shows that most students in the class are more excited to come to school because they can play with and care for Bella.

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Merry Christmas from Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic

Holiday Hours:
Office Closed December 21 – January 22
Office Reopens 10:00 am, January 23
Van for Pavilion residents is goal of Light Up the Hospital

By Jan McMurray

In this year’s Light Up the Hospital campaign, the Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary is raising funds for a van to take Pavilion residents on outings. The cost of the van is approximately $50,000.

The health centre in New Denver currently has a 12-seat bus, but Nicky Hamilton, Activity Coordinator at the Pavilion, says the bus is not suitable for this area. It is too big to park in downtown Nelson, and too big to maneuver in some local areas. Hamilton explained that the centre had a nine-seat van for 30 years. She said it worked very well, and she and the residents miss it very much. The van was purchased by the community 30 years ago. However, over a year ago, Interior Health replaced the van with the bus in efforts to standardize the vehicles used at IH facilities.

The Slocan Community Health Centre’s Light Up campaign for the van got off to a great start with a generous $50,000 donation from People’s Pharmacy in Nakusp. Troy Clark, owner of the pharmacy, said he made the contribution in recognition of the fact that he has many customers in New Denver.
COMMUNITY

first with Gordon. He was so proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Most of all, Gordon encouraged them to pursue education and travel.

We will miss his wise counsel and good humor. We are all so sad to lose him, but our memories of Gordon will forever be cherished.

Special thanks to the staff of Sunshine Senior Living, as well as his doctor, Mack Smith.

A family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

TAKAHARA, Kay – Mrs. Kay Takahara passed away peacefully on November 17, 2012 at the age of 95 to join her beloved husband, Mr. Sumi Takahara, in heaven. She is survived by her daughter, Yoko (Late) and her son, Toshihiko (late). She is also survived by her brother, Mr. Sumi Takahara, in heaven. She is survived by her daughter, Yoko (Late) and her son, Toshihiko (late). She is also survived by her brother, Mr. Sumi Takahara, in heaven.

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To book call Sue: 250-355-2711
Wildfire protection funding change helps communities

submitted

BC municipalities, regional districts and First Nations will soon get more help to protect their communities and local habitats from wildfires.

2012 State of the Basin Snapshot Report released

Residents, planners and decision-makers looking into the current state of our region’s economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being now have access to a preview of that information with the release of the 2012 State of the Basin Snapshot Report. The report, which has been released in advance of the detailed report, provides an abridged version of research findings.

The State of the Basin is an initiative to monitor and report on information relating to wellbeing in the Columbia Basin Boundary region. With this data, planners and decision-makers can make informed decisions about the future of our region to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

The State of the Basin was first piloted by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) in 2007. When the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) was created, it brought together CBT and Selkirk College’s research assets and took on the responsibility of providing State of the Basin data.

To provide the region with relevant information, the RDI will continue to evolve its approach to monitoring and reporting on information related to wellbeing within the Columbia Basin Boundary region. Future versions of the State of the Basin will see indicators refined using an integrated ‘well-being’ and ‘sustainable development’ framework.

For more information on the State of the Basin or to view the 2012 State of the Basin Snapshot Report go to www.cbt.ca/state-of-the-basin/

Municipalities administers the funding, distributing grants to communities on behalf of the government. Funding is ongoing with the 2012 State of the Basin Report focusing on the areas of key priorities for the region.

As of October 2011, 241 CWPBs have been completed and an additional 64 CWPBs are still in progress. To date, completed fuel treatment and risk-reduction efforts have covered more than 46,838 hectares of land in and around communities that face significant wildfire risks. This includes 25,775 hectares of forests that have been affected by the mountain pine beetle.
Wishing our friends, neighbours and customers an exhilarating holiday season!

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Slocan Lake detachment
- A vehicle was stolen from the Hills area during the early morning of Sunday, December 2. Later that day, Slocan RCMP stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver. The only other occupant of the vehicle fled on foot.
- Another vehicle in the Hills area had a bag of tools stolen from it.
- A snowmobile was stolen from a property in Slocan in late November. The snowmobile is a green and white 2011 Arctic Cat M8. Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to call the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

- On November 10 at approximately 2 pm, Slocan Lake RCMP responded to a single vehicle motor vehicle accident on Highway 6 just north of Passmore. Witnesses reported that the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed and passing in an unsafe manner prior to losing control and leaving the highway. The driver and lone occupant, a 26-year-old Wlnaw resident, fled the scene but was later located by police and transported to hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained in the crash. Alcohol appears to have been a contributing factor and police are continuing to investigate several offences including impaired driving, dangerous driving, and obstructing a police officer.
- A dog was shot with an arrow on his home property in the 4000 block of Slocan River Road in the early morning of November 24. He was badly injured and required medical attention from a Nelson veterinarian. Anyone with information on this is asked to call the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222 or the BC SPCA at 250-427-0386.
- The Slocan Lake RCMP requests the assistance from the public in respect of an ongoing investigation into a break and enter into the Winlaw Hall, 589 Highway 6, Winlaw. Sometime between Friday September 21 and Sunday September 23, culprits broke into the hall by breaking a window and entering through it. The culprits stole several food items from the freezer. Any persons with information in respect of this incident are asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at (250) 358-2222 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Nakusp detachment
- A hang-up 911 call led Nakusp RCMP to a ‘sophisticated commercial’ grow operation resulting in the seizure of more than 1,700 marijuana plants. On November 9, police responded to an abandoned 911 call from a phone number at a property near Edgewood. Nobody was located on the property; however, while on scene police found evidence to indicate that there was a grow op. A search warrant was executed on November 10 and police located a grow op spread over multiple buildings. A number of items were seized as evidence, a suspect has been identified and police continue to investigate.
- On November 16, the RCMP responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on 7th Avenue in Nakusp. Police attended and located a male victim who had reportedly been hit over the head by a number of glass objects. The victim suffered injuries to his head and was transported to hospital.

A 33-year-old female suspect was arrested for assault with a weapon and taken into custody. She was later released on a Promise to Appear and Undertaking with police-imposed conditions to have no contact with the victim. Both the suspect and the victim are residents of Nakusp. Alcohol appears to have been a contributing factor in the assault.

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Holiday Hours –
Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 5:30 t1 December 22
Closed December 23 - January 2 Re-opening January 3
Ktunaxa file application for judicial review of Jumbo Resort

submitted

For almost 20 years the Ktunaxa have said no to Jumbo Glacier Resort, and it appears they will have to do it yet again. On November 20 the Ktunaxa Nation filed an application for judicial review of the resort’s approval in BC Supreme Court.

The controversial ski resort is proposed in the heart of an area Ktunaxa call Qat’muk. For Ktunaxa, Qat’muk is where the Grizzly Bear Spirit was born, goes to heal itself, and returns to the spirit world. The Grizzly Bear Spirit is a unique and indispensable source of collective and individual guidance, strength, and protection for Ktunaxa. Qat’muk’s importance for the Grizzly Bear Spirit is interwoven with the living grizzly bears of today, and into the future.

“Jumbo Resort, if built, will forever destroy the connection Ktunaxa have with Qat’muk,” said Kathryn Tenenee, Ktunaxa Nation chair. “It will sever this special and significant relationship that we have developed with that land for countless generations.

“Ktunaxa have been the victim of residential schools, and attempts to systematically destroy our culture and heritage. We had to hide our language, culture and spiritual beliefs away, simply in order to save them. We have kept our most precious beliefs a secret, in accordance with our laws and in order to protect and preserve them for future generations of Ktunaxa.

“Now, after overcoming these incredible adversities, working to develop our nation, and getting to a place where we are starting to see some real successes, we are faced with the reality that the BC government is once again trying to destroy something vital to who we are as a people.

“I can tell you with all my conviction, that Ktunaxa will never allow themselves to be damaged as a people, ever again. Nobody has the right to take away what is rightfully ours. The fight to save Qat’muk is far from over, and it’s long overdue that

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BC's very own food people

Ktunaxa people have lived in the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, Canada for more than 10,000 years.

Today, the Ktunaxa are a thriving people who are revitalizing their language and culture throughout their Territory. The Ktunaxa Nation is actively working towards a model of self-governance, and continues to build co-operative and positive relationships with regional, provincial, and federal governments.

For more information on the Ktunaxa visit: www.ktunaxa.org
Regional District gets funding for wood stove exchange

submitted
The Regional District of Central Kootenay is receiving $15,750 from the provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program to encourage residents to replace their old wood stoves with cleaner burning models that will improve personal health and air quality. Environment Minister Terry Lake announced today. The goal is to have close to 700 stoves exchanged across the province in the coming year. Since 2008, the BC government has partnered with the BC Lung Association to run the wood stove exchange program. To date, the government has put over $1.8 million towards the program, which has resulted in more than 5,000 old wood stoves successfully replaced.

There are approximately 116,000 older model stoves currently in use around the province that can affect the health of homeowners, their neighbours and overall air shed health. As the nights get longer and the weather gets colder, many British Columbians will be spending more time in these wood burning stoves for warmth; however, before doing so, it is important to remember some helpful tips to make burning more efficient and maintaining good air quality and personal health.

Always use dry well-seasoned wood that is cut into small pieces – seasoned wood can provide as much as 15 per cent more heat than the same amount of unseasoned wood. It also significantly reduces air pollution. By burning smaller, hotter fires to ensure complete combustion of the wood, there should be very little visible smoke coming from the chimney and no smell of smoke indoors. It is also important to have any wood-burning appliances inspected and cleaned at least once a year by a certified technician.

In BC, all new wood stoves and inserts sold must meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) emission standards. New emissions-certified wood stoves burn one-third less wood and reduce smoke and particulates entering the atmospheres by up to 90 percent.

COMMUNITY

Redfish Grill owners barking up a new tree

submitted
Rising from the smoke and ashes of disaster, Brian Mosey and Robyn Gold, former owners of the Redfish Grill in Nelson, have turned their love for dogs and the hospitality industry into a new business venture – Bark N Roll Inn, offering ‘luxury, home-style pet stays’ in Winlaw.

Bark N Roll Inn is for the free spirited pooch, who likes sunbathing on a private deck, rearranging the house and yard rather than be confined to a kennel. Located on four acres bordering the Slocan River and Raids to Trails, this property offers the ultimate in doggie fun and frolic, with a personal dog beach, decks for sunning and grassy areas for skylarking.

Other amenities include a large fenced play area, daily river walks, home-made treats, a great overnight sleep in the comfort of our home, with lots of belly rubs and ear scratches. Bark N Roll Inn only takes a limited number of guests, allowing for personal doggie care and attention, at affordable rates.

A ‘no smoke and no pets’ is required prior to your furry friend booking their first sleep over, to ensure all guests have the best experience possible. All dogs must be socialized and non-aggressive. Take a look at their website www.barkrollinn.com or call 1-250-448-6553 for complete details.

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Holiday Hours
The Village Office will be closed at 4 pm on Thursday, December 20th and will re-open at 9 am on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2013.

Garbage pickup for residential and commercial customers will fall on the following dates:
Monday, December 24th
Wednesday, January 2nd (regular service on January 1st)
* * *
Building inspection services will be available on Dec. 20th and January 3rd

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Freezer packs still available.
Our holiday hours are:
December 24 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - December 25 & 26 Closed - January 1 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Every other day we will be open our regular hours 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

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