New chair and vice-chair for Columbia Basin Trust board

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust has a new chair – Greg Deck of Radium Hot Springs – and a new vice-chair – Laurie Page of Nakusp. They attended the January RDCK board meeting to introduce themselves.

Deck has been on the board since the CBT’s inception in 1995, serving as vice-chair from 2008 to the end of 2012. Page joined the board in January 2012.

Deck was the first mayor of Radium Hot Springs, serving for 18 years. He was also a Regional District of East Kootenay director for that period, ending with six years as chair. He continues to sit as a founding director of CBT, a director of Columbia Power Corporation, a director of Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and a director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada’s BC board. He has also recently been appointed mayor of Jumbo Resort Municipality. He and his wife Meaghan have operated a tourism business in Radium since 1980.

Page is a veterinarian in Nakusp. She and her husband Bill Stoeus have operated their business, Nakusp Veterinary Clinic, and raised two children since moving there in 1990. Laurie is past chair of Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services and has worked on projects involving affordable housing, seniors services, youth empowerment and supporting mental health. As chair of the Nakusp and Area Development Board, she is currently director of community engagement, organizational development and projects to enhance the area’s economic self-sufficiency.

Deck told RDCK board members that one of CBT’s key focus areas is the new Community Directed Funding program. “This is where we go to a community and say, We don’t want to make funding decisions for you. We think you are in a better position to do it.” He said communities receive a large amount of funding over three years under the program, which is all about integrated planning.

“At our funds grow, we don’t want to keep getting bigger. We need to be able to scale it – devolve the funding where decisions can be made best – through engagement with communities to find out what works best for them,” he said.

Page spoke about the CBT’s governance relationship with the RDCK. She said the CBT board is establishing a committee to look at succession planning and term lengths for CBT directors. Because the RDCK nominates half the directors on the CBT board, “you have as much investment as we do,” said Page. She asked that two RDCK directors sit on the committee. She also mentioned that there would be a symposium in 2013, entitled “Community Change through Collaboration,” to be held October 18-20 in Creston.

Donna Macdonald, alternate director for Nelson, asked Deck how he would differentiate between his role as mayor of Jumbo and chair of the CBT. Deck replied, “The same way I differentiate between my roles at the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the CBT. It is very important to avoid conflict of interest of any kind, so anything to do with that new municipal I will have no part of at the CBT table.” He said the CBT board discussed this same thing, with Deck out of the room, and they decided to “make this work” because they have faith in his ability to keep the two roles separate.

CBT’s 12-member board consists of qualified individuals appointed by the provincial government – six from among the nominees of the five regional districts and the Kumanza Nation Council and six others. All directors must be residents of the Basin. Board members include Denise Birchmore (Kumanza Nation Council), Wendy Booth (Fairmont Hot Springs), Kim Deane (Rosland), Gord DeRosa (Trail), Cindy Gullinger (Enderby), Am Naivy (Nelson), Andre McCracken (Valemount), Paul Petersen (Berton) and David Riven ( Revelstoke).

The board meets six times a year in communities around the Basin. The public is invited to attend in order to hear what the directors are up to and ask questions about the organization’s work in the Basin. The next meeting is in Revelstoke on Friday, January 25 at 4 pm at the Hillcrest Hotel (2100 Oak Drive).

New Denver and Silverton assessment rolls under review

by Jan McMurray

When it was brought to the attention of New Denver and Silverton councils that property assessments in the two villages were down considerably more than in neighbouring communities, the mayors each wrote to the BC Assessment Authority to find out why.

New Denver Mayor Ann Buska reported that BC Assessment’s Bradley Lane and Dennis Hickson contacted the mayors immediately upon receipt of the letters, came to New Denver to meet with them, and are doing a review. Results of the review are expected January 28.

New Denver’s residential assessments dropped by 18.72% and Silverton’s residential assessments decreased by 19.15%. Surrounding communities had much smaller decreases: Slocan -8.14%; Nakusp -7.84%; Kootenay -4.67%; Nelson -2.47%; Castlegar -0.45%.

“We are not upset because the assessments are down – it’s because they are down so much more than our neighbours,” said New Denver Mayor Buska. “We are not happy to see this because of the possible perception it creates that our communities are failing. Also, people generally don’t like to see their home values dropping.”

If the results of the review are not satisfactory, the two councils are considering launching an appeal. Mayor Buska said it is very rare for communities to appeal their assessments – only one community has ever done it before.

Dennis Hickson from the BC Assessment Authority told the Valley Voice that they are thoroughly reviewing their original analysis of the market place, as well as considering new information provided by the two Village councils.

“If the results of our review indicate we need to amend the assessments, we have the means to do that through the property assessment review panel, and everyone in New Denver and Silverton will get a new notice,” explained Hickson.

He also explained that if assessments are amended and any property owners disagree with their amended assessments, they will have an opportunity to go to the panel with their concern.

Eadie’s third term as city councilor ends on December 31, 2012. A new council will be sworn in on January 6, 2013.

According to a fact sheet found on the BC Assessment Authority website, “Assessments are the estimate of a property’s market value as of July 1, 2012 and physical condition as of October 31, 2012. When estimating a property’s market value, BC Assessment’s professional appraisers analyze current sales in the area, as well as considering other characteristics such as size, age, quality condition, view and location. Real estate sales determine a property’s value.”

Mayor Buska says real estate in New Denver in the past year has sold at or above assessed value.
Columbia Power Corp gains support for strategic plan
Lots of interest in generation on Duncan Dam at Meadow Creek open house

by Jan McMurtry

Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) representatives are making their rounds to consult with the public on the corporation’s proposed strategic plan. They were in Meadow Creek on January 15 and at the RDCK board meeting on January 17.

The strategic plan looks at what CPC might do after its current project, Waneta Expansion, is completed in 2015. Of particular interest to Meadow Creek residents, the corporation is looking at generating power on the Duncan Dam.

Over 60 people came out to the Meadow Creek open house, and CPC reps said there was a lot of support for generation on the Duncan Dam.

Karen Higgi, vice president of new projects at CPC, was at the Meadow Creek meeting and said that the corporation has done a pre-feasibility study on the potential project. He indicated that the study showed it would be worth exploring the project further. Higgi said power would likely only be generated on the Duncan from July to January, and would be transmitted via the BC Hydro line down to Kaslo. The power line would have to be upgraded to handle the additional electricity.

When asked why CPC sees potential feasibility on the BC Hydro does not. Higgi believed that new technology and more efficient turbines have changed the game over the years.

Columbia Power CEO Jane Bird pointed out that the Hugh Keenleyside Dam has not been generating energy until CPC built the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, so the Duncan project would be similar.

The other potential future project for CPC is to upgrade Elko Dam, near Fernie. This is a 12-megawatt run-of-

river facility that is owned by BC Hydro. CPC would refurbish it and add generation.

At the RDCK meeting, Director Leah Mann asked CEO Jane Bird if CPC had looked at any alternate forms of power generation. Bird replied that the corporation would be willing to look at alternative energy projects, but with a caveat. “We want to be careful. We don’t take much risk and embark on projects we are not well suited to do. We would do so carefully and in partnership with someone with a track record.”

Bird also asked if the corporation would be interested in partnering with the City of Nelson, which owns its own hydro plant, or with the Village of Siouxon, which is looking at a power project on Springer Creek. Bird said she was very interested in having a discussion with municipalities, as long as it is understood that any project CPC gets involved in must generate income to share with the Province and City. “We’re trying to deal with existing facilities, so there is no more impact to communities that have suffered so much,” she added.

The corporation’s future relationship with the RDCK is a point of interest to the RDCK board. CPC’s public consultation booklet states that the partners have not made a commitment on future projects, and that they will review potential opportunities on a case-by-case basis.

Kaslo writer wins CBAL Community Literary Award 2012

Debra Barnett has won an award in recognition of her outstanding commitment to literacy through her work with the Kaslo Life Writers. She was presented with the 2012 Community Literary Award by Ruth Sauter of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Kaslo/Beaverley.

In 2007, Barnett was inspired by an article she read about a program which encouraged seniors to write their life stories. She realized that there were many people in Kaslo with untold stories, and that a program like this would fit well in the community. Every Wednesday, for five years, she has volunteered her time, facilitation skills and enthusiasm to the Kaslo Life Writers.

“She has a way of getting you thinking — drawing things out that are hidden in your memory,” says participant Molly Sensenholz. Barnett inspires the writers by suggesting themes, facilitating discussion, arranging author visits and by providing a warm and supportive environment to write and share.

“I want people to write for their own needs. I just encourage them to write about whatever they want. We don’t critique the work, we provide encouragement,” says Barnett.

In 2012, the group published its first book In My Life, selling copies through the Kaslo Seniors’ Hall for $10. Members are currently working on a second book.

Provinces announces measures to support and protect logging contractors

Premier Christy Clark has announced a $35 million fund to provide financial protection for forestry contractors, and promised tax relief on previous compensation payments.

The compensation fund will strengthen payment protection for those who contract to services for forest sector companies. Logging contractors who provide services to licensees, but are not paid because of licensees’ insolvency, can now access this compensation fund to better protect their financial interests.

The Forest Service Providers Compensation Fund was initially established in the spring of 2012, under the Forest Service Providers Protection Act (FSPPA). Since the fund’s inception the province and industry have now reached an agreement around the fund’s parameters, permitting logging contractors to be compensated if they incur a financial loss resulting from the insolvency of a licensee. The fund is administered am’s length from government.

In addition to the compensation fund, contractors will also be eligible for further financial protection by having the ability to register liens on forest products that have been delivered to licencees. That element of the FSPPA is expected to take effect later this spring.

Clark also announced tax relief for contractors who had received compensation under the Forestry Revitalization Act. Both the federal and provincial governments have agreed on a plan to relieve the contractors of their tax liabilities resulting from compensation payments received from the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust, established in 2003. As a result, approximately 190 contractors will benefit from tax relief payments up to $10 million dollars in provincial contributions, and will not incur additional tax liabilities from these payments.

Public Meetings

*SMART METERS*
- the ultimate threat to our health, safety & security -

What Fortis is NOT telling you about them

Guest speaker: Jerry Flynn
retired Canadian Armed Forces officer
specialized in Electronic Warfare

When? Where?
Feb 2nd - 2 pm .... Trail Legion, 2141 Columbia, Trail
Feb 2nd - 7 pm .... Kinvar Hall, 22320 Columbia Ave, Castlegar
Feb 3rd - 2 pm .... Slocan Park Hall (next to Co-op store, Slocan Park)

Discussion issues:
* wireless technology and us
* alternatives to wireless smart meters

ADMISSION: $5.00

For more info: 250-365-5420 (Cliff); 250-226-7020 (Sean)
Learning is everywhere – Family Literacy Day, January 27

submitted

Ice skating is hard, there’s a trick or two to conquering your smartphone for downloading literacy ebooks and sound are best with just the right amount of spice: not too little and not too much. How do we know? We may have discovered it for ourselves (damn, that ice is slippery!), perhaps attended a workshop, or consulted a cookbook on the practice.

Perry River Water Users Association and the Smint will conduct interviews for the documentary film ‘The River Report’ with the help of Ask Productions. The Association invites Slocan Valley residents to participate in these interviews and tell the river story by sharing their observations of changes in the river and the creeks that feed both the Slocan and Little Slocan River drainages. Residents who have observed any changes in the area and have been interviewed in their river are also welcome.

The interviews will take place February 2 from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Passmore Hall. Anyone interested in being interviewed is asked to contact the PRUA at 226-7324 or by e-mail mainlyrubigious@hotmail.com to set up an interview time. The group is willing to make other arrangements for interviews in the event that February 2 is not convenient.

It is important that those who have a close relationship with the river, who have observed changes, speak on its behalf. The River Report will include scientific observations by the Vancouver Aquarium, Dr. Tony Salby, marine specialist; Dr. Nathan Goodale, archaeologist; Apex Terrain, Dr. Jane Ryder and Steve Chawin. The film will include some of Dr. McPhail’s presentation from BC Rivers Day 2010 as well as contemporary fisheries information in both river systems.

The documentary will feature beautiful aerial river images by local photographer Lucas Joffe but May at high water. The impacts identified by scientists and local residents are visible in these unique photographs.

The final version of the documentary will be displayed at all levels of government and be posted to our website as a YouTube documentary. The film is acting in a legal position regarding a class action lawsuit based on the threat of sedimentation and flooding from logging in the headwaters areas of the Slocan Valley and the danger it poses to residents.

Taxes, coffee and baked goods will be served throughout the day. The Perry River Water Users Association and Smint Nation look forward to community involvement in the river story of change.

Small wood licences are a big opportunity for the Kaslo area

submitted

A new partnership is assisting community forest and small woodlot licence holders in the Kaslo area to identify new business opportunities.

The area surrounding Kaslo and Munday Creek is one of BC’s regions receiving assistance under the Bridges II Program, a two-year initiative to promote collaboration between small-tenure holders and the value-added sector. Woodlot owners, the Kaslo and District Community Forest and the regional forestry industry have been engaged in efforts to make more fibre available to value-added operations in the Kaslo area.

“We look forward to working on the Bridges II project,” says Kaslo Mayor Greg Luy, himself a Registered Forest Professional Forester. “The Kaslo and District Community Forest, several woodlot owners and value-added operators in the region have all expressed an interest in exploring how we can create more local jobs and value from our regional timber supply. This is in an exciting and timely project for the area.”

Bridges II is supported by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIABC), the Okanagan Beetle Action Coalition, the BC Community Forests Association and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. The program is managed by SIABC on behalf of the other funding partners.

The two-year, $200,000 initiative is funded by $90,000 each from the ministry, SIABC and the Okanagan Beetle Action Coalition, and $100,000 each from the BC CPA and the federation.

Kaslo’s 24/7 Emergency continues

submitted by HSA

Residents of Kaslo and area are advised that the current 24/7 emergency department coverage at Kootenay Boundary Community Health Centre will remain in effect after January 31, 2013.

Interior Health intends to continue working with the community and health care providers to develop a model that provides access to 24/7 emergency care coverage for residents in Kaslo.

There are still challenges to address, and any 24/7 model will have to be sustainable from a physician and nursing standpoint. Further discussions are needed to come up with a permanent service model.

John Keith and Hillary Eeck are chair of the RDOC board at the December board meeting. This is their third year for both to hold these positions. Keith is director of Area A Asot Curzen, and Eeck is a Village of Slocan councillor.

At the Nakusp, Winlaw Outreach and Kaslo and District public libraries, for instance, local programs include storytelling, youth workshops and adult book clubs. The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy in Kaslo/Balfour, Nakusp/Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valley offer programs such as beginner computer classes, Mother Goose sessions and ESL support. All of these programs are examples of informal learning situations.

When you stop to think about it, there is so much valuable informal learning happening in our lives every day whether in or out of places of work, in our houses, or in the organizations and programs we participate in. We, and you don’t always appreciate how important that learning is in our lives,” says Barb Smitz of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

Informal learning and literacy are closely connected: reading, singing, playing games and talking with a child help build language skills well before the youngster starts school. Strong literacy skills support the ability to be a lifelong learner and to be able to learn in many different situations and environments. Celebrate that learning can happen anywhere and everywhere by participating in the Family Literacy Day celebration in your community.

For more information about a wide variety of local informal learning opportunities and programs contact Kaslo District Public Library www.kasl.bc.lib.ca, Nakusp Public Library www.nakusp.bc.lib.ca, Winlaw Outreach Library via the Nelson Public Library www.nelson.bc.lib.ca and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy Kaslo/Balfour www.cbl.ca

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Community Calendar

Friday, January 25
The Outlet Youth Centre Lunchtime Dinner
Brae Hall
8:30 pm

Saturday, January 26
10 Mile Pub & 8 Six Slocan Valley Miners New Denver Council Conversation Cafe
10 Mile Public House
4:30 pm

Sunday, January 27
Annual Day On the Slocan Valley Rail Trail Trailhead, Saturday, 2:00 pm
N. Of Passmore Trailhead
1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 29
Impotence of Tourism workshop
Nakusp Arena Auditorium at 7.9 pm
Nakusp Arena, 7:9 pm

Wednesday, January 30
Tours to Winemaking
Nakusp Arena Auditorium at 7.9 pm
Nakusp Arena, 7:9 pm

Saturday, February 2
Winter Blues Boogie
Silverton Curling Rink at 7.9 pm
Silverton Curling Rink, 7:9 pm

Sunday, February 3
Stout Motor Auction Meeting
Silverton Memorial Hall at 8:9 pm
Silverton Memorial Hall, 8:9 pm

Monday, February 4
Cafe Fire
Silverton Gallery at 9:9 pm
Silverton Gallery, 9:9 pm

Tuesday, February 5
Shoe Factory show
Silverton Gallery at 7:39 pm
Silverton Gallery, 7:39 pm

Thursday, February 7
Nakusp Director of Chambers AOG
Colf D'age, Nakusp
5:7 pm
Nakusp
5:7 pm

Friday, February 8
Dances of Universal Peace
Silverton Memorial Hall at 7:9 pm
Silverton Memorial Hall, 7:9 pm

Saturday, February 16
Expressive Painting Workshop
South Slocan Hall at 7:9 pm
South Slocan Hall, 7:9 pm

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

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CORRECTION
In our January 9 issue, we published a letter entitled, ‘Open letter to School District 10 Superintendent Dianne Perry.’ Unfortunately, we got the superintendent’s name wrong. The letter should have been titled, ‘Open letter to School District 10 Superintendent Denise Perry.’

Re: dog killed in trap
I read the account of the family pet that was caught and killed by a trap that was set in the woods. I felt such sadness for that dog having to endure such a terrible death. It was heartbreaking. I then began thinking about the same thing happening to wild animals (the ones that those traps are meant for) and also felt great sadness. It is not good for them or for that poor unfortunate dog. They also endure an agonizing death, and perhaps screams at that dog did. I am sorry for the family that I am going to say it anyway – shame, shame, shame to those that persist in this legally allowable form of animal torture. Warning signs or not – it’s just not necessary and just plain cruel. We need to stop the assault on wildlife.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Gina Simon
Crescent Valley

Re: Dog killed in trap
The British Columbia Trappers Association has been made aware of this tragic incident and offer our condolences to the owners of the dog. There are over 1,000 licensed trappers in the province and each of us take precautions to try and prevent such occurrences from happening. Many trappers are pet owners and understand the tragedy resulting from losing a family pet. Our association works with government on a regular basis to ensure trapping is done safely and humanely, and will work with the minister in exploring solutions to prevent this type of occurrence from happening again. BC trappers have used various signs and ribbons to alert the public to the presence of active trapping, however, some segments of the public have taken advantage of these signs by seeking out the traps and purposely damaging the traps or taking them altogether. This issue will also be a topic for discussion at our annual general meeting and conference being held in April.

Canada is signatory to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping that requires all BC trappers to use only approved trapping devices. These new traps are very powerful and could present safety issues to persons unfamiliar and untrained to use them. All licensed trappers in BC are required to undergo an extensive basic trapper education program before being eligible for a license. Most new trappers also take the opportunity to mentor under an experienced trapper.

Trapping is an active industry across all of Canada and North America. In British Columbia, there are over 2,500 registered trappers contributing millions of dollars annually to the BC economy. Professional trappers also provide services to many municipalities, regional districts and private companies and property owners across the province, helping to mitigate the damage caused by nuisance wildlife to municipal water and sewer systems, electrical supply lines, resource roads and highways as well as potential health hazards.

The BC Trappers Association has also offered to work with the Union of BC Municipalities as well as individual municipal governments to collectively identify effective solutions to nuisance wildlife management.

Mike Morris, President
BC Trappers Association

EDITORIAL/LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.
Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.
Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.
We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.
Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
Kaslo campground brings economic benefits

I recently read a letter written by Mr. Eckland, owner of the Kaslo Village Council on January 5. In this letter, Mr. Eckland made a comment regarding the Kaslo municipal campground and about the people who camp here. Having been the Kaslo municipal campground contractor for the last seven years, I would like to express my views on his comments.

I believe there are people who travel and stay in hotels, B&Bs, and others who prefer to stay in RV parks. These are people who arrive here as a million-dollar motorhomes and others who stay in tents. There is a retired couple from California who come on their Harley and stay in the campground for at least two weeks every year. They eat one meal downtown and shop daily for groceries regularly, as they can't store perishables for a long period of time.

About two years ago, a couple from Saskatchewan arrived in their RV and spent three days there. He was on the town council in his home town and they had just upgraded their campground. We discussed tour boats and when he left he advised me that he had a record of the money he had spent in Kaslo. Excluding camping fees, in those three days he spent $235 in town. This is significantly more than the cost of an ice cream cone!

I estimate that 50 percent of the people who camp here are regulars who come every year. Kaslo is off the beaten path, so this is a destination for them. One of the appeals of the campground is the location—situated within walking distance to the village. Many of them have favourite restaurants, bakeries and shops they like to visit. One of the first questions from most campers is: "Where is a good place to eat?" Everyone who shops here spends money in the village.

These are not "checkpoints." As far as disrupting traffic, I have no idea how campers do this.

I understand there was some discussion regarding new public washrooms in the green space in town. How would this be paid for and who would maintain, clean, stock, and be available with a phaser at a minute's notice? The Village earns revenue from the campground and this helps to pay for some of the cost related to the construction of the new washrooms. There are also four public washrooms that are heavily used; part of my contract is to clean and maintain these washrooms.

There are many campers who come here just to golf and others who carry their golf clubs with them and travel to take advantage of the various golf courses. There are other recreational activities that have both a campground and a golf course. I have never heard of any problems or tension. Why here in Kaslo?

Trish Bennett
Kaslo

Nakusp to Cherryville corridor needs cell service

I live on Highway 6 in Edgewood. We have no cell phone service here (and of itself perhaps not a critical problem). However, on average four or five times a year, we get vehicles racing up our 200 yard long driveway. The occupant asks if they can use our phone to report an accident.

We have had motorcycles drive at excessive speeds through our fences. Fortunately, we were home at the time and therefore could call the ambulance. (The speed of the motorcyclist at the time was indeed factor). In some cases, these people have had to drive over 30 miles to find a phone to use in order that they might report this accident. As you might know, Hwy 6 is one of, if not the most popular sections of Canadian road for motocycling. When a motocyclist is in an accident, by definition, that person is far more likely to be seriously injured than a person in an automobile.

That being said, we have had numerous times wherein a person has used our phone to report an auto accident. If we are not home, these individuals must drive even further in the faint hope that they might find a phone to use to report this accident. While we have always let these people in to use the telephone, in today's times, permitting a stranger to use the phone can be a potentially dangerous situation.

Clearly, this lack of cell phone service is a hazardous situation, which should be addressed with as soon as possible. From Cherryville to Nakusp, there is no cell service—a distance of over 120 km with no access.

Insist that living in the boonocks, as it were, can necessitate certain hardships. However, safety, or lack thereof, due to inadequate cell service should not be one of these.

Michael Rawlin
Edgewood

Two rockin' bands at Silverton's Winter Blues Boogie

Submitted

The 2013 Winter Blues Boogie is coming to the legendary Memorial Hall in Silverton February 2. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and music goes until 2 a.m.

This year features two dynamic veteran artists, Karli Harrison with No Excuse and — back by overwhelming demand from last year — the Back Eddies.

The Roy Stanley Band No Excuse has played literally a thousand dances. They are recognized as the 2009 and 2010 winners of the Canada wideĉÇ¬CS Windsor Region Blues Society's BluesStation 'Blues Band of the Year.'

Winlaw man injured in January 12 pit bull attack

by Jan McGarry

A 24-year-old Winlaw man had to have more than 40 stitches to his lip and face after being attacked by a pit bull in a locgan. The hunter was taken to Chase Hospital. He was treated and released.

On Saturday afternoon, January 12, the Winlaw man was visiting his friend in Brandon, just outside Slocan Valley limits, when his friend's pit bull attacked.

Slocan Fire Chief John Gates reported that Slocan and District Forest Fire responded to the incident and transported the victim to hospital.

Elite dog trainer program to be offered in the Kootenays

Submitted in spring of 2013 Karen Pryor Academy will offer its dog trainer training program in the Kootenays, due to overwhelming interest. KPA graduate Jeanne Shaw, owner of Love 2 Play Dog Training, encouraged a number of her students to enroll in the program, but applications have come in from all over the province.

Shaw played an instrumental role in convincing KPA that Slocan Park would be a viable location for the program.

The KPA trainer program has more than 200 graduates, recognized internationally as being some of the best trainers in their respective fields of work.

KPA graduates work with animals of all kinds, not just dogs, "says Shaw. "I have colleagues that work with marine animals, reptiles, zoo animals, movie animals, birds, horses, birds, cats, and fish."

Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training and Behavior in a six month program which combines online learning with peer collaboration and hands-on teaching. A KPA facility member will be flown in to teach the four weekend-long workshops.

For more information: www.karenpryoracademy.com/dog-trainer-program/details

Nimulton's Discovery World is the recipient of the bronze medal Governor General's Award for Learning 2011-2012. She graduated with the highest overall average percentage from her Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses. She came back to school December 21, for the end of year school breakfast for secondary students.
New Denver council, January 8: Assessment roll questioned

by Katrine Campbell

The recently released property assessment roll aimed to provide a fair valuation of properties in New Denver. However, some residents are concerned about the accuracy of the assessments.

### Community

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**Heavy Duty Mechanic Wanted**

Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Kootenay) Ltd. is looking for a Mechanic. Applicants should hold a valid TQ for Heavy Duty Commercial Transport and a Motor Vehicle Inspectors Licence.

Resumes can be faxed to 250-352-2172

**Sloane Lake Management Plan**

The Sloane Lake Management Plan aims to protect and enhance the ecological health of Sloane Lake. It is scheduled for implementation in the next fiscal year. Residents who are interested in participating in the planning process are encouraged to attend the public hearing scheduled for next month.

**Safety is within your power**

Be ready and safe if the power goes out this winter! All it takes is a little planning and a few key strategies:

- create an emergency kit with 72 hours’ worth of supplies
- store the kit in an easily accessible location
- consider other heat sources, such as a gas fireplace (but make sure it is installed properly and you have the appropriate gas supply)
- stay inside your vehicle until help arrives if it comes to contact with a downed power line

More tips and information, visit fortisbc.com/safety or call 1-888-438-7847.

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Locked doors policy discussed at Lucerne School PAC meeting

by Jan McMurray

Many Lucerne School parents were very surprised to receive a letter from School District 10 Superintendent Denise Perry informing them that all entrances to the school except the front door would be locked, effective immediately.

The letter was sent out on Monday, December 17, after the Friday shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. The letter refers to the Connecticut incident and states that in response, school safety procedures in the district are being reviewed.

After receiving many letters from Lucerne parents opposed to the locked doors policy, Superintendent Perry attended a Parent Advisory Council meeting at Lucerne on January 16 to discuss the parents’ concerns.

Perry explained to parents that the locked door policy was partly a reaction to the Connecticut incident, but that the district had been working on making its schools safer since the fall, when the provincial ERASE (Expert Respect and A Safe Education) anti-bullying strategy was launched. She indicated that there was some hesitancy for each school in the district to tweak the locked door policy—deciding which doors could be open during recess and lunch, for example.

Paula Shandro, PAC president, said she appreciated the flexibility for each school because after receiving the letter, parents felt they had no chance to provide input into the decision. “It strikes at the very heart of what we value as a community,” she said.

Most parents are not convinced that locked doors mean a safer school, and feel they change the open atmosphere at Lucerne, negatively affecting the emotional well-being of the children.

Parents pointed out that the locked doors are very inconvenient when preschool and elementary aged children are outside and need to use the washrooms, or when children are injured outside. “In the case of an intruder, the children are safer inside than outside on the grounds,” added Shandro.

One parent said there is no evidence that locking the doors improves safety, and pointed out that the doors were locked at the school in Connecticut: “If someone is intent on doing harm, no policy is going to stop them,” said another. Yet another parent said many more children commit suicide in Canada than get shot, so children’s emotional safety is a much bigger risk.

Julia Greenlaw, PAC vice-president, said she could not understand how a locked door policy came from an anti-bullying strategy, and said she had witnessed bullying occurring in the school because of the locked doors (children not opening the doors to let others in).

She said there had been less than 10 shooting incidents in Canadian schools in the last 110 years, and pointed out that violence in schools is almost always perpetuated by another student. “The answer is inside the school community and we’re doing that here in so many ways. We put our emotional well-being at the forefront. This school community is constantly working together to deal with bullying and violence. The locked doors are worsening bullying, anger, and rebellion, especially among older students.”

She pointed out that parents from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut are not calling for increased security in schools, but rather for major societal change and a change to gun laws.

Teacher Katrina Sunnarli said the ERASE workshop was all about preventing suicide and looking at the school’s culture. “We need to have a group that wants to look at safety in the big picture,” she said.

Principal Natasha Miles said that after discussions with staff, the doors are now locked only when lessons are in progress, and are open during recess and lunch. “We’re making changes through discussion. It will take time.”

We need to assure the board that the school is safe. I understand the point about emotional safety, but I have to say I believe the school is safe and I didn’t feel that until December 18.”

Toward the end of the meeting, Shandro asked what action the superintendent would be taking to allow for a policy specific to Lucerne School. Superintendent Perry replied, “We are willing to work with the school, staff and principal. We need to know who comes in our schools. What flexibility do we need for that?” My role is to support you. You can expect a compromise,” she said, adding that the policy will be reviewed at the board level.

Until the 1920’s paddle wheelers were the only transport for passengers and goods on our lake. Steamers closed the gap in rail between Rossland and Slocan City.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
slocanlake@gmail.com

Mondays
February 4 to April 15
Women 6:00-7:30
Men 7:45-9:15
Silvertown Gallery
$50 - to register:
call 358-7151 (Kevpin)

Village of New Denver
Public Notice

The Village of New Denver is seeking local residents to sit on the Village of New Denver’s Local Selection Committee for the CBT Community Initiatives Funding Program. Interested individuals should contact the Village Office at 250-358-2316 or office@newdenver.ca for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4 pm Thursday, February 7, 2013.

9th Annual Day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

Sunday, January 27 from noon until 2 PM
Ski or walk north for 15 minutes from the Passmore Trailhead on a nicely groomed trail.
Free hot chocolate, hotdogs - bring the whole family! See copies of the 6 new signage panels installed along the rail trail thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust’s Environmental Initiatives program.

For more information: 888-683-7878 or “Coming Events” at www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca.

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan

NOTICE:
2013 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings will be held on the second MONDAY of each month.

January 14
February 12 (Tues)
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July 8
August 12
September 9
October 15 (Tues)
November 12 (Tues)
December 9

Outdoor hockey is alive and well in the Slocan Valley. This shot was taken at the 6th annual Family Fun Skate at the outdoor rink in Slocan on December 29. The event was sponsored by Pat and Peggy Antoll of Mountain View Stables who provide hot dogs and hot chocolate to all comers (including local journalists) as a way of thanking the community for supporting their business.
Kaslo council, January 8: Affordable housing plan presented

by Jan McMurray

- Larry and Cheryl Jackshaw (Ridgeland Developments Ltd.) presented a plan for redevelopment of 244 E Avenue (Lakeside Trailer Court) as affordable housing.
- The proposal was referred to the February 7 Development Services Committee meeting for recommendation to council.
- Stan Baker attended as a delegation, requesting exclusive use of one to two acres on the west side of the gravel pit at the airport toscreen gravel, and to perhaps crush drain rock gravel and produce concrete. He offered to have the site surveyed, before and after development.
- Council referred Baker’s proposal to the February 7 Development Services Committee meeting for recommendation to council.
- Enika Bird informs council in her December report on Kaslo & District Community Forest Society business that she has given the manager, Richard Marchand, three months’ notice of the termination of his contract. There is one year remaining in Marchand’s three year contract, but the contract has a three months’ notice ‘no fault’ cancellation clause.
- Cody Caves will likely have a park open for the 2013 season, according to an email from Director Shadack, who had been in contact with local BC Parks Manager, Tom Bell. Acting Mayor Henry or Counsellor Holland will meet with Director Shadack and Tom Bell to discuss Cody Caves.
- Approval of the $20.00 ‘Age-friendly’ grant for a Kaslo Seniors Coordinator was received. Council will inform North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society.
- Falkins informed council that Kaslo’s insurance company, Lloyds of London, has agreed to provide $60,000 for the installation of smoke detectors in the Village of Kaslo. The contract is expected to be executed by the February 12 council meeting.
- Council received a letter from Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson, following up on council’s meeting with him at the UBCM convention. In response to Kaslo’s request for additional volume for the community forest, Minister Thomson says he has asked his staff to determine whether there are any suitable parcels available, and encourages partnership arrangements with existing licences.
- Council will be copied to Enika Bird for the information of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society.
- A letter from John Eckland was received, urging council to make some effort to improve the economy, particularly through tourism. Attached to the letter was Eckland’s proposal for a ‘free golf program’. When given a free round of golf for people who purchase a night’s stay in local accommodations. Council referred the letter to the Kaslo Golf Club for response to Eckland, and the Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee for information.
- Another letter from Eckland advises council that the Kaslo Hotel will no longer sponsor Canada Day celebrations or co-ordinate fundraising for fireworks.
- The Village of Kaslo Park Rental Policy 2013 was accepted. Daily rental rates for the Kaslo Bay Park: $50; Feast Street Park: $25; Viny Park baseball diamonds: $25; Viny Park picnic shelter: $25; Viny Park gazebos: $25; Viny Park skatepark: $50. A refundable deposit of $200 applies to all rentals. The policy explains when an application can be handled by Village staff and when it must go through council.
- Council received a letter from Carbon Neutral Kootenay (CNK) – an offer to participate in a program where an energy assessment would be done of municipal buildings, and an offer for a CNK representative to make a presentation to council. Council will invite the organization to make a presentation at the February 12 council meeting.
- Susan Meldre wrote to council to share an article she found about the Village of Pemberton’s efforts to engage the public. Village of Pemberton advertisements calling for public input regarding development applications, for example, have been re-designed so they are clearer and easier to read. This was referred to the Municipal Services Committee for recommendation to council.
- Council received a letter from Doug Roberts, who believes the Village may have overlooked on his property where Loki Lase was counted and the water line installed. The letter was referred to the Public Works foreman to report back to the Development Services Committee.
- The council will write a letter to Columbia Basin Trust in support of a community engagement process to renew the mandate of the Trust. Counsellor Holland recommended the council pass this resolution, based on a presentation at the RDKC meeting in December by Corky Evans and Josh Smiers. Evans and Smiers stressed the importance of the review of the CBT/ Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) partnership, as the initial mandate of this partnership is nearing completion. Possibilities mentioned were that the Province could absorb some or all of the benefits that CBT and CPC provide to the area, and that Kaslo could move to negotiate CPC with BC Hydro.
- Counsellor Hewat reported the Chamber of Commerce has no interest in contributing financially to a membership in Invest Kootenay. Council representatives have yet to meet with Director Shadack.
- Bylaw 1134, Sewer Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw, was adopted.

Drawings and costs for Kaslo’s regional fire hall completed

by Jan McMurray

The planning study on Kaslo’s proposed new fire hall has been completed. Fairbank Architecture Ltd. has submitted plans for a new fire hall, and a detailed estimate of the construction costs, coming in at $209,400.

Terry Swan, regional fire chief, reported that he is working on finalizing a fire hall to be built in Kaslo, and is planning to have at least one town hall meeting prior to the referendum.

"The goal is to schedule the referendum within the first two weeks of May," he said. "If the referendum is successful and suitable short-term financing can be arranged, we hope to start construction in early fall."

The referendum will ask people in the Kaslo fire service area, from Ainslo Road to Shady Beach, if they would like to have a fire hall in Kaslo and pay 77 cents per $1,000 of assessed value.

The referendum will be held on May 15, 2013. If the referendum is successful, Kaslo’s regional fire hall will be built.

KASLO & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY HOME GAMES

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New website for Friends of Kootenay Lake

A new website for Friends of Kootenay Lake – ka.com -- has been launched, featuring an events calendar, for any group to post its event; a resource library to learn more about the lake; info on the planning initiative being led by the Kootenay Lake Partnership; current conditions on the lake; surveys. The Friends invite you to become a member, saying “The new website is a reflection of what’s important to us as a stewardship group. It highlights who we are, our initiatives, provides information about Kootenay Lake, and gives community members a way to take part in protecting this beautiful lake.”

Apart from a completely new layout the website offers expanded content, improved usability, and added features. We invite you to try it out. We especially look forward to your feedback and suggestions to further customize the site to fit your needs and interests. If you have any comments, please feel free to drop us a line at info@friendsofkootenaylake.ca. We also would like to suggest you bookmark our page for all latest news, and any other useful information.”
Nakusp council, January 14: High school students present Fishing Flasher Project

by Jan McMurray

Whitney Shkarofetoff and Emma Carter from Nakusp Secondary School’s grades 10-12 Outdoor Education Class attended to tell council about their Fishing Flasher Project. The flashers are very effective in attracting fish, according to the students, who are Dorian Bowser. The students have led this project all the way through, from the design and production of the fishing flashers to the community awareness raising of them. They have sold about 100 of the units in the Nakusp area so far, at $40 apiece. They are preparing to go to trade show in Abbotsford, where they will have two booths—one to sell the flashers and the other to promote Nakusp. The Chamber and Nakusp and Area Community Foundation are both contributing to the trip. Council will lend them the Village’s trade booth.

Mayor Hamling reported that council met with three government representatives regarding options for development of the hot springs. “It was a good meeting and council is looking forward to working with them,” she said.

Mayor Hamling reported that there is $100,000 in the BC Hydro to clean up the lake of debris before March 31. This does not stretch very far on such a big reservoir, particularly after high water levels in 2012,” she said in her written report. She has asked for $150,000 for 2013.

Nakusp water and sewer rates rising

by Jan McMurray

At the Nakusp council meeting of January 14, CAO Linda Tynan and CFO Robert Richards gave a presentation about the financial status of Nakusp’s water and sewer utility. Council agreed with their recommendations to raise sewer rates by ten percent and water rates by five percent, and to make some changes to the rate categories that result in some lower rate increases for certain businesses and organizations.

Staff will prepare the bylaws to reflect these changes, and a special meeting was scheduled for January 21 to review the bylaws so that the water and sewer bills can be sent out in a timely manner.

Staff recommended the increases to address the fact that the new water and sewer treatment plants will be more expensive to operate, and to build up the water and sewer reserve funds, which are used to maintain the infrastructure. More stringent wastewater regulations are also a factor in the costs of operating the system. A staff report states: “Rate increases for 2013 are based on staff analysis that the current rates are insufficient to sustain the infrastructure required to continue to provide water and sewer services to the Village.”

For owners of a single family home, the increase means that the water bill will be $340 this year, compared to $322 last year, and the sewer bill will be $285 this year, compared to $261 last year. Water and sewer combined will cost a household $625 this year, compared to $583 last year—a difference of $42.

Councillors Mosler and Hughes voted against the motion. Councillor Mosler suggested a five percent increase for sewer and a five percent increase for water, “knowing times are tough” and recognizing that people will be facing increases on many of their other bills, as well. Mayor Hamling pointed out that at $625, people would be paying less than $2 per day for water and sewer—less than a cup of coffee. “I know it’s hard to have an increase, but I’m worried we’re going to end up not being able to provide what we need to provide,” she said.

Council also agreed to some changes to the water and sewer rate categories and their corresponding fees, in an effort to improve consistency in the rate structure and greater parity between users. Some of these changes result in significant rate increases. For example, there is no ‘public lounge’ category for sewer, but there is a ‘public lounge’ category for water. Consistency: a ‘public lounge’ category will be created for sewer—at a rate of $850. The businesses impacted currently pay $261. The increase from $261 to $850 will be phased in over two years.

Other businesses and organizations impacted by these category changes include Overwaitea, the sports complex, hotels/motels, car wash, laundromat, the Hot churches, water bottling, the Legion, and the hospital. The changes to the categories and their fees will be reflected in Appendix A of the bylaws.

To provide more clarity around rates in future, staff’s goal is to create a 15- or 20-year financing strategy for the water and sewer systems.

Edgewood boat ramp construction to begin

by Jan McMurray

The Request for Proposals is out for the construction of the Edgewood boat ramp, and a meeting was held January 14 to go out to interested contractors. Several community members showed up, as well.

Andrey Repin of Columbia Power Corporation, which is managing the boat ramp projects for BC Hydro, said they were pleased with the turnout and interest of the contractors. Several community members showed up, as well.

The plan is to repair and extend the existing boat ramp by two meters, to 423.7 meters (1390 feet). The existing floating walkway, timber piles and breakwater will be replaced, and an additional breakwater will be installed, so there will be one to the south and one to the north. New piles will be steered with concrete fill. The floating log breakwaters will be anchored with concrete blocks.

Repin reported that if the water level drops lower than 1390 feet, making the ramp unusable. BC Hydro and the Water Comptroller have committed to extending the ramp further.

Ramp improvements have been discussed in Edgewood for many years. In 2005, the community hired W.A. Engineering to design a new boat ramp, with an estimated cost of over $3 million. In 2007, BC Hydro proposed to extend the ramp at a cost of approximately $6 million, but the community was adamant that the WSA plan was the only way to go. Over the years, the community has accepted BC Hydro’s plan, which has been improved to include a second breakwater to the south.

At this point, Repin said, the community does not want to see any more delays with the project.
Nakusp moves forward with CBT Community Directed Youth Funds

Submitted by Sabine Iseli-Ott

Nakusp’s Straight Arrow Youth Opportunities Society (SAYOPS) has been revived and revised, and will be administering the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Directed Youth Funds – a grant of $100,000 over four years.

It all started in the spring of 2012, when Michael Garvey, along with Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services and the youth at PK Nakusp, applied for the CBT funds. In the summer, Michael learned that Nakusp had been awarded the grant, subject to completing CBT’s process.

The main conditions were to have a public meeting, identify a sponsoring organization, and submit the final paperwork describing the plan for the funds.

A public meeting was held at Selkirk College in Nakusp in September, and was attended by about 40 people. The priorities that emerged from that meeting were first to hire a coordinator, second to develop a variety of programs for local youth, and third to find a space. The group determined that the majority of the first year’s funds would be spent on a coordinator.

People who attended that first public meeting set up a series of follow-up meetings. In efforts to find an organization that would be willing to sponsor and administer the funds for the budding group, the group invited the members of SAYOPS to attend one of their meetings. SAYOPS owns the Green Door building, which was badly damaged by fire in 2006 (https://valleymoos.ca/pdf/663015.pdf). The Green Door was a youth centre with a bowling alley, pizza business, office space for young people to develop business ideas, and more.

SAYOPS attended the first steering committee meeting in November, and after a frank and open conversation about the need for an open and inclusive organization, which makes the most of our community’s diversity, its directors offered to host the organization over to the new steering committee.

CBT was founded as a Christian organization, the organization’s name, bylaws, and charter can be amended, with the blessing of the past directors.

As part of the handover, old SAYOPS is granting new SAYOPS the keys to the Green Door property. $16,000, and the shell of the organization. Members agreed that if the property is sold, a portion of the sales would revert to the youth branches of the Alliance and back Churches.

The old SAYOPS board also gave $20,000 to the Arrow Lakes Alliance Youth Program to purchase new floral business comes to Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A new florist in Nakusp will be available at the Treasure Trove Kitchen & Gifts as of February 1.

Designs by Darlene Floral Arrangements will be up and running in time for you to pre-order your fresh flowers for Valentine’s Day.

Darlene Dreidiger has always loved to be creative with flowers. “When I retired from public service, I knew that now was my opportunity to do what I was passionate about,” she said.

In 2011, she took a floral design course, and gathered all the information she could to determine if she could create a successful business in Nakusp. “I have had a fantastic amount of positive feedback in support of providing fresh floral arrangements in Nakusp, and I am excited to get started!” she says.

In 2000, Darlene worked in Victoria as the main government contact for new entrepreneurs to learn how to set up and grow a business. “Each time I worked with a new entrepreneur, I found that they were very passionate and dedicated to their own business, but also very contagious. I always hoped that one day I would be able to create my own business in an area that I loved and in a field that I was passionate about,” she says.

Darlene is very happy to offer her Floral Designs by Darlene at the Treasure Trove store, where there used to be a florist shop some years ago. “It seemed a perfect fit to bring flowers into a store that specializes in everyday and special occasion giftware,” she says.

Darlene will create fresh floral arrangements and silk flower designs specifically to meet the customer’s needs. “This is much different from just buying artificial flowers and sticking it in a vase!” she says.

Fresh floral arrangements will need to be ordered at least one day in advance (two days in advance for advance weddings). On occasions like Valentine’s Day, fresh flower arrangements should be pre-ordered well in advance to ensure customers get what they want.

Silk floral arrangements will be available in the store all the time. As demand increases, Darlene says she may look into carrying a supply of fresh flowers in the store on a regular basis. In the near future, she will have a website where customers will be able to see what special occasion floral designs are available.

For an opening special, Designs by Darlene is offering free delivery on the evening of February 13 only. Otherwise, delivery on any other day is $5 for up to 10 km, $10 for 11-20 km, and $15 for 21-55 km.

The store is open seven days a week, 9 am to 5:30 pm. To order flowers, call 250-265-2161 or drop into the store to discuss the best business display program to share fresh flowers with your guests or customers on a regular basis in your business environment.

Annual General Meeting

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce Invites you to attend the
2013 AGM
Thursday, February 7
6:00 pm
Caffe Lago
Please RSVP 250-265-4234
or nakusp@telus.net by Wed. Feb. 6th.

This is your chance to see what the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce has done for you and for your community over the past year.

We are also looking for two new directors to work on the board for 2013. Please send your nominations to nakusp@telus.net by Tues. Feb. 5th. If you want to vote, you must attend the AGM.

New Members are always welcome! Your membership supports the operation of the Nakusp Visitor Centre, and the other projects undertaken by the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce.

Membership does not require attending meetings, unless you want to vote at any motion put before a general meeting.

We look forward to working with you in 2013!
Compensation project provides more fish habitat in the Lardau

by Jan McMurray

Juvenile Garand trout will benefit from habitat structures that will be installed this fall in a side channel of the Lardau River, a compensation project for the Columbia Power Corporation’s Brilliant Dam upgrade, completed in the early 2000s.

Information about the Lardau River Side Channel Enhancement Project was available at an open house in Meadow Creek on January 15, and Krista Watts, environmental specialist, was on hand to answer questions.

Watts explained that the channel chosen for the project, however, is dry low water because debris has built up, forming a barrier between the channel and the river. The channel will be excavated to remove debris, allowing water to flow from the river year-round. Rock spurs will be positioned near the inlet to provide stability, and 12 duck other than mallards, and only 44 Bohemian wading.

Kaslo birders find 40 species in Christmas bird count

submitted

Fifteen hardy local birders hit the field December 29, participating in the 12th annual Kaslo Christmas Bird Count. Four teams covered a designated circle from Shushy Beach to Twin Bays and lead vocalist Luis Mario Ochoa, features music ranging from flamenco to samba, belted out solos to chino and features from the Bonnington tuday. The ALAC would like to acknowledge Selkirk Inn as the Hospitality Host for this concert.

The concert at the Bonnington starts at 7:30 pm, and the doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are available at the Bon Marche/Medallion Store or at the door of the event. The concert will be a highlight of the festival at St. John’s to everything in between, with only a small portion of it accessible due to lake and mountains. Ten other households kept careful notes of birds visiting their feeders and property on the 29th, as well as noting out of the ordinary birds the three days before and three days after.

Forty species were identified on the 29th with more than for two weeks (our second smallest owl species, northern pygmy and some snow buntings, identified by their high pitched ‘footing’ vocalizations). Highlights during the 28 species include 21 pine grebes, 21 mountain chickadees, and 10 Pacific wrens (winter wrens). It was surprising not to see a single Canada goose, only one duck other than mallards, and only 44 Bohemian wading.

Kaslo’s bumper crop of mountain ash berries, food for many wild species, is a favorite of wading.

A new species for Kaslo in the last two or three years is Eurasian collared dove, four of which were seen in lower Kaslo. They, like European starlings, are an invasive species and, for good or ill, seem to be with us for keeps.

Special thanks go to Gail Spiteri and Marlene Johnston who travelled south to participate and to Karen Pidcock for hosting the successful event.

Race season underway for Summit Lake Racers

submitted

The Nancy Greene Summit Lake Racers started their race season off at Red Mountain Resort in Rossland this last Sunday. The beautiful sunshine and groomed runs made it a perfect day on the hill.

The Summit Lake Racers had two teams entered with four coaches. The race was a dual giant slalom with racers running the two courses back to back. Finn Watt felt his best run.

NSS ski team attends Gerick’s Summit Cup at Whitewater

submitted

On Saturday, January 19, the Nakusp Secondary School ski team travelled to Whitewater Resort to participate in the second annual Gerick’s Summit Cup Ski Cross race. The event was a true ski cross with four races in the course in each heat.

Following course inspection, each racer had two runs, with the top two in each heat advancing to the semi-final and final runs.

As this was the first ski cross event for the Nakusp ski team, the excitement and nervousness were running high as racers lined up at the start gate. Skiers were challenged to navigate the turns, jumps and rollers while holding their position in the course.

Snow conditions were great for racing and the clear sunny skies made for a lovely day. The Gerick’s Summit Cup ski cross event was a great opportunity for the NSS team to train for the upcoming BC high school provincial slalom and snowboard championships at Hudson Bay Mountain near Sun Peaks in March 2013.
Slocan council, January 14: Amendments made to animal control bylaw to include cats

by Barbara Curry McAloney

• CAO Richardson reported on a wide range of provisions in other municipalities’ cat bylaws, including fees for cat licences and permits for live-trapping nuisance cats. These felt unnecessary for Slocan. Instead, council considered these amendments to the animal control bylaw, that each residence may have either two cats or one cat and one dog; cats more than six months old must be spayed or neutered; all cats must be able to be identified, whether by a collar, tag, tattoo, microchip implant or some other form; cats are not to run at large; and owners taking cats off their property must licence or contain them in a collar. There was a lively discussion, even about whether to include cats in the bylaw. Councillor Lunn expressed frustration that in order to include the regulation of chickens, which she favoured, she would have to vote in favour of a bylaw that regulated cats, which she did not favour. "I’m hogged," she said. Councillor Patterson was reluctant to include the stipulation that cats off their property were to be leashed or contained. She thought this would not be enforced. Mayor Perriere replied that council would not have to commit to any advertising in the GO & DO, the West Kootenay visitor guide.

• Council will write a letter to the Community Tourism Foundation Program supporting in principle the application of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce for tourism planning funds.

• Council was delighted with the letters it received from two provincial ministers regarding a meeting they had at the UCBC convention to discuss improving access to local provincial parks. Both ministers were given identical packages of information, yet each interpreted Slocan’s request differently. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson wrote that he had informed staff that restoring and maintaining access to Kantaka Glacier Provincial Park is a higher priority than Valhalla Provincial Park. Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills B.C. Wall said that he had asked his staff to consider the Village to work towards improving access to Valhalla Park. Councillor McCrae said that she was “impressed by these two letters.” The next goal is to present a resolution at the AKLBO (Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments) AGM in April calling for the provincial government to take responsibility for maintaining access roads into provincial parks.

• Hill reported on Public Works. He is having trouble finding parts for the pumps at the water plant. The pumps were installed in 2001 and now they are approaching obsolescence. He will try to stockpile enough parts for the next few years. The Lemon Creek gravel pit “finally got going last week” and now the Village will have to go to Washad for sand. Hill introduced a resolution to accommodate the Springer Creek RV Park that rocks which breaker and valve connects to each site. Hill reported that there is no asbestos in the library contents. This last item opened a whole new can of worms.

Work on the library is still being held up because council hasn’t determined who should do it and who should pay for it. Mayor Perriere said they had heard from the provincial government about responsibilities. CAO Richardson said he hoped to have a policy on this issue for council at the next meeting.

In an email, the library committee had not met. McCrae said that it was up to the committee to call a meeting.


• In the public participation portion of the meeting, Pat Ashton asked why the library was being paid for and why the Village didn’t have its own money to buy a new treadmill. Mayor Perriere said that the Fitness Centre had close to $50,000 but that would not cover the full price of the commercial treadmill.

Ashton also asked about the $20,000 that had been allocated to Legion renovations several years ago, but had been spent on other things. Councillor McCrae said that the $20,000 was no longer in the budget. Mayor Perriere said, “We have to ask ourselves if we can put that together.” Hill commented that when he first met Pat Ashton talked about how hard it was “for volunteer groups to raise that much cash.” CAO Richardson replied that it was “impossible for the Village to raise funds.” Councillor Elliott said the Village was owed taxes that it didn’t stand a chance to collect, and the Village budget has dropped from $1.4 million to $900,000 over the years she has been on council. She said she valued volunteers and “during the hard times” council wants to “keep these things going.” CAO Richardson talked about the need to establish what the Village can afford to do. Mayor Perriere said, “We don’t want to dump our responsibilities on the groups.” When Council receives a proposal for renovations at the Legion, then it will consider funding.

Ashton thanked council for allowing the Mountain Valley Soccer to use the tennis courts and Lorgter Sports Arena for the annual Boxing Day Family Skate event.

Next Council Conversation Café: January 26, 2013 from 2-4 p.m. at NURU.

The Village of New Denver Council continues to host Conversation Cafés throughout the year to better understand residents’ views and interests. Grab a cup of tea or coffee and a delicious baked good, and share your ideas for a healthy and vibrant New Denver.

Get Job Ready!

ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS TRAINING: Tenth St. campus
*starts January 14 - just a few seats left!

ADVANCED COMPUTER TRAINING: Nakusp, Kaslo, Tenth St., Grand Forks campuses

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Applying Today? You are unemployed, you can take advantage of this great opportunity for free tuition. For details visit sellkir.ca/csa or call the Trail campus at 250-364-7570 / 250-368-5216 or email esa@sellkir.ca

Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce AGM, Feb. 7

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce (SDCC) is holding its Annual General Meeting at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver on Thursday, February 7, from 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to stop by for wine and cheese and to find out what your local Chamber has been up to in the past year.

The year 2012 was filled with many exciting Chamber initiatives. The organization hired a new manager, Theresa Tennant, in May. Theresa and the Chamber continued to grow, expanding their programming and services over four years ago. Initially driven by the mountains and outdoor recreation, the Tennant’s decided to settle in the area because of its wonderful community. Theresa brings to the Chamber marketing and technical communications expertise as well as project management experience. Planning for the future in 2012. The board held four strategic planning sessions throughout the year and developed a five-year plan. Details of the plan will be presented at the AGM. Another big project in 2012 was the Chamber’s Centennial Celebration, last year’s website. This project, funded by Columbia Basin Trust, will be a valuable tool not only for Slocan members, but also for locals and visitors alike. This website will be officially launched during the AGM.

The board also did the planning legwork in 2012 to launch two projects this year: a Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP) in partnership with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, and a community tourism plan in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Tourism. The BREP program aims to improve and expand existing businesses by identifying and responding to their needs.

The Chamber’s application for the Community Tourism Foundation program has been approved. The objective of this program is to develop a tourism plan for the area. A full-day workshop will take place in late February (registered in the works) to be followed by the community’s tourism plan. The workshop will be followed by a Tourism BC consultant. The Chamber invites local people in the tourism industry and other interested stakeholders to participate in the workshop. Please contact us at chambers@slocanlakes.com by February 1 if you would like to participate.

Finally, the Chamber’s membership drive is ongoing. Membership brings many benefits including a voice in the business community, and access to the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. To download our membership form, visit www.slocanlakesbc.com.
Young Kaslo woman follows her passion for hockey to Warner, AB

by Jan McMurray

Kathryn Hagedorn from Kaslo is attending school in Warner, Alberta this year, participating in the school's hockey academy program.

"It's a good fit because Warner is a small town like Kaslo, so I have lots of support here like I had in Kaslo. It's like home, pretty much, and any guy coach. McKie Makela is an ex-NHL player - he's an excellent coach," she said.

The Minor Hockey Association report submitted by KDMHA

This season in the Kaslo & District Minor Hockey Association (KDMHA) we are enjoying the addition of some new initiatives.

The Monday Night Academy - Thanks to the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, KDMHA was able to secure the funds that have enabled us to host an extra 90-minute practice every Wednesday for the entire season. This we called the Academy, focusing on team practice and skill building. The coaching for this ice time is one of our most accomplished Minor Hockey coaches, Avery Collister. We try to encourage coaches to enjoy this extra ice time every Monday and we are benefiting greatly from it.

Christmas Power Skating - KDMHA will host a free 3-hour session.

Nakusp Minor Hockey Association president hopes hockey will continue in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Rusty Rainier is in his last year as president of the Nakusp Minor Hockey Association.

"It's my son's last year of hockey, so I'll be stepping down as president, but I'll always want to be a part of it because hockey has been a part of my life ever since I was a kid," he said.

Rusty grew up in Nakusp, went through the hockey program, and has spent countless hours in the Nakusp arena. "Hockey pushed me in the right direction," he said.

Rusty says he is encouraged by the active participation of many of the parents of the younger players. "I think we are going forward, the parents of the younger kids are going to step up and take over for us.

The core of volunteer parents has been the same ever since Rusty has been involved, but he says some new parents are taking the time to "learn the ropes" of minor hockey. The bigger challenge, he says, is the lack of players. "Enroolment is down throughout the West Kootenay, but we have to hope it will pick up," he says.

Nakusp does not have the Bantam team this year. Players of Bantam age were invited down to the PeeWee and Midget teams "to make it work." There are about 50 kids enrolled in Nakusp this year, where there have been 60 in the past.

When asked why he thinks enrolment is down, he said the population of Nakusp seems to be getting older, which does not bode well for youth programs. He also said hockey is not expensive and involves a huge commitment of time. However, he said it is comparable to other sports, such as skiing.

Enrolment was down last year as well, and Nakusp and Kaslo worked together to make up some teams. Rusty said the relationship between Nakusp and Kaslo is very strong, and they may have to combine teams again in the future.

Nakusp turns out some excellent hockey players, and Rusty says he does what he can to give the kids an opportunity to play better hockey. This year, two grade 11 students from Nakusp are playing Major Midget hockey in Castlegar, and three Nakusp grade 9 students are playing Bantam Rep hockey in Nelson. A fourth was playing, but broke his leg.

"Hockey was really good for me, and I hope it continues in Kaslo so that all kids can have the opportunity," concluded Rusty.

The lessons of sportmanship and teamwork last a lifetime.

Celebrating Minor Hockey Week 2013

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Paul Peterson, Director, Arrow Lakes Minor Hockey Association

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We’re proud of all our players!
Happy Hockey Week!

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Nakusp Alkona Black Row: Leon Cannon (Trainer), Jake Fernand,ben Smith, Mike Smith (Coach), Lenon Cann, Wyatt Patterson, Michel Nasat (Assistant Coach), Front Row: Lucas Robins, Adam Nasat, Leander Cann, Nash Fiday, Jackson Langdon, Colton Hiss, Jake Fernand, Manager Lisa Butleman.


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The ValleyVoice wishes our local teams all the success in the world.
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The Village of Kaslo celebrates our young hockey players during Minor Hockey Week
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Mark Twain

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Kaslo Winterhawks • Midget House Back Row: Ross Jacob, Connor Robertson, Ryan Tate. Middle Row: Bronson Tate, Scott Mitchell.


Kaslo Winterhawks • Senior Novice Back Row: Coaches Shannon Codick, Shawn Wilson, Willie Hoffmann. Middle Row: Adam Wilson, Sean Oakland, Cavin Toporowski, Max Ward, Colton Chynko, Kyle Sunna, Nicholas Tall. Front Row: London Young, Anna Hoffmann, Gabriel Ziegler, Tegan Abbott, Quinn McRae, Brayden Ward, Kyle MacDonald.

Mackes Attackers • Junior Novice Back Row: Coaches Shannon Codick, Ken Austin and Ryan Tate. Front Row: Dallas Hanwood, Tyson Kolb, Avery Wilson, Ryder Austin, McKenna Austin, Evan Silverman. Missing: Victoria Bradshaw.
Silvertown council, January 15: Silverton receives age-friendly grant

by Karine Campbell

• Silverton received a $20,000 Age Friendly Grant from the Senior Housing and Support Initiative. The money will be used to develop a policy for safer sidewalks, trails and pathways and to provide recreational and social opportunities for seniors, such as the seniors’ drop-in at the Memorial Hall Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone over 50 can stop by and socialize, walk inside the hall for exercise, or play card games, board games or use the Wii console to play different sports.

• Mayor Provan reported on a December 18 Gallery Task Force meeting. The lease was renewed, with some changes; the Village is working on bringing the building up to fire inspection standards; council has approved conducting an environmental study. The group also discussed fundraising to pay for further work.

• Councillor Main reported on the December 13 RDCK meeting. She was appointed as RDCK rep to the West Kootenay Invasive Plants Council.

• Cory Evans and Josh Smrak also discussed a delegation to talk about the future of the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) and Columbia Basin Trust. CPC is seeking input into its future through a community consultation project. The board passed a resolution to endorse a public engagement process to citizens of the Basin can consider and articulate a vision for the future of power generation. Council support a referral of the CET original decision.

• The RDCK’s new official slogan is ‘Representing Diverse Communities in the Kootenays.’

• Mayor Provan concluded that the new slogan reflects the diversity of the region and the challenges facing the community. She expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and welcomed their support for the new website.

• Councillor Main said that the new slogan will be used to support the vision of the Kootenay region and to reflect the diversity of the community. She encouraged residents to share their thoughts and ideas on how to enhance the website.

A Night Out for the Outlet

Come Join Us!
Friday, January 25 at the Bosun Hall from 6 pm to 9 pm with lasagna dinner and dinner, doors open and live entertainment. Tickets $20 per person; $10 for children under 10. Call Beth at 358-2344 or Paula at 358-2774 for more information.

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| 2011 | Dodge Journey RT AWD Leather 27,000 km | | 26,990 | $35,900
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| 2008 | Chrysler Sebring LX Auto loaded 61,886 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2007 | Cadillac CTS AWD Auto loaded 119,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
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| 2007 | Ford Focus ST Auto loaded 82,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2006 | Ford Escape XLT Special 4WD 110,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2006 | Chrysler 300C 3.5L Auto loaded 119,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2005 | Toyota Avalon XLS Auto loaded 110,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2004 | Toyota Camry XLE Auto loaded 110,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900
| 2003 | Dodge Caravan SE Auto loaded 110,000 km | | 25,997 | $14,900

COMMAND

Klondike Silver Corp. executes agreement to option a portion of the Silver Slocan Mining Camp submitted

Klondike Silver Corp. has executed a formal option agreement with Victory Mountain Ventures Ltd. to option a portion of the Silver Slocan Mining Camp. Victory must make an immediate $1.75 million cash payment to Klondike in consideration of the entire consideration of the Slocan Silver Camp, as more fully described below.

The Slocan Silver Camp is a property holdings in the historic Slocan Mining District in southeastern British Columbia. The property has produced more than 24 million pounds of silver and 46,000 ounces of gold in the first discoveries of the late 1800s. Klondike Silver is the dominant landholder, controlling a majority of the historically permitted, 100% owned Slocan Mining Complex including the Silvanora, Wonderful, and Huckleby Mines and several other properties with significant exploration potential.

Staff were directed to ask Memorial Hall manager Sue Myster to inventory the kitchen, so the Friends can target fundraising to the kitchen. Mayor Provan noted the item is to make the hall kitchen a fully timetabled community kitchen, to make the hall more efficient and to ultimately generate more income for the Village.

Councillor Main said she would continue to be a regular at regional district meetings. The Community Stewardship Program is downloadable onto smaller communities and rural areas, and this would increase as paper and printing come into the stewardship program.

The Village is in negotiations with Bob Laffeur, former Nakusp CAO, to hire him on a part-time basis. He is willing to mentor Administrative Assistant Melissa Miles and to “ease the burden” on CAO Roger.

Anglo Swiss identifies promising sites on its Slocan Valley graphite property

The results are in of the airborne survey completed on the Blu Star Flakes Graphite property in the lower Slocan Valley in November last year, and it’s good news for the mining company. Anglo Swiss Resources Inc. reports several large electromagnetic (EM) conductors have been identified on the property, and the company is planning an extensive program of mapping, and a first-phase drill program for 2013.

Four large EM conductors are identified, the largest of which is 1.5 kilometres long in the southwest, and three conductors measuring up to 2.4 kilometres in the central portion of the property along the south side of Perry Peak. The three conductors on the north side of Perry Peak occur within similar elevations to the Tesoro graphite deposit, located three kilometres away on the south side of Perry Peak, suggesting a possible connection.

Further information on the company may be found at www.anglo-swiss.com or at www.sedar.com.

Obituary
Curits died at the young age of 33 after a
hard, two-year battle with colorectal cancer.
His remaining family will miss him dearly, he was six-year-old daughter, Milli, her two sisters, Muz and Mel, and his parents, Len and Janet, and his grandparents Jim, Anne and Doris. Curits will always be held in our hearts and remembered as a man who thought outside the box, a lover of nature and animals, a man with a big heart, a great sense of humour, a bater of democratic governments... He had many different

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our innovative trends and our awesome community for cutting for you. Thank you.
In his own words Curtis said, “I just want to say thanks to everyone who has made my stay here so great. It was a short but sweet tenure. I have some ideas for the future. If you would like to be heard, please let me know.”

Even in his last days when he found it difficult to speak, he was sure to be thankful to everyone who came through his door for their aid and support. He asked us to be sure to thank everyone again. Thank you to those who brought him fresh flowers, (especially Paul’s florists), those who have visited and have sat with him and with us, those who celebrated his anniversary, those who came to see his body. We are thankful for all of you who have touched our hearts and souls.

We want to especially thank all those who were connected with the medical system. Dr. Brian Woodward, Katie Maclain, Philip Maugham, Michele Jacobson, and Lloyd Mac in the Tom Baker Cancer Center in Calgary; the home care workers, especially Monica; the home care nurses, especially Margot; the awesome staff at Kootenay Lake hospital; the general staff, especially Iona; Dr. Jillian, the woman who came to the door to wash his hair, put on his clothes, and put the oxygen mask for him; the RNs who celebrated his daughter’s birthday with us, the wonderful people who made our house a place to live, and made it a place for us to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way, and for all you have done for our family. Thank you for all of you who were there for him. We are so thankful for all of you who have touched our hearts and souls.

A celebration Curits’ life will be held in the spring.

PETS

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LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR INTERVIEWING about their observations, experiences and stories of change to the Slower River, Little Slocan River and Slocan Lake. Interviews are included in the documentary film “The River Story”. Interviews can be audio recorded or on video if you prefer. Please contact Perry Eddie Water Users Association at 250-353-4453 or info@waterusersassociation.com or phone 410-210-0797.

ARTISTS are invited to submit artwork for consideration. For more information and an application visit www.cultureisgood.ca or contact the Kootenay Gallery at 250-353-3337

KOBA call for entry:
Invited: 10,000 Hours! – an exhibition of contemporary craft

The Kootenay Gallery of Art will host an exhibition of contemporary craft that demonstrates artistic innovation in the creative use of craft materials and processes. The exhibition will take place at the Kootenay Gallery of Art, Castlegar, from September 21 – November 9, 2013.

The concept for Invited: 10,000 Hours! is based on the idea that time and dedication are the key to the creation of something that is unique to the artist. Over the course of the exhibition, artists will be invited to submit work that advances the practice of the art form.

APOLOGY

In our December 12 issue, we ran the In Memoriam notice in memory of Matthew George with the wrong photograph. In our January 9 issue, we ran the notice with the correct photograph. We apologize for the error.

KGA call for entry:
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Dances of Universal Peace held at the South Slocan Hall

Dances of Universal Peace are simple meditative circle dances. Through the use of sacred phrases, chants, and music from around the world’s spiritual traditions, they promote peace and harmony among the participants. Experience is not required; the dance and retreat ends are taught each time and then experienced together by the whole circle. A few moments of silence following each dance offers individuals time to observe the feelings and responses the dance has elicited within themselves. Generally an atmosphere of joy and unity pervades the circle.

Since September, dances have been held monthly at the South Slocan Hall on the second Friday of the month from 7-9 pm. In November, the dances are on the fourth Sunday from 3-5 pm at the Old Church Hall, corner of Kootenay and Victoria.

Admission is by donation and new people are always welcome. Besides covering hall rental, donations are used for food, workshops and weekend retreats, and as scholarship for evolving young leaders to attend retreats and trainings elsewhere.

The dances originated in San Francisco, brought through by Samuel L. Lewis in the late 1960s until his death in 1971. Lewis was a scholar, knowledgeable in the scriptures of all the world’s religions. He travelled extensively and shared under master Zen Buddhist, Hinduism, and Sufism. Inspired by the Sufi whirling dervishes, and modern dancer teacher Ruth St Denis, the dances started coming to him. As a spiritual teacher, he drew out large numbers of youth around the San Francisco Bay area, teaching classes and leading dances. The dances, held now under the umbrella of the Sufi Ruhaniat, have spread to over 60 countries and the number of dances has increased exponentially worldwide.

These dances are not new to the Slocan valley area and Shuswap.

Local communities receive age-friendly grants

Just for the Health of it!, an exercise and wellness program at Fortis College Learning Centre, with its $5,600 grant. This year’s grant recipients have recognized the importance of ensuring that communities and businesses meet the needs of residents of all ages,” said Minister of State for Seniors Ralph Sohlin. “Successful projects focus on a wide range of supports to make life easier for older residents. Many of these programs are supporting seniors to remain socially active and connected to their communities and are helping to reduce isolation, which is one of the top issues that hour from seniors across BC when I meet with them.”

The age-friendly planning and project grant program is a partnership between the province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Applications are accepted by staff from UBCM and the Ministry of Health. They were scored on a variety of factors, including goals, proposed activities, involvement of seniors and other key partners, budget, and innovation and sustainability.

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

submitted

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The age-friendly planning and project grant program is a partnership between the province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Applications are accepted by staff from UBCM and the Ministry of Health. They were scored on a variety of factors, including goals, proposed activities, involvement of seniors and other key partners, budget, and innovation and sustainability.
Rail Trail ski day features

In early December, the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) installed an interpretive sign panel on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail (SVRT) opposite the Walter Clough Wildlife Area. Within one minute, four happy trail users happened by and their expressions show that the sign — Walter Clough Wildlife Area - Birds and Habitats — is most appreciated. This panel contains pictures and information about many of the exotic bird species found in the immediate area and educates readers about the delicacy of bird habitats. A sharp eye might pick out half a dozen trumpeter swans flying north.

Altogether in 2012, six sign panels were created and installed along the SVRT, at South Slocan, Slocan Park, Penny Siding and these two km north of Lemon Creek. Themes vary from hydro-electric power generation and its impacts on the natural environment, to the health and fragility of the riparian ecosystems along the Slocan River.

Copies of all six sign panels will be on display at the SVHTS’s ninth Annual ‘Day on the Trail’ on Sunday, January 27, from noon until 2 pm, two km north of the Prowse Trailhead. A brief dedication of this signage will take place at the event, with hot chocolate available around the bonfire.

The SVHTS greets the rail trail for skiers and walkers, and the public is heartily invited to come out and enjoy this free event on a spectacular section of the SVRT. If you bring pets, remember to bring a leash. Car pool planing or parking can be limited.

The SVHTS wishes to thank the Columbia Basin Trust for funding this signage under the Environmental Initiatives program. Ian Fraser & Associates from Kaslo for creating the artistic designs panels, and the many local自然ists and photographers whose information and input has been used to give this signage ‘site-specific’ flavour. It is hoped that this signage will further educate trail users about our rich natural ecosystems while encouraging us to further minimize negative human impacts.

Climate change presentation to be given in Slocan

Are the winters getting warmer? How long will cheap oil be available? What can we do to build resilient communities that are prepared for a different climate and energy situation?

On February 7 in Slocan, everyone is welcome to a presentation on our energy future with short movies and discussions. The talk builds on recent studies from the Columbia Basin Trust showing that the annual temperature in the Basin has increased over the last century by 0.7°C to 1.7°C. One degree may sound like a small amount, but it is an unusual event in our planet’s recent history. CBST project changes including average temperature increases of 1.6 to 3.2°C by 2050.

The talk will explore psychological responses to the climate and energy crisis and how we could evolve as individuals and as communities to collectively contribute to a shift to a life-sustaining society. Some communities make the challenge into an opportunity. Gugging, Freiburg and Feldheim, Germany, are almost energy independent from fossil fuels. Hasselt, Belgium offers free public transit. The economy in Hartwick, Vermont, is vitalized by local food entrepreneurs. In Detroit, 1,600 vacant lots were transformed into gardens and small farms. In Buenos Aires, people get a bus token in return for waste.

The event is hosted by Malin Christenson, creator of the Slocan Valley Local Food Guide. She will bring her experiences from teaching environmental studies at Uppsala University, Sweden, organizing a European youth climate campaign and living at Canada’s most carbon neutral yoga centre. Proceeds will go to the Slocan Valley Food Bank.

Country roots at the Silverton Gallery

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The Silverton Gallery presents prairie roots singer/guitarist/songwriter Steven Palmer in concert Tuesday, February 5. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $10 at the door.

From opening for rock greats like Led Zeppelin & Eric Clapton in the ’60s to sharing the stage nowadays with acoustic legends like Valdy and Fred Eaglesmith, Steve Palmer has covered a lot of miles and played a lot of music.

Over these years he has developed his own style, a personal blend of country, folk, gospel, blues, and ragtime performed acoustically on 6- and 12-string guitars. He has released three solo CDs in this new millennium, featuring his own writing and tuneful covers of several personal favourites. Professionally produced, the recordings include key contributions from some of the best acoustic pickers in Western Canada, like John Reichmann on mandolin and Nathan Trackham on dobro. Recently featured on CBC’s Vinyl Café, Palmer’s music was “pretty darn good,” according to host Stuart McLean. At a Prairie folk festival, Valdy concurred, endorsing his guitar style as “nice playing!”

Palmer’s distinctive vocal sound has been described as comforting as “a warm blanket on a cold winter’s night” (Jericho Folk Club) or as “a steady tree on a howling sunset’s day” (Scott Cook).

The Silverton Gallery date is part of a two-week British Columbia road swing. The tour finishes with two final dates in the Kootenay area, including Wednesday February 6 in Nelson for the Kootenay Bluesgrass Society.

Slocan Valley Storytellers: Word of Mouth 2013

Celebrate the art of storytelling by spending a winter afternoon listening to a few good tales.

Storytellers: Word of Mouth returns to the Slocan Valley on Saturday February 16 from 1–4 pm at the Vatican Whole Community Centre. Hosted by Slocan Valley Recreation, this always popular event will be headlined by talented local storytellers, including Mary Mortimer, Gary Wright, Fred Makortoff, Carolyn McGregor and Lucas Myers. Themes will vary, although local history and experience will be a common thread.

Admission is $12 in advance and $15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Slocan Valley Recreation office or online on Facebook. For more information, call 250-635-3000 or email slocanvalley@rogers.com.