Dog killed in trap near MacDonald Creek Provincial Park

by Jan McMurray

The tragic death of a dog caught in a "Coubent" trap on Boxing Day near MacDonald Creek Provincial Park has led to a call for a change in trapping regulations.

Brenda Hoyla-Szabo and her husband, part-time residents of the Nakusp area, were walking their two dogs on Forget Forest Service Road near MacDonald Creek Provincial Park on Boxing Day, as they have many times in the years they have owned property in the area.

When returning down the road towards the parking lot, Brenda noticed a tuft of deer or elk fur in the road that had not been there on the way up. Thinking this could indicate a predator in the area, she immediately called her yellow Lab, Nikki, while her husband leashed their other dog.

"I heard Nikki growling; it sounded like she was fighting for her life," recalled Brenda. "I continued to desperately call her, but nothing fell well; I shouldn't, as she could return with a predator in pursuit."

Although Brenda wanted to run into the woods to find Nikki, she knew she could not risk an encounter with a predator such as a bear or cougar without a rifle. After listening to the dog fight for her life until silence fell — about three minutes — she and her husband went and found a local resident with a rifle and returned with him to the site of the tragedy.

"When the man with the rifle informed me he knew someone with a trapline in that area, I knew immediately what we would find," said Brenda. "We found the trapper's trail, and then my beautiful yellow Lab dead in a Coubent coyote trap."

Brenda said she has walked this area many times and has never seen any signage to warn people of a trapline, so she never suspected there would be one there. She says she has been to other areas, such as Ferrie, where signs for traplines are in place, giving her an opportunity to know her dogs.

"I have never encountered this situation before without warning, and thus unprepared, lost my faithful companion of 10 and half years," said Brenda. "My husband, our dear friend and the helpful recluse had to pay her dead body out of the Coubent trap. We all live with this sad image and while I fall asleep, I am awakened by her desperate cries to survive."

A government spokesperson reported that the Conservation Officer Service has determined that the trap was lawfully set and that the dog was caught accidentally. He also said there is no requirement for trappers to post warning signs near the traps, but the local trapper in this case had marked the trapline with a yellow ribbon.

Brenda and her husband and neighbour, Brian Graham, have written to Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson to ask for a change in trapping regulations so incidents like this one can be avoided in future. Minister Thomson informed the Valley Voice that he has asked ministry staff to review this incident "to see how we can try to prevent such an unfortunate occurrence from happening again."

Trapping regulations state the following: "When trapping in areas near recreational areas or communities, trappers should evaluate whether lethal traps are necessary at the site. It is important to remember that the landscape is utilized by a number of different user groups and that the safety of non-target species is vital to good trapline management. Warnings should be used to inform people of trapping activities."

Valhalla Community Choir performs last concert directed by Francie Oldham

by Jan McMurray

The Valhalla Community Choir’s Christmas Concert has always been a highlight of the season, with a huge turnout. This year’s must have broken the record — 308 people came out to enjoy the last concert of the choir under the directorship of Francie Oldham.

Francie started up the choir in 1986 and remained committed to it for 27 years. This was the choir’s 27th Christmas concert.

The songs, however, were not strictly Christmas songs. Francie told the audience that the pieces she chose for this last concert were simply ones that she and choir members liked. The audience certainly enjoyed them, as well.

The concert began with the traditional processional by cantelitig, with the choir singing Paeoni Noel. The ambitious selection of 14 pieces that followed were from all over the world. There was a Shamah song, Korean folk song, French carol, American folk song, and a traditional Scottish folk song that was presented by a bagpipe performance by Gerry Conway of Nakusp.

Kevin Hesladee was the piano accompanist, and there were other accompanists for selected pieces: Aiko Jackson and Nancy Guison on percussion, Cyprus Blaker-Rockies on flute, Lorraine Visser on clarinet and Miranda Hughes on violin.

At the end of the concert, Francie’s granddaughters presented her with flowers, and choir member Matthew Fry gave her a card and gift from the choir. Francie had some gifts to give out as well, and choir member Wendy Harlock gave a brief speech to thank Francie for her dedication.

Brenda and Brian are asking that signage be mandatory, and for consideration of safer, more remote locations for traplines.

Area K Director Paul Peterson has been informed of the incident, and plans to ask the RDCK board for support for a resolution calling for compulsory signage for traplines and for traplines to be located an appropriate distance away from populated areas. Historically, there was no trouble for the resolution to the upcoming AKELG (Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments) convention.

This fine concert and enjoyable evening marked the end of an era for the Valhalla Community Choir in New Denver Silverton. There are no firm plans for the future, but hope is high that the choir will carry on.
Two candidates vie for councillor position in Silverton bylection

Don Broughton and Arlene Yofonoff are running for the Silverton councillor position that became vacant when Christopher Loeve moved away for family reasons. The bylection will be held January 26, with voting taking place at the Silverton Memorial Hall. The advanced poll is on January 16 at the Village office.

The Valley Voice interviewed the two candidates.

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Silvertown. While watching this past year with our present council, which I would like to commend for a productive first year, I decided I would like the opportunity to work with a great team.

What would you bring to the council table?

An open mind and ability to work as a team member to continue with the positive progress in our community. Relevant background or experience I was born in New Denver and raised in Silverton. I have lived in the community for 52 years. Are there any particular council issues you are interested in?

The growth of our community, working with surrounding communities, water, forest preservation, recycling, historical buildings, the history of our Village, and working with the Silverton Community Club. Are there any issues you’d like to bring forward to council?

I’d like to see the traffic slow down through town. You were on council during a difficult time in Silverton. It might be surprising to some people that you are running again after all you went through.

It was a valuable learning curve for me. It has given me the ability to move on, stand up, and let my voice be heard. I am willing to put myself forward for the residents of Silverton. What happened is in the past. We are moving on to the future and the betterment of Silverton. Is there anything you’d like to add?

Silverton residents can feel free to contact me at 358-7785 with any questions.

Arlene Yofonoff
Why are you running?

When a seat became vacant on council, I decided to put my name forward to serve the residents of Silverton. My knowledge of Silverton’s past is extensive. An even-headedness and willingness to look at whatever the taxpayers, the people we’re supposed to be representing want us to be looking into – and I’d like to try and find out what they want council to look into. I’d like to see more people come out to the meetings.

Mostly, this council runs quite smoothly like a council should, but there are times when they act in an irrational way. At these times, I think I can be the one who points out that we have to look into the issue more before we make a decision. Believe I can be the even keel on council. Relevant background or experience I have no council experience, but I have plenty of volunteer experience. I have been president of the Arena Society, vice president of the Silverton Community Club and I have been volunteering for Myn Days since I was 12 years old. Are there any particular council issues you are interested in?

Some of the bylaw changes they’ve recently made or tried to make. For example, the bylaw that deals with the way they run council meetings – they proposed to have the public input period at the beginning of the meeting. I feel that there should be a public input period at the end of the meeting. Are there any issues you’d like to bring forward to council?

There are some minor safety issues; for example, uneven sidewalks. I feel we need to worry more about the taxpayers than attracting more tourists. But if we are going to get more tourists, we have to be concerned about their safety and protect ourselves from liability. You’ve been involved in a dispute with council and Village staff about the campground. Would this affect your performance as councillor? Is this dispute resolved so far as you are concerned?

As far as I’m concerned, this issue is not resolved, but it will not affect my performance on council. I will work on the resolution of that issue over time, but I won’t be an issue that will stop me from dealing with Village business. I believe I can get along fine as long as things are kept on a business level.

Is there anything you’d like to add?

If anyone has any questions, or wants more specific, please call me in the evenings or on weekends at 358-2769.

Don Broughton

Klondike Silver plans exploration program

by Jan McMurray

Towards the end of 2012, Klondike Silver Corporation announced that it acquired an additional six past-producing silver-lead-zinc mine sites in the Slocan mining district, and that it signed a letter of intent with Victory Mountain Ventures Ltd., a junior mining company based in Vancouver, to option a portion of the Slocan mining camp.

“The goal of the Klondike Silver is to define and develop significant new silver deposits in the Slocan mining district and Klondike Silver will focus on the acquisition and development of the Klondike Silver mine,” the company said in a news release.

The newly acquired mine sites are known as the ‘Chill Claims.’ A November 27 press release announcing the acquisition states that the new tenures cover 1,226 hectares, “holding several strong exploration targets,” and that Klondike Silver now holds a total of 16,544 hectares in the region, controlling a majority of the historically productive mining camp.

According to a November 19 press release, a definitive option agreement has not yet been signed with Victory Mountain, but the intent is to option 50 percent of the Silvertown West and Cody
New Denver kick-off for the Jumbo Take-it-to-the-People Tour

The Jumbo Wild! ‘Take it to the People Tour’ will kick off with an evening of films, entertainment and discussion on Friday, January 25 at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver.

The proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort has been in the news a lot recently, most notably with the designation of the Jumbo Valley as a Mountain Resort Municipality. Activists have been working both behind and in front of the scenes to challenge the democratic viability of this legislation. Join West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild! Co-ordinator, K.L. Kivi to get up to date on the campaign to keep this jewel of the Purcell Mountains wild.

The evening will offer a fun and informative assortment of films relevant to the proposed and still opposed Jumbo Glacier Resort development, including the rarely seen ‘River Spirits’. The film follows two world-class kayakers as they pack their kayaks to the height of the Purcell Mountains and then release them down a remote section of Canoe Creek to Kootenay Lake. This journey of 100 kilometres through pristine wilderness was directed by Art Twomey, the legendary protector of the Purcells who died in a helicopter crash. This 1997 film has been beautifully filmed and is an eloquent reminder of what’s at stake.

Other films in the mix include: “The Last People of Mountain Village”, which is one of the most hilarious mockumentaries ever made. Complete with real anthropologist likes Wade Davis, it examines the disappearance of a ski resort (in a film you want to see with a rooﬁn of friends.

The ﬁlm was made by US ﬁlmakers who do this. Income from the Brilliant and Arrow Lakes projects is distributed equally to the two organizations. For the Waneta Expansion project, FortBC was involved as a third partner, so income from Waneta will be distributed between the three organizations.

On the future of the CPC-CBT partnership, the feedback booklets states CBT and CPC “have not made a commitment on future projects. We will discuss potential opportunities and review them on a case-by-case basis.” Visit www.columbiapowerpower.org to participate in the public consultation online. An open house will be held at the Lakehead Valley Community Centre on January 15 from 4 pm to 7:30 pm.

Carol Black and Neal Marliens in Colorado.

The 2006 documentary “Resorting to Madness: Taking Back Our Mountain Communities” strives for a more serious note. Hunter Sykes and Darren Campbell take us inside the ski industry with a sober look at what can happen to communities when the ski resorts invade. A few local Scotts and an old CBC Venture program featuring some very entertaining footage of the Grinch Who Tried to Steal Jumbo (aka Otterbe Obit), will round out the program.

The show starts at 7:30 pm. Great Jumbo Wild! fundraising stuff, including Peter Tanyo Johnson’s wonderful, shirt design, buttons, bumper stickers and books will be available for purchase. If you’d like to bring Jumbo Wild!’s ‘Take it to the People Tour’ to your community, contact K.L. at info@naamprotesta or call 250-351-7039.

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Columbia Power Corporation seeks public input on 2012-2017 strategic plan

Columbia Power Corporation is asking the public to provide input on the future of the corporation. Open houses are being held in various communities, and information and a feedback form are available online.

The completion of the Waneta Expansion Project in 2015 will mark the completion of Columbia Power Corporation’s original mandate to smart meter installation deadline extended to December 31, 2013

Columbia Power Corporation has announced that the smart meter installation deadline has been extended to December 31, 2013. To date, BC Hydro has installed 93 percent or 1.73 million of 1.87 million smart meters. The additional time will enable BC Hydro to complete the work and, it says, “address as many customer concerns as possible before finalizing smart meter installations.”

Company officials say the delay is due to the current construction season. BC Hydro is committed to completing the installation of smart meters as soon as possible.

The company says it is committed to providing accurate and reliable information to customers and is working to ensure that the installation process is as smooth as possible.

Company officials say they will continue to communicate with customers throughout the installation process and encourage customers to contact their local office with any questions or concerns.

Smart meters are devices that allow for two-way communication between customers and electricity companies, enabling real-time monitoring of electricity usage and helping to reduce energy consumption.

As the Valley Voice begins its 21st year, we send out a heartfelt thank you to our regional community. It is a privilege to cover the news of such a dynamic place.

We could not have made it this far without your support. Huge thanks to our advertisers, contributors, readers, subscribers, and voluntary subscribers.

We ask for your continued support in 2013:

• Consider a voluntary subscription. A voluntary subscription is a contribution towards our cost of delivering the Valley Voice to your mailbox. Suggested voluntary subscription amount is $10-$30.

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We are honoured to serve you, and proud to bring you an independently and locally owned regional community newspaper!
Open letter to Prime Minister Harper

Because I believe our country’s strength and security lie in how we respect human rights of the least among us both here and worldwide, how we educate our youth, how we participate in lowering our carbon footprint and care for wilderness and all species; how we maintain access to medical care for all... I am very concerned that your government spends more than $21 billion every year on the Department of National Defence, and plans to purchase a fleet of extremely expensive F-35 stealth fighters.

Instead, I urge you to cut wasteful military spending and the F-35s, and use our tax dollars for the above-mentioned commitments I value highly.

Karon Pileck
Kaslo

Chief Spence’s hunger strike

Albert Einstein once said: “The world is a dangerous place (in which) to live; not because of those who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”

Most people are aware of the Idle No More movement that is sweeping not only our country, but many other countries as well. We may not be able to join marches, protest rallies, etc., but there are things we can do. One example is to write “Idle No More” on both sides of every dollar bill that passes through your hands. Hopefully some of these bills will eventually end up in Mr. Harper’s hands and persuade him to meet with Chief Theresa Spence, who is on a hunger strike for her people, many of whom live in terrible third-world-like conditions.

Let’s do something about it.

Hans Sparreboom
Nakusp

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

LETTERS

Kokanee Falls applies to legalize dock

In December 12 edition of the Valley Voice there was a Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land. This is an application to legalize a six berth dock built on provincial Crown land at the Kokanee Falls development at Enterprise Creek.

During development of this property, the owners built both the road and the six berth moorage without obtaining permits. Under public pressure, the owners obtained a permit for a ‘seasonal dock.’

The present application states that the dock is a “6-slip residential floating dock system intended for private use – case for each of the 5 cottage owners and one visitor slip.”’ However, there is an internet advertisement for daily and weekly rentals of one of the cottagers at $660 per night and the ad specifies use of a 28’ slip at the subject dock.

According to the recent Slocan Lake Community Values Survey, there was no support for development of provincial Crown land bordering the lake.

If this application is approved, it sets a precedent for further transgressions where people ignore regulations and safeguards, assuming that they will successfully circumvent the rules. This does not bode well for the future of our beautiful lake.

Anyone who wishes to respond to this application, write to ForeCounr, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook V1C 7G1 or email to AuthorizingAgency.Cranbrook@gov.bc.ca. Include the MFLNR file number, 4404888. Note that the deadline for replies is Jan. 11.

Lane Haywood and Margaret Harley
New Denver

Say NO WAY to FIPA

Our dear prime minister strikes again! You may not have noticed, because the deal was done Friday, December 7 at 5 pm – the end of the week. Neilson, a big North American oil company, was sold to the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) for the sum of $15.1 billion.

Meanwhile, we are busy trying to stop FIPA, the Canadian-Chinese Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement. Harper did not care to put it on ice for a while because he had another machiavellian plan for us. Very quietly, and without consultation with anyone other than the shareholders, the deal was sealed in secrecy.

It’s time to stand up and let him know that this is ENOUGH! This deal is already very scary and if FIPA goes through, the Chinese foreign investor will be allowed, in the name of profit for the corporation, to privatises the government if it stands in their way of making money.

Did you know that China has already spent hundreds of millions of dollars on penalties from lawsuits under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and is currently being sued by a US corporation because Quebec put a temporary moratorium on fossil-fuel to study its controversial health and safety impact? We cannot even count on our own government to protect the people’s health and environment, let alone a foreign corporation whose only drive is greed and making more profit – do you think they are going to take any of our concerns, worries and principles into consideration? Dream on, because if FIPA goes through, the Chinese investor will be allowed to mine on the provincial and municipal levels.

Remember, when the government is sued, it’s you and me paying the bills with our never ending taxes. Please, let’s put our voices together to say NO WAY to FIPA.

Stéphanie Boivin
Window

The Valley Voice

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Traplines need to be well marked

I have spent my life in the woods and mountains and encouraged my children to learn to love it. The BC government, as my father taught me. We enjoyed a family walk with our dogs Christmas Day up Bserk Creek Forestry Road adjacent to the Donaldson Provincial Park. Nakusp and returned again Boxing Day. I have never encountered an active trapline without warning and thus unprepared, lost my faithful companion of 10 and a half years, my yellow Labrador Nikka. We live with the sad image of prayering her dead body out of the trap and while I fell asleep, I am awakened by her desperate cries to survive.

I urge you to lobby your MLA to legislate mandatory adequate signage and location of active traplines considering proximity to MacDonald Provincial Park Nakusp and other publicly accessed areas. I was raised to believe that Crown land is for all, not solely for the benefit of the trapline operators, and that access is a right of each of us ensures through our taxes.

As Nakusp, the region and Province of BC search for promotional strategies to draw tourism, recreation and business, careful consideration needs to be given to priorities of all land use. Continuing to do things the way they have always been done well will win the same or similar results. Revitalizing an area will entail new and dynamic ways of thinking, living and conservation; it is paramount that we all work together to this end.

Bronda Hoyle-Szabo
Nakusp and Edmonaton

To the citizens of Kaslo

What a beautiful little town you have. My grandfather, Donald T. Manning, was a resident there for over 30 years. Some of you may have known him, and also my grandmother in life. He loved fishing, music and rock hounding, but his greatest love of all was his daughter, my mother Dolores Manning Coffman. His biggest joy was when my parents would come and take him back to Montana for several weeks—their four to five times a year. His neighbours stated that several days prior to their arrival, he would visit through the fence, saying, “My Dolores is coming home to take me to Montana.” They recalled the excitement in his voice.

Grandpa passed away August 12, 2003, believing in his heart that his wife Mabel Manning would do as he wished by the estate to my father, his only child. But as some of you may know, just as I left the estate to the hospital, that small hospital was closed. I am sure that my father, no pictures, no heirlooms, but only the memories of the father he loved dearly.

After 8 years of grieving, on June 10, 2011 my parents and I drove to Kaslo to receive a few small items and my grandfather’s watches, which my mother had been requesting since his death.

This story is sad but factual. Shame on those motivated by greed, for we all must answer for our actions sooner or later.

Rest in peace,
Rome’s Coffman
Bigfork, Montana

Preventable tragedy at MacDonald Creek: Open letter to Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

On Boxing Day 2012, our neighbours from Edmonton were enjoying a wilderness walk along the Bserk Forest Service Road located adjacent to MacDonald Creek Provincial Park. 14 hours south of Nakusp with their two dogs. Suddenly Nikka, an 11-year-old yellow Lab, bolted into the forest. Moments later, the ceremony was broken by the cries of a dog dying an insensible and preventable death. Nikka had become yet another statistic of domestic animals having been caught in Coomb trap traps. Nikka had successfully escaped from the steel trap gripped, strapped and broke her neck with a pressure of at least 50 pounds per square inch.

Naturally, our neighbours are mourning the loss of their companion, but are thankful that this tragic event did not happen to an inquisitive youngster or even an unawary adult. Their anger is not directed at the licensed holder of the trapline but is focussed at the current policies and regulations of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations that presently state trappers should “post” — not “must be required to post” — visible signage notifying the public of the presence of traps within areas adjacent to our provincial parks and Crown land frequented by outdoor enthusiasts.

These signs should be of a reasonable dimension (50 cm x 50 cm), plainly visible at the commencement of the trailhead and clearly state “Active Trapping Within the Area AND ALL Psychological Must Be Ledashed.”

If school and playground zones require signage advising motorists to exercise caution, how begins the question: Why do we not require signs to be posted notifying the public of active trapping taking place?

I am proposing the immediate need for review of current and legislative change requiring that “holders of government-issued trapping licences be required to post signage warning the public of active trapping in the vicinity, especially when trapping in regions located adjacent to popular recreational areas such as MacDonald Creek, Fat Creek and Park or other BC Parks located adjacent to populated centres.”

Brian Grisham Nakusp

Delterra Engineering response to Nakusp CAO staff report

A November 5 staff report from Nakusp’s CAO about the sewer treatment plant project states that “… the Village terminated its agreement to proceed with the contract with Delterra Engineering Ltd. as is believed that the projects (WTP, STP and Well #2) were not being effectively managed and council/staff were not receiving timely information regarding the status/budget of the projects.”

I feel this statement is unfair and for several reasons. First, the Village has played a key role in increasing the costs and delaying the sewer treatment plant project. From my perspective, the Village added four obstacles to the project. First, the engineer is only one person on a larger project team, which includes Village staff. The Village engaged a lot of turnover of senior staff during this time, which left knowledge of any project team members. This resulted in multiple delays.

Second, there was a zoning issue. The STP project was budgeted for approval in March 2007. In April 2008, the Village completed a new OCP that required rezoning from O-2 to R-2 from M2 Heavy Industrial to R5 Resorted Residential. The new zoning required the pipeline for the Arrow Lakes outfall to be extended an additional 1000 metres offshore, under the Municipal Sewage Regulation. This added approximately $100,000 to the cost of the project.

Third, this project started with a right-of-way issue from 40 years ago when the sewer lines were installed. This issue must be resolved before the line can be explained and water can be installed. Delterra spent hundreds of hours on this, at the request of the previous CAO. This added at least $25,000 in engineering and administration costs.

Fourth, the decision of the Village to install the drinking water pipeline to the north end of Nakusp while the sewer pipe was being installed over the Kisunka added about $25,000 to the project. Although I think this was a good decision, it increased the cost of the STP project because designs and drawings had to be done and re-approved. In addition, unexpected costs, out of control of the Village or Delterra, were incurred because the Ministry of Environment required about $10,000 worth of studies to be done. In 2007, the Ministry estimated that $15,000 environmental study would be adequate. Those subsequent project impacted, adding up to over $250,000 and significant time delays, need to be considered in Village public statements.

In addition, many smaller projects introduced to the project including the hot springs and arena projects that helped the Village obtain its Climate Action Award, pushed the sewer treatment plant and water treatment plant deadlines back.

Between 2005 and 2012, Delterra was involved in many projects with the Village, and had a success rate of over 80 percent in obtaining large grants for the Village, investing over $4 million dollars.

Trevor Shepherd, PEng
Delterra Engineering Ltd., Kelowna

Open letter to Minister of Education Don McRae

The Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) is in receipt of the Minister’s letter dated December 3, 2012 requesting districts to find savings within the current 2012-2013 fiscal year to provide CPE support staff with wage increases.

The Board considered the Minister’s requests on three occasions.

As a Board of Education, the Board of School District No. 8 understands and is committed to its legislated role in upholding the School Act in terms of fiscal and educational responsibilities. As an employer, the Board of School District No. 8 desires to provide its employees with fair compensation and is fully aware of the support and teaching staff bargaining pressures and frustrations.

The Board of Education of School District No. 8 writes this letter to advise the Minister that it cannot meet the target of 1.5% savings in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The budget for the 2012-2013 budget year to date, the Board has already faced additional cost pressures such as the unfunded Auto Bullying/Violence Threat Risk Assessment initiative, Ministry reading initiative, increased WCB and MSP premiums as well as a significantly increased m3-Sewerage enrollment without the budgetary compensation.

In 2013-2014, the Board of School District No. 8 has identified the following cost pressures that contribute to an overall deficit:其中, the Board of Education of School District No. 8 strives to achieve public trust and confidence in public education. To deviate from these commitments would severely impair the Board in its service to communities.

The Board looks forward to more discussions regarding the funding in further government’s successful labour settlement efforts. Despite the Board’s inability to identify the savings, the Minister requests, the co-governance model is such that the Board will work with government to come to resolve in balancing modest wage increases with quality of public education to delivery, staff and families in School District No. 8.

Melanie Joy Chairperson of the Board of Education

I see ghosts.

I have lived here 33 years. In the beginning, I heard stories about the building of the hydroelectric dam and methods in which the people were removed. This is about the construction of the Arrow Lakes hydroelectric dam. Brick by brick the dam was being built and filled with water. It’s a harbour dam.

There were tractors, farms, hotels, homes, offices and trailers underneath. Most things were removed to make a reservoir and fill the dam. There were trees that were left. These were to be cut once the reservoir fill bed was reached. However, there is a hole in those trees. This is their story.

To begin, she had a farm. Back then, same as now, it was a hydroelectric dam, but she showed me where the farm used to be. She was much older than I was, at that time, and she was telling me stories, before almost I was born. The construction of the Arrow Lakes hydroelectric dam began in about 1965.

She pointed towards her fields, and described them, saying they were removed to make the reservoir. She said the lawyer called them, dandelion fields. I didn’t see any dandelions, but of course, we were looking at the surface of the lake. The surface of the water looked beautiful to me, but she said she hated it and hated it. She said back then, the electric dam people were at everyone’s place, knocking on doors, buying land. They were ripped off and ripped off, and ripped off, is what she said about the land deals. I got kind of the idea that they had a choice, to take it or leave it. Also, not everyone sold his or her land.

Later, she told me a story about the older lady that was displaced from Arrow Park. She was put in a car and slowly driven away, watching her house that was on fire. As we see, great-grandmothers in any case, don’t move that easily, and they are preparing for the flood, it is the family home: The woman saw her home, her face glowing with tears.

Drew Harris
Edgewater
On keeping the Jumbo commons common

As I write, the commodification of the environment is quite advanced in the UK, with the proper bureaucracy and an inspiring new lexicon to place it in a new context is not an option.

A Natural Capital Committee with an Economic Task Force refers to ‘Natural Capital’ instead of Nature. Natural processes have become ‘ecosystem services’. Hills, forests and river drainages have become ‘green infrastructure’ while biodiversity and habitat are ‘asset classes’ within the ‘ecosystem market.’ All of them will be assigned a price to become exchangeable.

"Business currently treats the natural world as if it is worth nothing until it has been priced which then incorporates that price into the cost of goods and services which only then creates an incentive for its protection. Our ecosystem market’s Task Force speaks of ‘substantial potential growth in Nature Related Markets in the order of billions of pounds globally.’

All of the above according to George Monbiot, journalist and author for the Guardian newspaper. He then asks rhetorically: ‘Commodification, economic growth, financial abstractions, corporate power: aren’t these the processes driving the world’s ecological crisis? Now we are told in order to save the biosphere we need more of them.’

And while Nature is being commodified, our democratic rights are being eroded. ‘No longer will we be able to argue that an ecosystem or a landscape should be protected because it affords us wonder and delight. We’ll be told the intrinsic value has already been calculated.’

‘The right of ownership by the rich is based on the privatization of the Commons and the disposition of the indigenous and other citizens who claim them as their birthright. The weak are people. People are becoming subjects of an emerging social order called the Market State. The Market State promises to increase market freedom and choice by enhancing our economic opportunities as consumers. This means privatizing nearly everything and devaluing life itself. says James Quilligan, (www.globalline.org). We are in a world where everybody is for sale.

Thinking globally, it is easy to understand the commodification of the natural world and the closure of the commons everywhere fits the agenda of nearly all governments and the multinational corporations.

However, Garrett Hardin, in his now famous 1968 article, ‘The Tragedy of the Commons,’ which appeared in the journal Science, saw the closures of the commons lands differentially. Simply put, it’s the inability of people in a local area to manage their shared resources because individuals want to exploit them rather than to cooperate and manage them.

History shows us many examples of the closures (enclosures) of commons. The most obvious is that of conquering powers taking what resources they want from the conquered. Yet this taking of indigenous people’s resources is not just a fact from the past. Currently it has morphed into governments in collusion with the private sector who leave behind degraded commons and people marginalized from their land.

The right of ownership by the rich is based on the privatization of the Commons and the disposition of the indigenous and other citizens who claim them as their birthright. The weak are people. People are becoming subjects of an emerging social order called the Market State. The Market State promises to increase market freedom and choice by enhancing our economic opportunities as consumers. This means privatizing nearly everything and devaluing life itself. says James Quilligan, (www.globalline.org).

Thinking globally, it is easy to understand the commodification of the natural world and the closure of the commons everywhere fits the agenda of nearly all governments and the multinational corporations.

The New Desert and Area Youth Centre Society is seeking a Youth Centre Coordinator.

This is a part time, shared position with hours in the evenings and weekends. The successful applicant must consent to a criminal records check and will work to supervise youth participants and maintain a clean, safe and fun environment for youth. Responsibilities include youth supervision and operational duties.

Experience working with youth essential; familiarity with and proximity to New Denver and surrounding area preferred.

Job descriptions and applications can be obtained via email at newdenveryouthcentre@gmail.com or picked up at Home Hardware or Silverton Building Supplies.

Applications and resumes can be submitted via email to the above address or postal service to PO Box 151, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. Position is open until filled.
Silverton Mayor’s Report

Happy New Year!

Our year began with the presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Vern Hartman by MP Alex Atamanenko. Vern is a very deserving recipient for all his involvement in our community, from serving on council to volunteering for many groups and organizations. Congratulations Vern!

- Our council, our staff and our contractors have worked hard this past year.
- Projects completed include the water works project; tree project (funded by BC Hydro) repairs to the bridge over and boat launch; installation of a boat washing station; and the Silverton Gallery conservation and feasibility study (funded by CBT and the Stcok Lake Gallery Society).
- Ongoing projects include the wildlife interface project to the south between the Village and Red Mountain Road; rebuilding and moving two of the three ‘Welcome to Silverton’ signs for better exposure; creating a more inviting gateway to the village; to be completed in 2013; and designing and updating of Village signs including additional signs at Dewis Park, ‘The Slip’ day park, the creekside cur冈ge and directional signage throughout the village; and creating an awareness program addressed at speeding and unsafe passing of vehicles in our community. Be aware of your speed when travelling in and through Silverton!

The campground was very successful this year owing to the dedication of campground attendant Mounen Thompson, and the wonderful weather.

- Councillor Christopher Love

Silverton resident Vern Hartman receives Queen’s Medal

by Ian McMurray

A very deserving Silverton resident received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in a ceremony at the Silverton Memorial Hall on January 2.

Vern Hartman, surrounded by family and friends, was presented with the medal and certificate by MP Alex Atamanenko. He was nominated for the award by the Village of Silverton. Vern, a retired and a very active member of the community, was Silverton’s Volunteer of the Year 2010. He served as mayor and a councillor for several years. He has been a steadfast volunteer for the Silverton Community Club, the Silverton Historical Society, the Silverton Golf Club, and the Legion. We have Vern to thank for organizing the community’s Remembrance Day ceremony every year. He is also an active member of the United Church.

Full of energy, enthusiasm and passion for his community, Vern can be counted on to lend a helping hand whenever it is needed.

Congratulations and many thanks to this worthy recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal and outstanding member of the community.

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given to the electors of the Village of Silverton that an election by voting is necessary to elect a Councilor, and that the persons nominated as candidates and for whom votes will be received are:

COUNCILLOR – One (1) to be elected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Usual Names</th>
<th>Jurisdiction of Residence</th>
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<tr>
<td>BROUGHTON</td>
<td>Don</td>
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VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the Village of Silverton on:
- Saturday, January 26, 2013 between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
- at the following location:
  - Location: Memorial Hall
  - Address: 203 Lake Avenue, Silverton, BC

ADVANCE VOTING will be available to qualified electors as follows:
- Wednesday, January 16, 2013
  - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
  - Silverton Village Office – Council Chambers
  - 421 Lake Avenue, Silverton, BC

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

If you are not on the list of electors, you may register at the time of voting by completing the required application form available at the voting place. To register you must meet the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Canadian citizen
- resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding voting day
- resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Village of Silverton for at least 30 days immediately preceding voting day;
- not otherwise disqualified by law from voting.

Resident electors will also be required to produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if applicable, written consent from the other property owners.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

Qualified electors may vote by mail if they:

- have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, OR
- expect to be absent from the Village of Silverton on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities.

REQUESTING A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE

Before 4 pm on January 24, 2013 you must submit the following information to the Village office in by mail PO. Box 14 Silverton, BC V0G 2B0, telephone 250-358-2472, fax 250-358-2321 or email administration@silverton.ca:

1. Full name,
2. Residential address,
3. Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors),
4. Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
   (a) pick up at Village office, OR
   (b) regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address, OR
   (c) regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address that you provide when requesting the ballot package,
5. If you are not on the list of electors, to ensure you receive the correct registration application form in your package, you must indicate whether you are going to be registering as a resident or non-resident property elector.

The Village will send out mail ballot packages commencing on or about January 10, 2013. To be counted, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 pm on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

Elaine Rogers
Chief Election Officer

Kathy Provan
Kaslø council, December 11: Driver training school at airport approved

by Jan McMurray

Approval for Disaster Financial Assistance for the Kemp Creek highworks recovery project in the amount of $501,078 was received from Emergency Management BC. Secretary Stephanie Patience will be thanked and complimented for her excellent work in securing DFRA funding for the Village of Kaslo.

Council approved the use of the Kaslo airstrip by IXL Driver Training for a winter driving school. The Municipal Services Committee was given authority to deal with the contract between the Village and IXL.

Four people responded to the invitation from the Village to comment on IXL’s proposal. One person was very supportive of the proposal and the other three had concerns, primarily regarding snow removal. Bruce Coyle from IXL said in an email that he would be willing to use the west end of the runway to avoid possible impact to the hangars at the east end, and clarified that they would not plow down to the asphalt because they are training drivers to drive on snow.

Mayor Lay reported on a December 11 health committee meeting with local doctors, without IHA present. He said it appears the Emergency Room will not be discontinued, and the municipality and Chamber of Commerce should be involved in the staff recruitment process. He also said there needs to be a public education program on proper use of the Emergency Room.

Council voted to support the Kaslo and Arena Trail Management Plan produced by the Kaslo Trail Alliance.

The Building Management Select Committee was disbanded. The business of the committee (management of Kentolli Memorial Centre) will be assumed by the Development Services Committee. At a budget meeting December 4, Councillor Lang listed maintenance jobs that need to be done in the building in 2013, including replacing mailboxes, installing a stairlift, and improving lighting where needed. He reported the building operated at a loss of under $4,000 in 2012. In 2013, however, he said rental income would increase and utility costs have significantly decreased.

The following agencies will be asked if they wish to contribute in a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Kaslo and area: North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, School District No. 8, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family Y, Salvation Army, and Church of God.

Council approved the use of public space for the completion of the boundary extension project to bring the Kaslo aerodrome property into the Village. Barry McLean’s proposal for $7,375 was accepted.

Council received an email from Director Shadrack regarding the FortisBC application to BCUC to install wireless smart meters throughout its service area. As requested by Shadrack, council agreed to send a letter to the BC Utilities Commission saying the municipality supports the concept of FortisBC having to provide a wired smart meter option for consideration by the Commission.

Fall development grants were awarded to: Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society ($500, youth mountain bike and $400, Nordic club grooming equipment fee); Kaslo and District Chamber of Commerce ($500, gaming event during May Days); Area Association ($500, public skate events); Chamber of Commerce ($500, May Days).

A sandwich board permit was approved for the Thrift Store with new sign design amendments.

High Eels, District Operations Manager, submitted an application for Transportation and Infrastructure, attended as a delegation and spoke to council about highway department structure, statistics and winter operations. Circular pavement failures are likely to be the next priority for a resurfacing program, but nothing is planned yet in 2013. Pothole sat is always the one class one local highway class for maintenance.

The mayor and council were authorized to sign a lease with Astral Media Enterprises for use of the Kaslo Golf Club for a year beginning January 1, 2013 at a cost of $454.50 in the first year, and increasing $1 for each additional year of the term.


Ainsworth and Woodbury to go on referendum on fire service

by Jan McMurray

The ‘alternative approval process’ affecting Ainsworth and Woodbury residents if they wanted to establish an RDCK fire response area service failed by just two signatures, forcing a referendum on the issue.

In the alternative approval process, only residents who are against the proposal sign an elector response form. If 10 percent of eligible voters sign the form, the vote fails. In this case, at least 10 eligible voters had to sign the form to defeat the proposal. Eleven signatures were required.

Since 2010 the fire that destroyed the historic Silver Lodge Hotel in Ainsworth and the 2009 fire that destroyed a building at Woodbury are the last major events that Ainsworth and Woodbury have been working on a solution for fire protection in the two communities.

In 2010, Ainsworth and Woodbury petitioned the RDCK to join Kaslo’s fire service area, and so were added to the list of communities protected by the Kaslo fire department in the fire service agreement between Kaslo and the RDCK.

This was done with the understanding that the RDCK would explore a regional service for the Kaslo area, including a new fire hall in Kaslo with a satellite station in the Ainsworth-Woodbury area.

A study done on this concept concluded that a satellite station in Ainsworth-Woodbury was not feasible. It was determined that there were not enough permanent residents in the area to form an adequate firefighting force, and the costs of building and outfitting the satellite station were too high.

It was then discovered that the Kaslo fire department cannot provide fire protection to Ainsworth-Woodbury because of the distance and response time involved, according to standards set by the National Fire Protection Association. Ainsworth and Woodbury are too far away from any fire hall to receive fire protection for the purpose of insurance. However, they can receive fire protection from Kaslo.

So the RDCK came up with a second solution, which was just rejected in the alternate approval process. However, residents will have a second chance to agree to this solution in a referendum. The solution removes Ainsworth and Woodbury from Kaslo’s fire protection area and puts them into a fire response area, so fire response can be provided by Kaslo and Balfour.

Currently, Ainsworth and Woodbury pay $24,000 per year to be included in Kaslo’s fire service contract with the RDCK. This comes to $36,100 per year of assessed value for residents. The establishment of a fire response area will cost the area.

The referendum will take place on the first Saturday in May, the same day that residents from the Kaslo fire protection area (Ainsworth Road to Shady Butte) will go to the vote on whether or not they want to become a regional service and get a new fire hall in Kaslo.

Spring build for Kaslo Trailblazers

submitted

Planning for the new pedestrial bridge located at the end of 5th Street in Kaslo is well underway. The Kaslo Trailblazers Society has raised $30,000, enough to proceed with construction this spring and to close the three-ker Kaslo river trail loop. The existing trails on either side of the first covered pedestrian bridge, were completed in 2008.

The Unity Bridge will be wheelchair accessible with handrails on both sides of the bridge, with a gradient of degrees and a three-foot one-metre arch spanning 126 feet. It will be about 23 feet above the Kaslo river and will provide an alternative to the highway bridge for pedestrians entering the village from the south side and those crossing the loop trail.

Soil engineering analysis, location site survey, engineering for gale-lam single arch beams, and approval by the Village of Kaslo is complete. The society is now waiting for approvals from BC Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations.

The use of gale-lam arches uses no steel supports, saving significantly more money. The gale-lam beams form the solid sides and an underlying cross bracing system provides structural support. Walking trails over the river will add another 550 feet about three and a half feet from trend to the curved handrail. Placement of the bridge is at right angles to the river, reducing total span.

Latitude 80.5 degrees north, and longitude 118 degrees west, parallel to the bridge from the north, and four-foot upslope ramp to the bridge from the south ensures a level arched bridge and maintains wheelchair accessibility.

The Unity Bridge name was chosen to acknowledge the many people who come from all over the country and the world to appreciate this little bit of paradise.

The society has 173 engraved plaques sponsored from Australia, Europe, the US and across Canada, but Ontario, Quebec and the territories are still missing. Plaques at $150 can be sponsored online at kaslotrailblazers.org or by sending a cheque to Kaslo Trailblazers Society, PO Box 1024, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0. Please enclose the plaque wording with the cheque and indicate which side of the bridge you’d like to include their location on the plaque.

All gifts of $20 or more, including plaque sponsorships, will receive a tax receipt. Plaques sponsored to date can be seen at www.kaslotrailblazers.org.

Kaslo Health Care Work Group continues to work towards ER solutions

submitted

The Kaslo Health Care Work Group continues to work with both Interior Health and the Victorian Community Health Centre physicians towards regional solutions that will support maintenance of the current 24/7 ER coverage in Kaslo. A number of meetings have occurred between Work Group representatives, Interior Health and the local physicians over the last two months on a wide range of topics. Proposals have been developed and are currently being discussed by all parties as talks toward continued support continue. The Health Care Work Group appreciates the continued understanding, support and patience of the community as they move forward in these discussions.
Making the most of tourism

If you are involved in a local business, especially one that relies on tourism, or are involved in local government or economic development — or even if you are just interested in your community — you are invited to a couple of free events in Nakusp.

An evening session Tuesday January 29 is titled ‘The Importance of Tourism Workshop.’

Presented by Mike Stolte of the Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL), it starts at 7 pm in the Nakusp Auditorium. The session looks at what kind of amenities and tourist services a community has, if it has a brand that works, and if it is marketing itself effectively with both traditional and new media.

The following day features a ‘Walk through the Tourism 360 Guide’, also developed by CIEL. The workshop’s aim is to create an understanding of the importance of tourism to community economic development, looking at tourism trends, factors for success, how to self-assess, tourism resources, how to kick-start a community driven process to help tourism grow and flourish and many more related issues.

The Wednesday session, although free, requires pre-registration. Call Peter at 250-265-4625, or 265-1801 (cell), or e-mail Welkerling@telus.net. CIEL’s website is www.theCIEL.com.

Village of Nakusp Council Meeting Schedule

January 1 to December 31, 2013

COUNCIL MEETINGS

6:30 pm in Council Chambers (91 1st Street NW)

- Monday, January 14, 2013
- Monday, January 28, 2013
- Tuesday, February 12, 2013
- Wednesday, February 27, 2013
- Monday, March 11, 2013
- Monday, March 25, 2013
- Monday, April 8, 2013
- Monday, April 22, 2013
- Monday, May 13, 2013
- Monday, May 27, 2013

Committee of the Whole Meeting will be scheduled as needed.

The Village of Nakusp may change the meetings location to the Emergency Services Building at 300 8th Ave. NW, such meeting changes will be advertised.

The Council of the Village of Nakusp invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village’s 2013 Five-Year Fiscal Plan. Council has begun holding budget meetings and welcomes public input from member of the community with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the budget.

2013 CONFERENCES

JV Humphries School is all about giving at Christmas

Submitted
JH worked on a school-wide theme for December, with all classes focused on what we could do for others. December is an exciting time for many, but it is also a stressful time for students and families. We always see a spike in discipline at the office as students act out their stress.

Therefore every class from kindergarten to Grade 12 looked at ways we could help others.

In the primary, all classes were involved with cards and decorations for the Christmas hampers. Ms. Clapp and Ms. McAllister’s class also made the paper lanterns for the Solstice Light-up celebration on the 21st.

In the intermediate, the entire group went around town to do a Christmas clean-up. They picked up four large bags of garbage to get Kassel ready for the snow season. Classes also made cards for Community Services fundraisers.

In the secondary, the weekly flex block was used for community support activities. One group practiced Christmas carols to go carolling to shut-ins and seniors. For the hampers, one class made wooden toys in shop class, another baked cookies and a third made cards, while the grade 12 students composed Shakespearean sonnets to include as gifts.

We continue to value our connection with the community and want to give back as a school.

Kootenay Savings Community Foundation announces grants and donations

By Jan McMurray

In December, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation announced the distribution of $101,952 in new grants, along with a total donation of $58,000 to Kootenay-area community foundations’ funds.

Among the grants are the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, which is receiving $11,412 for exterior restoration and painting of the SS Moyie, and the Nakusp Ski Club Association, which is receiving $25,000 for the new rental shop at Saramat Lake Ski Hill.

In 2009, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation began providing donations to local community foundations/funds with a $1 million give-away. Since then, the foundation has continued with annual donations to these organizations – $50,000 in 2010, $100,000 in 2011 and $50,000 in 2012.

The disbursements made to local community foundations/funds are based on the number of members at each KSCU branch. For example, the Nakusp branch makes up 6.78 percent of Kootenay Savings’ membership, so in turn the Nakusp & Area Community Foundation received 6.78 percent of the $50,000 give-away in 2012, which came to $3,391. The Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society serves the entire Slocan Valley, which encompasses both the South Slocan and New Denver branches. These two branches make up 13.5 percent of KSCU membership, so the SVCLS received 13.5 percent of the $50,000 in 2012 ($6,750). The Community Fund of North Kootenay received $3,649.

Community Foundations/funds are endowed funds – capital is invested and the interest earned is distributed to community organizations in the form of grants.

Selkirk College Gym, Castlegar

Now accepting Vendor bookings for March 2013

Show dates March 2 & 3
Up to 2 businesses can share a booth!

Sponsorship Opportunities!
please contact
Castlegar & District Chamber of Commerce
250-365-6313 or cdcoc@castlegar.com
On line application
www.castlegar.com (virtual Castlegar)
Property assessments drop again in the Kootenays

submitted

Property owners in BC are getting their 2013 assessment notices in the mail this month, and in the Kootenays they’re noticing property values have decreased—"modestly" according to BC Assessment.

For example, Nakusp’s assessment roll decreased from $250 million last year to $234 million this year. New Denver’s went from $345.3 million to $309.8 million, while Silverton went from $477.7 to $391.1 million. Slocan from $435.3 to $414.4, and Kaslo’s from $182 million to $179 million. Home assessments in the rural areas also followed the downward trend.

Owners of commercial and industrial properties will see changes in assessment ranging from minus five per cent to plus five per cent.

On a somewhat incongruous note, a news release from the Ministry of Finance says the House Owner Grant threshold is rising by $10,000 to $1,295 million: “to keep pace with rising property value assessments,” according to minister Michael de Jong. The grant, or HOG, provides a maximum reduction in residential property taxes of $570 in the Lower Mainland, but in our area we get another $200 because we are classified as ‘Northern and Rural’. An additional grant of $275 is available to seniors, the permanently disabled, and to low-income Canadian Forces veterans who are neither seniors nor disabled.

Anyone who wants to dispute their assessment should contact the BC Assessment office before January 31 in order to get an independent review.

Re-Awakening
Health Centre
320 BROADWAY ST. NAKUSP
250-265-3188
25% OFF ALL REGULAR
PRICED VITAMINS
ONE DAY ONLY – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
WILD ROSE HERBAL D-TOX
On sale for $34.99 while quantities last

• Easy 12 day whole body cleanse
• Simple to use
• Includes a diet recommendation
Start your Herbal Detox today and feel better!

Plastic bag-free proposal gets favourable response at public

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s REACT (Real Environmental Action Created by Teams) team held a public meeting December 13 at the Bossen Hall to discuss the group’s proposal for a plastic bag free New Denver-Silverton.

About 50 people attended. The meeting opened with the showing of a very humourous ‘mockumentary’ about the life cycle of the plastic bag, thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance. The Majestic Plastic Bag can be found online.

The mockumentary was instrumental in the group’s choice of projects. “We chose tackling the plastic plague because we watched that show and we said, ‘yes, we can do this,’” said Danika Hummell of REACT.

Individual members of the team made brief presentations, followed by small group discussions and reporting out to the whole group.

Cayla Mees’ thunder-boom-like shared facts, such as: 500 billion to one trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide every year, with Canada responsible for 9.15 billion of these. Ten percent of the plastic produced worldwide makes its way to the ocean, and 70 percent of this goes to the ocean floor, where it never biodegrades. In some places in the ocean, there is more plastic than plankton. One billion birds and mammals die each year consuming plastic.

Margaret Rairker reported that the REACT team had spoken to local businesses, the MLA and MP, and “support was phenomenal.” She said the team was comments at the meeting with a CBT youth grant, and CBT would be providing further funding for the project.

Marlowe Chodak gave details about two types of bags the group had found that could replace plastic bags at stores in the community. The ‘smartbag’ is made of polyethylene and the ‘eco-bag’ is made of recycled cotton. With a $3,350 budget, either 3,000 polypropylene bags or 600 eco-bags could be purchased. “So if we go with the cotton bags, it will be a pilot project—a trial run,” she said.

In smaller groups, people discussed possible problems with the project, like what to use to line your kitchen bins (solutions were bio-degradable plastic bags or the bagless kitchen bins), how to keep the bags clean, how to keep the bags in circulation, and how to create a marketing plan.

Written feedback was gathered, and will be summarized for the group’s report to CBT. Danika said the report would likely be submitted this month, and expects CBT to release funding to purchase the bags fairly soon afterwards.

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is accepting project proposals for funding consideration from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs for the areas of:

Electoral Area A Electrical Area A & Salmo

Town of Castlegar

Village of Nakusp

City of New Denver

Village of Kaslo

Village of Slocan

Application guidelines and forms are available at:

• ROCK main office in Nelson

• Municipal offices in each community

• ROCK website at www.rdkbc.ca/corporate/grants/cbt.html

For information on preparing your proposal, contact Judy Meldrum at 1.250.352.6870, 1.800.268.7235 or jmeldrum@rdkbc.ca

Deadline for proposals is 4:30pm, Monday, March 4, 2013.

Late applications are not eligible for consideration.

SENIORS

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At the Memorial Hall
January—February—March
Sponsored by the Province of B.C.

Tuesdays 10:00 am to noon
Thursdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Coffee, tea, water provided.
FREE LUNCH EVERY SECOND THURSDAY

FREE Age-friendly workshops and Activities

For more information or transportation assistance, contact GARY WILLIAM 358-2129

2013

Administered and Managed by:
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 740, 252 Lakeview Drive, Nelson BC V1L 5H8
Phone: 250.352.6065 Fax: 250.352.9130
www.rdkbc.ca
Slocan council, December 10: Cats to be included in Animal Control Bylaw

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

In a surprise move, the Animal Control Bylaw, which was up for its third reading, instead will be amended to include cat regulations. Councillor McGreal made this motion and spoke strongly in favor of licensing cats. She said they were the “single largest reason that migratory songbird populations have been decimated.” Councillor Elliott seconded the motion. The councillors discussed the possibility of a limit of two cats for each village residence and allowing only neutered and spayed cats. Councillor Lunn and Patterson voted against the motion. Mayor Perriere broke the tie, voting in favor of including cats in the bylaw. The CAO noted that this was the first time in his two years that council had had a tie vote.

Helena Razzey, operator of the Springer Creek Campground and RV Park, reported on her work she and Brandon Ingram had done this past season at the campground, the Kiddie Park, the Slocan Public Beach, and the Visitor Information Centre. After a start slow because of the rainy weather, business picked up and the season ended a success. She said there were some problems though they were few compared to the amount of people served. This year grizzly, theft (one goat loaded up with his pickup with firewood, and five goats did not pay the camping fee), and “confrontational guests” were the main issues. Razzey recommended ways to prevent or reduce these problems and asked for improvements (painting, trail lighting, new signs). Expressing appreciation for their work and prompt report, council extended Razzey’s contract for the 2013 season. Ingram is to be included in the contract if he is interested.

Have you seen this cat?
He is missing from 5th Street in Silverton (beside the campground) and last seen on Monday, December 17 in the afternoon.

Mothers is a 12 yr old red cat in good shape. He has a blue tabby in one ear (RS4386). He may have decided to go for a ride in the back of a vehicle and could be anywhere from Silverton to Tappen. It is possible that he is with a new owner. If anyone has seen him or knows where he is, please call Barb or Don Broughton 250-358-2769.

Get Job Ready!

APPLICATIONS DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 4:00 PM

Administrative Skills Training
Tenth St. campus
*starts January 14 - just a few seats left*

Advanced Computer Training
Nakusp, Kaslo, Tenth St., Gran Falls campuses

Prep Cook Training
Professional Driver Training: CLASS 1
Plant Operator Training

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- Fireplace hearths and mantles
- Garden tables

The Valley Voice January 9, 2013

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Slocan council reviews priorities at special December meeting

by Barbara Carv Mulcahey

Slocan council reviewed its priority list at a special meeting held December 11.

Items on the list are divided into seven categories.

The first category is for those matters that the Village is legally required to address or that constitute a risk. Included are developing, reviewing, and updating bylaws and policies; replacing waterlines; negotiating with the CPR and Springers Creek about a wedge of land by the waterfront; inspecting playground equipment at the Kids’ Park and replacing where needed; and the greenhouse gases; and creating strategies to deal with unsightly premises and animal control.

The Nature Preserve is planned with the progress made on the bylaws and policies.

- Council blames provincial bureaucracy for part of the reason the Village is not making good on its commitment to get to work on water main replacement program. As soon as the Village gets money for this program, it will move ahead.
- Council has decided to acquire the wedge of land by the waterfront so that the Village will have legal access to its boat launch; however, the negotiations have stalled. The CPR owns the land and is willing to pass it on to Springer Creek Forest Products, which has agreed to hand the land over to the Village. The problem is that the CPR has lost some papers pertinent to the negotiations. The CPR staff responsible for the negotiations have retired and new staff are unable to find the paperwork. Once the Village owns the land, it will negotiate with Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society to manage it.

The second category on the priority list is for projects called for in the Village’s strategic planning: the microhydro project; recruiting a doctor for the health clinic; Wellness Centre improvements; street lighting; waterfront ambassador; and the Watersmart program.
- Council appeared pleased with progress on the micro-hydrow and signage projects.
- The heating system at the Wellness Centre needs to be replaced. Fortis is doing an energy audit. The Village will look for financing.
- There was no waterfront ambassador last year; instead, two staff cleaned up the beach. Due to concerns about the ambassador working alone with the public, council is considering discontinuing the position.

The third category on the list concentrates on improving efficiency.

- A Capital Plan/Strategic Plan, using a gravity feed instead of a pump for the water plant; Community Energy and Emissions Plan, and a Public Works Review are included here.
- The Capital Plan/Strategic Plan would be a five- to ten-year plan for replacing equipment, purchasing; and upgrading or renovating buildings.
- Although having a gravity-fed water line to the storage tank is a priority in the Village’s strategic plan, this year Mayor Perreault expressed frustration about this, as it is costly to pump water to the tank.
- Slocan’s Community Energy Plan will be a “template” for small communities.
- The only item in the fourth category, Improving Corporate Culture, is to finish the Employee Handbook.

The fifth category, Enhancing the Community, includes work on the Village’s presence in the Watershed, Arts and Heritage, the Wellness Centre, and support for WE Graham School.

- The Village is waiting to hear from the WI and the Legion about their plan to upgrade the hall. $20,000 has been allocated toward this project.
- The Wellness Centre needs funding and a plan for future renovations.

New Denver council, December 11: Discussions to resume on Denver Siding water

by Karine Campbell

The RDCCK wants to restart discussions with the residents of Denver Siding about connecting Denver Siding’s water system to the Village’s system. The Denver Siding system is still under a boil water notice, due to inadequate disinfection and treatment of the water source surfaces. Interior Health has ordered “implementation of a plan for removal of the boil water notice, following the implementation of the administrative improvements by May 1, 2015.”

The Regional District says improvement options include connecting Denver Siding to a new plant, digging a new well, or connecting to the New Denver system. The latter would be the cheapest option of the three, and the district says this could be done by a) New Denver operating the Denver Siding system, or b) the RDCCK paying the Village for use of the water.

Council noted there is no mention of Village boundary expansion to take in Denver Siding.

Mayor Kozy reported that the Roseberry - Summit Lake trail has been approved by the RDCCK but is a work in progress, and that Highway 6 from Red Mountain Road to Latah Creek is slated for a complete upgrade in 2013.

Council called a special meeting December 18 to discuss and make the final changes to the Village’s budget and the water/wastewater plan. The plan will then be on the shelf and ready to go if grant funding comes through.

The council will participate in the 2013 Woodstove Exchange Program, setting aside $500 to help homeowners replace old woodstoves with more energy-efficient and less-polluting models. Under this RDCCK administered program, eligible applicants will receive a rebate of $20 per room, $50 from the province and $100 from the Village.

There were no applications under the 2012 program.
- Council approved adoption of the Carbon Neutral Kootenay Action Plan for the Village, after revising it to reflect their discussion on prioritization of actions. They also decided to purchase carbon offsets from the Darkwoods Forest Carbon Project. This purchase will fund conservation efforts in the Kootenays and will cost less than $500 per tonne, or $250 from the province and $100 from the Village.

- Council approved a draft of the Environmental Health Services review and future modelling report, noting there are eight large hospitals under its mandate, including Kootenay Boundary Regional in Trail and Kootenay Lake in Nelson. IH has no current plans to change services at the hospital system, but has laid out key recommendations on governance, access, sustainability and efficiency, and quality and patient safety.

- Referring to CETA, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union, Councillor David Hofstätter asked if water was still in the negotiations. Mayor Ann Bunka said RDCCK Area D Director Andy Sladkacz had taken the issue up with a UBCM committee, but it was unclear if it was still on the agenda. Municipal water services and drinking water are supposed to be off the table but there is a fear that some loopholes might put it back on the table.

A Capital Plan/Strategic Plan, using a gravity feed instead of a pump for the water plant; Community Energy and Emissions Plan, and a Public Works Review are included here.
- The Capital Plan/Strategic Plan would be a five- to ten-year plan for replacing equipment, purchasing; and upgrading or renovating buildings.
- Although having a gravity-fed water line to the storage tank is a priority in the Village’s strategic plan, this year Mayor Perreault expressed frustration about this, as it is costly to pump water to the tank.
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- The Village is waiting to hear from the WI and the Legion about their plan to upgrade the hall. $20,000 has been allocated toward this project.
- The Wellness Centre needs funding and a plan for future renovations.

New hydro line installed north of Kaslo

by Jan McHarg

BC Hydro has just completed an upgrade to the distribution line serving communities north of Kaslo, including Kaslo, Lumberjack, Sorender, Schroeder, Latah, Argenta, Meadow Creek, Duncan Dam, Horseer and Cooper Creeks.

Mary Ann Coules of BC Hydro explained that the old line dated back to 1970, so needed to be replaced, and was in a difficult location for Hydro crews to access. A new line was put in beside the highway. This will make the line more accessible to our crews, so they can get to it quicker if there’s a problem on this line and repair our distribution line quickly,” said Coules. She reported that additional maintenance work will take place in the spring.

This $3.5 million project is in addition to the $2.5 million BC Hydro has already invested for system improvements in the Latah Duncan, for a total investment of $6.5 million since May 2011.

The 2011 work took place in the McGraie Creek area, and saw approximately 30 poles relocated to the North side of the road. Eighty new poles were installed, and maintenance work was done on approximately 30 other poles, changing out old cross arms and installing new insulators.

COMMUNITY

The sixth category, Developing the Economy, is covered by the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and the Tourism Committee.

The last category on the priority list is for items that profit the Village. The Valhalla Crew Camp and streetlights are only items here.

- The Village plans to sell the trailers at the Valhalla Crew Camp and clean up the site by May or June.
- If none of the streetlights in the Village are owned by the Village and some are owned by Fortis. The Village pays a higher rate for electricity for the Fortis-owned streetlights, but does not have to pay for maintenance and repairs to them. Fortis often makes mistakes and changes the Village for repairing the Fortis streetlights. Keeping track of this issue means Village staff time. Fortis is offering an offer to buy the Village lights. The Village will consider whether to sell its own lights or buy Fortis’s.

Other matters which do not fall into any of the seven categories or are more tentative were included at the end of the council priority list. Included here were a Boundary Expansion/ Hydro South of Village Project; a Water Service Outside the Village Project; an alternate accounting/process system, the possibility of the closure of the mill, and the Slocan Lake Management Plan.

A Night Out for the Outlet

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, January 25 at the Bosun Hall from 6 pm to 9 pm with lasagna dinner and live entertainment. Tickets $20 per person; $10 for children under 10. Call Beth at 358-2344 or Paula at 356-2774 for more information.

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 rabies vaccination. There is a 10% discount for all dog licences purchased by February 15, 2013.

License fees are:

Unspayed Female ........................................ $50.00
Unneutered Male ........................................ $50.00
Spayed Female ........................................... $25.00
Neutered Male ........................................... $25.00

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO ENTER INTO A RENEWAL LEASE AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Section 28 (1) of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Village of New Denver at the regular meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 7.00 p.m. in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC, intends to consider entering into a renewal lease agreement with James Robert Povnall for the property known as “that portion of Parcel A, District Lot 625, Kootenay District, Plan 18644A”, which portion of Parcel A has dimensions of approximately one hundred feet (100’) by four hundred thirty-five and eighty-one hundredths (435.81’) and consist of an area of one (1) acre more or less.

The purpose of the renewal lease agreement is to permit Jim Povnall to continue to lease the land for the operation of his log home building company. The proposed renewal agreement will be in place for a two year period commencing on January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015, and shall be paid at a quarterly rate of $772.32 (plus all applicable taxes). A copy of the lease agreement is available for viewing at the New Denver Village Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer
Locavores’ Feast and Six Slocan Valley Minutes at the Whole

submitted
It’s time for the winter edition of the Locavores’ Feast, aka the 100 Mile Potluck. On Saturday, January 26, Slocan Valley residents and friends from far and wide will come to the Vallican Whole Community Centre and sit down together to one more epic meal from our own shelves, root cellars and freezers. Doors open at 5 pm, supper is at 6 pm.

The winter potlockers are always spectacular as people offer up fabulous things created with their stored provisions. Desserts are often a favorite feature of this event, because of the honey and fruit we have gathering in the mason jars in our larders. Don’t worry if every single ingredient isn’t local; the point is to show what we can do with what we have. This is a licensed event.

After dinner we will see a reading of the ever-popular Six Slocan Valley Minutes. Here, many people who have never thought of themselves as performers take their courage in both hands and get up and do . . . just about anything. Think of something you could show off, talk about, demonstrate, rant about or wherever your imagination takes you — as long as it is not illegal, immoral or disgusting. You don’t need to prepare a script.

The silent auction promises to be one of the best yet, with people gathering spectacular items to assist the dream team — Linda Rae Grubbe and Sharon Dils — to put together an array of goods and services you won’t be able to resist. Make sure you bring your wallets so you don’t miss out on this part of the evening.

What a great opportunity to hang out with all the friends and neighbours you never get to spend enough time with, while celebrating our unique valley culture. Admission is by donation. Due to space limitations, admission will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Vallican Whole Community Centre is at 3762 Little Slocan River Road. Watch for the road sign.

Slocan Valley Rail Trail is a winter delight for those who appreciate outdoor adventure

submitted
There’s 45 km of groomed and trackset rail trail waiting in the Slocan Valley for those who appreciate outdoor adventure. From Crescent Valley to Slocan Lake you’re likely to find classic and skie skis, as well as snowshoers and walkers, taking advantage of the efforts of the volunteers from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS). There are also around 20 benches and picnic tables to relax at, many of which have pristine views of the area.

The SVHTS ask all those using the trail to please respect trail etiquette while out there enjoying the magic of the Slocan Valley. The trail is for the enjoyment of skiers. The rest of the groomed trail is for walkers, snowshoers and skie skiers. Please keep your pets under control when using the rail trail in the trail. You may know they’re not a threat, but you never know the other trail users degree of sensitivity. If you have pets please make sure to clean their droppings off the groomed trail (it makes it messy for the groomers if you don’t). Horse riders are requested to refrain from riding on the groomed sections of the trail during the winter season.

There are several donation boxes on along the trail. Whether you are a regular rider or you only visit once in a while you can help support these trails.

If you appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who go out night and day to prepare the trail, leaving a donation helps offset their limited funding. As well, there are skis, boots and poles available to borrow for those first-time skiers who want to get out and experience the Rail Trail.

The Annual Winter Rail Trail Ski Day will be on Sunday, January 27 from noon to 2 pm this year the Vallican Whole Community Centre will be found approximately 2 km north of the Passmore Trailhead. Come on out and enjoy.

If you wish to know more about what’s happening on the trail, visit the website at www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca or join them on Facebook. Phone messages can be left at 1-888-683-SVRT.

Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

FrontCounter BC Cranbrook has applied for an application made by the owners of Strata Plan NES3528 of District Lot 8428 Kootenay District of Slocan Lake, BC, on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MLNR). Kootenay began, to legalize an existing 6-Berth Strata Moose. The application is for a License of Occupation for Strata Moose situate on Provincial Crown land on Slocan Lake and containing 0.3377 hectares more or less. The moose is a non-commercial moose and does not permit commercial uses.

The MLNR File Number that has been established for this application is 440888. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to FrontCounter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook B.C. V1C 7G1 or email to AuthorizingAgency.Cranbrook@gov.bc.ca Comments will be received by FrontCounter BC until January 11, 2013.

FrontCounter BC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please refer to our website: http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/Ap plicationPostingIndex.jsp -> Search -> Search by File Number: 440888 for more information.

Be advised that any responses to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the FOI Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regional office in Cranbrook.

North Valley Mountain Film Festival 2013

Hockey Day in Winlaw, January 19

submitted
On a cold January day, hockey is life for many kids in the Vallican Whole Community Centre. The kids were excited to host a hockey tournament.

Celebrate Family Literacy Week!

submitted
This year Literacy Week is January 21 – 27 and there are a number of ways to join in the fun! Come out to the Nelson Public Library outreach program at Winlaw Elementary on Thursday, January 17 for a family event hosted by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Winlaw Literacy Society. This family night will bring in a special selection of children’s family activities and parenting books.

Family Literacy Week will be celebrated in several communities this week. The theme is “None Too Young, Creating Family Literacy in the Communities Where We Live”.

Celebrate Family Literacy Week provides family literacy activities to make learning happen 3 – 7 pm, with storytime at 5 pm.

Storystorying at Strong Start Saturday, January 26, 9 – noon. Join us for a morning of stories and snacks. Local storytellers Barry Gray will tell stories for children and offer a short storytelling workshop for parents.

Learn how to spin a tale for your family, hear some great stories and enjoy a pancake breakfast – all while celebrating literacy.

Registration is $5 and starts at 10:30 am. Players are asked to bring their own equipment and safety gear. In the event of poor weather, it is possible by age, size and skill, and the first pack will drop around 11 am.

This event as well as other Slocan Valley Rox programs can be found in the 2013 Winter Leisure Guide, which can be viewed online at www.ridck.bc.ca. Find preschool music, yoga therapy programs, indoor soccer, skiing, stained glass, printmaking, alternative backyard beekeeping, bocce, knitting, crocheting, painting and much more! Upcoming events include the St David’s Day Festival of World in February and the Seed Exchange in March.

For further information or to volunteer at this event, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0006.
Government of Canada proposes new medical pot regulations

by Karline Campbell

The federal government has announced it intends to change the way Canadians access marijuana for medical purposes, making it harder for people to "game the system." Charging that the current regulations have left the system open to abuse, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said the proposed changes will ban people growing their own pot at home – and Health Canada won't be producing and distributing it either.

New equipment for skills training in West Kootenay

submitted

environment that reflects today's workplace," says Angus Graeme, the college's president. "Investments in regional post-secondary education will help Selkirk College to meet both local and provincial workforce development needs."

The new equipment will ensure students are training on the same caliber of equipment their employers will be asking them to work on after graduation. The college expects to create seats in a variety of fields over the coming year, including trades foundational programs.

The funding is part of a $17 million province-wide Skills and Training Plan investment to support public post-secondary institutions to upgrade equipment and put the latest tools in the hands of students. Equipment purchases and replacements at each institution are based upon a review and analysis of existing inventory, current and future program and industry requirements, and current government priorities to provide skills training that is aligned to the needs of the economy in each region.

Institutions will also pursue partnerships with local industries and other stakeholders to purchase or donate equipment, ensuring students continue to train on the latest equipment being used in the workplace.

For more info on the BC Skills and Training Plan, visit bejoiplan.ca/skills-and-training-plan.

Nelson boutique competing for national award

submitted

Jilly bo Billy Boutique has undergone massive changes and overcome many challenges in 2012. Janet Skolka has expanded her home-based online kids clothing store, www.JillyBoBilly.com, to a new location, including the addition of a bricks-and-mortar store in Nelson.

"It is so nice to have everything on display, a huge packing area in the back for online orders, and access to high-speed internet and postal services," explains Skolka. "I don't even know how I did it before. Seems like the days of sourcing and packaging are done and dusted when running a business off my iPhone are so far away."

But that was less than a year ago. Those are big steps in any business, and others have taken notice. Jilly bo Billy has been nominated for the MOMpreneur Award of Excellence. The winner will be selected from the top 10 finalists, chosen by voters, and those finalists will be judged on their track record of success, innovation of their business idea and impact on the community. The winner receives $30,000 in cash and prizes to grow her business, including an ad in Parent Canada magazine and membership with a legal advisor from the Dragon's Den.

You can help this Kootenay business make it to the finals. Voting continues until January 31. You can vote once per day per email address. Skolka realizes this is a big commitment to ask of anyone, so she has set up a contest in which each vote enters you to win a $500 gift certificate at Jilly bo Billy Boutique. Go to jillybobilly.com/contests.html or facebook.com/JillyBoBilly for all the details.

Let's show Canada the Kootenays know how to grow the best small businesses around.

Letter of Thanks

The Regional District of Central Kootenay would like to sincerely thank all of the Public Safety Life Line Volunteer teams (Emergency Social Services, Search and Rescue, PEP/Air, HUSAR) along with our local Volunteer Fire Departments, Canadian Red Cross, Partner Agencies and community members for their long hours of hard work and support during the emergency events of this past year. We would also like to thank the area businesses that provided services to the evacuees and the numerous employers who allow volunteers to respond in the event of an emergency. Emergencies impact communities as a whole and we could not have done it without your ongoing support.

We thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our Kootenay communities.

Also a reminder this time of year to check your smoke alarms. Fire Departments and Emergency Social Service Volunteers (Evacuee Support Services) are actively training to respond any time day or night in the event of residential house fires.

To learn more about Public Safety Life Line Volunteers and Emergency Management in the Province of BC please check out the following websites:

Regional District Central Kootenay:
http://www.rdck.bc.ca/www.rdck.bc.ca
Emergency Management BC:
http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/www.embc.gov.bc.ca
Emergency Social Services:
http://www.ess.bc.ca/www.ess.bc.ca

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COMMUNITY
Straight talk on the markets (and the fiscal cliff)

Despite reasonably good job numbers in America, stock markets had given back some of their recent gains during the fall months because of uncertainty over who would win the US presidential election. In the lead-up to the vote, daily market performance was influenced by shifts in voter intentions. When opinion polls indicated that President Barack Obama would be re-elected (which he was), that had a negative effect on the markets. Obama and the Democrats were generally viewed as less favourable for business and investors.

Clearly, America and its president have been facing a lot of challenges since then. Over the last few months, I’ve seen many of you hear the term “US fiscal cliff” being tossed around in the media. Not too many really understand the implications of it—but the actual perception of the name “fiscal cliff” gave ominous overtones.

There had been a December 31, 2012 deadline for the Democrats and Republicans to come up with an agreement to avert the full force of some $600 billion in spending cuts and tax hikes that were scheduled to take effect throughout 2013. However, the deadline passed—and, after falling off the cliff for only one day, the House and Senate took action which prevented a fiscal shock that some economists thought would be enough to put the US economy back into a recession.

In both the US and Europe, we have seen a pattern develop. It seems that whenever economic growth hits a roadblock, efforts are made to encourage growth. Most recently, we saw quantitative easing by the US Federal Reserve, and bailouts of weak banks by the European Union. The effectiveness of these measures in creating jobs and stimulating economic expansion is questionable. However, based on the track record of central banks and governments, we expect that they will respond with unlimited money-printing if they deem it necessary.

When it comes to averting the “fiscal cliff,” the new US legislation will avoid most of the scheduled tax hikes for the large majority of US taxpayers and it will extend emergency unemployment benefits for one year. However, the legislation does not address larger budget issues such as deficit reduction, tax reform or raising the debt limit. In addition, it delays the automatic cuts to US defense and domestic spending for just two months. This deal postpones most of the fiscal adjustment, which is positive for the economy in the near term—however, the details for a longer-term solution still need to be worked out and the next deadline for action will likely be the debt ceiling, in late February.

While the debt ceiling situation may produce more anxiety, a positive outcome could be an important event for investors. If the markets see a credible multi-year plan for tax and deficit reduction, particularly one that includes tax reform and entitlement reform, it could be tremendously positive for both the economy and the financial markets.

So, what we have now is a nation that is simply “kicking the can down the road” to avoid the immediate impact of tax hikes and spending cuts but it did little to answer the longer-term deficit reduction, tax reform and spending questions. No doubt, there will be temporary relief that the cliff has passed, but the stock markets will still want to see meaningful deficit reduction plans down the road.

There is much work ahead in Washington. All of the other countries in the world—and especially Canada—are deeply concerned about our closest trading partner and the ramifications faced by us in our own country.

It is so blatantly obvious that something must be done. I just wish they would all quit “playing politics” and implement some meaningful “action plans.” As a child, I was always told that money doesn’t grow on trees—and yet when it comes to the governments of the world, apparently it does.

Debbie Pergeolkin, CFP, CPA, is a financial planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd. and her company The Affolter Financial Group Inc. in Castlegar.
Liz Norman, John Van Byen, Peggy and Pat Ashton volunteered at Sicamous 8th Annual Family Fun Skate, December 26.

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SLOANCOREVALECREATION

Boot camp starts Jan. 14 (Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm)
High Intensity Interval Training starts Jan. 16 (Wed. 5:15-6 pm)
Meat for Little Mooses starts Jan. 23 (Wed., 5-3:30 pm)
Figure Studies starts Jan. 23 (Wed., 6:30-9 pm)
Sainted Glass starts Jan. 26 (Sat., 1-4:30 pm)
Seniors/Innovate Adventure (Sun., Jan. 27, 12-2:30 pm)
Vegetable & Herb Garden Planning (Sun., Jan. 27, 12-2:30 pm)
Call 226-0005 for more info or to register
www.snicke.ca
www.facebook.com/slocanvalleyncarena
RCMP report on impaired driving incidents

Submitted

The Nakusp RCMP detachment was out conducting checkstop initiatives this holiday season in an effort to deter impaired driving.

Of the hundreds of vehicles encountered during the checkstops, police found the vast majority of motorists were driving responsibly and on many occasions, there were designated drivers operating the vehicles.

However, four motorists were found to be driving while impaired. Each of these motorists was issued a 90-day immediate roadside prohibition, which immediately prohibits the driver from driving for a period of 90 days and comes with a 30-day vehicle impoundment. A fifth motorist was issued a three-day immediate roadside prohibition for having a blood alcohol level exceeding the provincial limit. A sixth motorist was issued a 24-hour driving prohibition and had their vehicle impounded after it was found their ability to operate a vehicle was affected by alcohol. Several liquor seizures were made during these checkstops.

Vehicle checks also resulted in six seizures of small amounts of marijuana and hashish. Two of these motorists were issued 24-hour driving prohibitions and had their vehicles impounded for the same period for driving while their ability was affected by a drug.

West Kootenay Traffic Services (WKTS) report that there were six tragic deaths on West Kootenay highways in 2012. In 2011, there were 12. “Through media, education and enforcement, we are hoping the message is getting through. Slow down, do not drink and drive, and drive sober or use a designated driver,” stated a press release on 2012 year-end statistics by WKTS.

In 2012, WKTS and the Nelson Integrated Road Safety Unit had 260 drug seizures, 97 24-hour or three-day immediate roadside prohibitions due to alcohol, and 60 impaired drivers either charged or issued a 90-day immediate roadside prohibition. There were 25 24-hour suspensions for drugs and 11 drivers charged for being under the influence of drugs.

Police report a trend towards more drug-impaired drivers, either through illegal or over prescribed prescriptions.

Happy New Year!

Time to get rid of the old and join the crew...of like-minded folks interested in improving their health and burning off the over indulgences of the holiday season!

Slocan Fitness Centre is a community gym to be used by YOU!

We have a treadmill, ellipticals, and a bike; 12 strength machines various bands and balls

slocanfitness@gmail.com

One card. Many services. The new BC Services Card is part of government’s plan to modernize BC’s health care system. It replaces your CareCard, can be combined with your driver’s licence, and also acts as your photo ID. It’s more convenient and more secure, with enhanced features to protect your personal information. And getting yours is easy. Starting February 13, 2013, and for the next five years, you can simply enrol when renewing your driver’s license. And even if you don’t drive, you can enrol at the nearest location where driver’s licences are issued. To learn more visit: BCServicesCard.ca

The BC Services Card.
Your CareCard, and more.

Notes from the RCMP

- A 26-year-old man from Vernon, Dustin Wheeler, died at a property in Edgewood on January 4. Nakusp RCMP attended after receiving an emergency call about the death, and learned that Wheeler had died despite the best efforts of bystanders and paramedics. The death is not considered suspicious at this time. Although police were on the rural property, a marijuana grow operation was located and dismantled, with 221 mature plants seized for destruction. Anyone with information on Wheeler’s activities in the days before his death is asked to contact the Nakusp detachment at 265-3677 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.crimestoppers.com.
- Slocan Lake RCMP are investigating the theft of a substantial amount of property from a storage garage in Slocan Park. The break-in was reported December 12; the garage, in the 3000 block of Hwy 6, had been broken into sometime over the last 10 days. The items stolen include welders, an air compressor, carpentry tools, two dirt bikes, a Harley Davidson and a separate Harley engine. The Harley was a 1959 FL with a leather spring seat, in flat white with a green and black frame, serial #533HF003; the other two bikes were an orange and black 2014 KTM SX5, and a 2001 Yamala YZ 125cc with yellow fenders and gas tank, serial #YACBEG021A04491.
- The Slocan-Lake RCMP have had two found bikes turned over to them. The two youth bikes were located north of New Denver on Highway 6. To claim them the owner should visit the New Denver RCMP detachment and be able to describe the bikes in detail, such as make and model. Any persons with information in respect of these found bikes are asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at (250) 386-2222 or CrimeStoppers.
- Nakusp RCMP responded to a report of vandalism at the Nakusp airport December 18 and found three extensively damaged aircraft and a damaged trailer which was stored nearby. Police are reviewing video surveillance and forensic evidence in an effort to identify the persons responsible.

FREE PRESENTATION
Learn the Importance of Tourism and how it affects community and economic development

EVERYONE WELCOME

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 - Nakusp Arena-Auditorium 7pm - 9pm

Help your Community Prosper