Jumbo council's inaugural meeting set for February 19

by Jan McMurray

The inaugural meeting of the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality (JGMRM) is set for February 19 and will likely take place at the Village of Radium Hot Springs council chambers, reports Greg Deck, appointed mayor of the new municipality.

Deck says the meeting’s agenda “tends towards the very dry legislative tasks of debating and adopting procedural bylaws of various types after a brief swearing-in ceremony for the new council.”

He explained that Phil Taylor, the transitional CAO appointed by the ministry, is now preparing the initial bylaws, getting bids from auditors and legal firms, seeing to insurance coverage—all of the initial tasks that go with the formation of a new municipal entity. “After Mr. Taylor’s initial contact at the end of February, if we don’t have other arrangements, we have the ability to contract with him on a short-term basis while we continue to work to find something more long-term,” said Deck.

The Province covered the cost of Taylor’s initial contact, plus has provided the municipality with $200,000 for start-up costs. The $200,000 will cover operational expenses, including the administrator’s salary starting at the end of February and council stipends. Deck reports that the amount of the stipends in the municipality is $7,500 per year for the mayor and $5,000 per year for each of the two councilors.

“The ongoing costs of the MRM will need to be paid primarily by property taxes, just as in any municipality,” explained Deck. “The developer of the resort, as the only initial property owner, will need to meet those expenses once the initial start-up grant has been spent.”

The government has given Jumbo council the responsibility to ensure the resort is developed with future residents in mind and that the services and amenities are in place to accommodate them, considering the protection of the environment, and the interest of First Nations; and consider the economic development interests of the provincial government and the resort developer. To assist with these responsibilities, there will be three committees of council: an Environmental Committee and Resort Advisory Committee, appointed by council, and a First Nations Advisory Committee, to which council will ask each of the two First Nations to appoint a member.

This council’s term ends November 30, 2014—the next local election voting day. Deck says it is unlikely that there will be enough eligible residents to hold an election by then, so he expects an appointed council to be in place past 2014. “It is up to the Province of BC who will be an appointed council,” he said. “It may be well past 2014 before there are enough eligible voters to hold an election. I expect JGMRM to develop at a measured pace, as do most ski resorts.”

The Letters Patent for the new municipality provide for a non-voting seat at the RDEK table after the inaugural meeting, but Deck says IGMRM and the RDEK might be better served by the JGMRM representative attending meetings only when asked to by the RDEK chair. In that case, the appointee would not receive the normal salary paid to a municipal director by the regional district, but would get a daily stipend.

“We recognize that the unusual character of an MRM, especially in its formative stage, has different issues than a community with an existing population. The participation of the MRM in regional service functions is well set out in the Letters Patent, so the bulk of the activity between the two agencies will occur at the staff level,” he said.

Area H residents to receive Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medals

Submitted

Five Slocan Valley residents will receive Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medals for their outstanding contributions to their communities and fellow citizens.

“Each of these individuals is exceptionally deserving of this honour,” said Walter Popoff, Director of Area H. “It is thrilling to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event.”

Popoff nominated the recipients through the Federal Council of Canadian Municipalities and the medals were awarded by the Governor General’s office.

The presentations will be made to:

Peter Wood at the Anglican Church Hall in South Slocan, February 5 at 11:30 am;

Rita Moir and Rory Lindsay at Valliant Wade Community Centre, February 9 at 3 pm;

Lorna Vasser and Richard Allin at Hills Community/Fire Hall, February 10 at 2 pm;

Please come and celebrate the presentation of these Queen Diamond Jubilee Medals and congratulate your neighbours on their accomplishments!

Single vehicle fatality near Slocan

Two people died in a single vehicle accident near the Slocan Bluffs on Highway 6 on the evening of January 29. Police have confirmed that the deceased, one male and one female, were from out-of-province and were here visiting. West Kootenay Traffic Services (WKT) reports that a pickup truck, with the two occupants failed to negotiate a left-hand curve on the highway, and went into the pull-out and the embankment. At the time of the incident, the roads were snow-covered and it was snowing heavily. When Slocan Lake RCMP and WKT attended the scene at about 7:30 that evening, the vehicle was engulfed in flames and the two bodies were located inside the vehicle.

The BC Coroners Service and West Kootenay Traffic Services are continuing their investigation. Neither deceased has been identified at this time.
All West Kootenay residents should test their homes for radon

by Jan McMurray

If you live in the West Kootenay, there is a good chance that your home has high levels of radon gas – the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. The good news is that it is easy and inexpensive to test your home for radon.

If elevated levels are found, the methods and costs of addressing the problem vary, depending on the building. According to Paul Mustak, certified Radon Mitigation Profession of Interior Radiation Inspection Services out of Nelson, it costs approximately $2,500 to mitigate the problem in a typical building.

Radon is a colorless, tasteless, odourless gas that occurs naturally in the breakdown of uranium. It enters the home or building through openings in the foundation where it is in contact with the ground – construction joints, gaps around service pipes and support posts, floor drains and sumps, cracks in foundation walls and in floor slabs, and openings in concrete block walls. Radon can also enter into your home from your drinking water if you have a deep well.

Interior Health encourages everyone in the area to test their homes. Radon test kits are available for $15 through the ROCK, at its Nelson head office and at building inspection offices in Nakusp and Creston. They are available for $30 through BC Lung Association (1-800-665-LUNG). The New Denver Village office also has two radon electronic detectors, which can be borrowed for two weeks at no charge to Village residents and for $15 with a refundable $50 deposit to people living outside the Village.

Greg Batailan of Interior Health says Health Canada recommends that a home be tested for a minimum of three months, preferably between the months of October and May, when windows and doors are closed and rising warm air in a house draws more radon from the ground. Testing for a short duration runs the risk of a false negative (not detecting high radon when it actually might be high), the main reason Health Canada recommends testing for at least three months.

He says testing should be done in the lowest level of the home where people spend at least four hours a day. “The lowest floor usually has the highest levels of radon because the gas exits the ground and is heavier than air,” he explained. “If you have a rec room or basement, that would be a good place to test. If you have a basement but no one spends much time there, the testing on the first floor of your house would more closely relate to actual exposure.”

Batailan explained that the ‘tied and true’ method of mitigating a radon gas problem is to use sub slab depressurization if you have a cement floor. “You punch a hole through the concrete floor and dig out a slump about the size of two-gallon jugs, put a perforated pipe in there, bring it up through the floor and seal off the floor pipe seam, then run the pipe outside and hook it up to a radon fan to it,” he said, adding that the fan is not costly to run.

New Denver resident Henning von Krogh tested his home with 2009 with a radon detector from the New Denver Village office and found levels six times higher than the recommended maximum in the basement, and two times higher in the second-storey bedrooms. Henning fixed the problem himself after doing some research, at a cost of about $2,000.

He installed a sub-floor depressurizing pump in the concrete basement floor and an air exchanger in his crawl space, and has since purchased a radon detector and has been recording radon readings in his crawl space daily for almost four years. After installing this equipment and adjusting the length of time it is turned on, radon levels in von Krogh’s house are within acceptable limits.

A Nelson Valley home was tested in December, and levels were 170 times higher than the recommended level. The same home now has two radon detectors in the living space. To fix the problem, the homeowners hired a local mitigation expert.

In December 2016, the Building Code was revised to require all new construction to have a roughed-in sub-slab mitigation device. This device, called a sub-floor pump, is detected in the house through testing, mitigation will be much simpler.

In Castlegar, the Dona Schmidt Memorial Lung Cancer Prevention Society is working to reduce lung cancer from home and work, not just radon exposure. The society has radon test kits by donation, and is gathering data on the hazard radons poses for lung cancer in the West Kootenay. The society also plans to partner with radon mitigation professionals to interested organizations. For more information, contact Dana Schmidt at 250-365-6344 ext 227, or email dana@radoneng.com.

Further information on radon, including how to locate a radon measurement or mitigation professional, can be found on the Health Canada website (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/fyh-vsv/.environ/radon-eng.php).

Sloanc council concerned about transfer of Springer Creek’s forest licences

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The possible transfer of Springer Creek Forest Product’s timber licences was the main topic of discussion at a special meeting of Sloanc council, held January 28.

With Mayor Perriere away, Acting Mayor Hilary Elliot chaired the meeting. Council voted to draft a letter to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson to voice concern that the company’s two timber licences could be transferred without Sloanc having any say.

After the meeting, Acting Mayor Elliot explained that the Province does not have a policy to consult the public when a timber forest licence is being transferred. The Village is concerned that the timber licences could be the sawmill’s biggest asset. What happens after that asset is gone is “an unknown for now,” she said.

There are worries that once the timber licences are transferred, and if the mill goes bankrupt, the Village will be left with a shell of a sawmill, its taxes greatly diminished, and the possibility of being left with a “brownfield” – an abandoned or under used industrial site that might have to be cleaned up.

Acting Mayor Elliot reported to council that she wanted to let the public know that council is looking into the ramifications of the Village’s options and the implications to the Village if the timber licences are transferred. Council has spoken to the company’s general manager, Ralph Tomlin, and owner, Peter Mason. Council did not discuss what options it had during the public portion of the special meeting. After asking when the option, Acting Mayor Elliot said that it had “only been a couple of weeks since we were informed of a potential sale.” She said council was “trying to do what we can.” She said once the mayor and the CAO returned, council “may have more information for the public regarding potential impacts to the Village and the direction council is taking.”

On January 14, the Nelson Star reported that the unionized employees at the Sloanc mill had voted to accept a settlement package, but it was conditional on the sale of the two timber licences to Interfor. The sale was to be closing in March. The article quotes the union president saying Springer Creek still intends to operate the mill.
Interview with Greg Deck, appointed mayor of Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality

by Jan McMurray

Why did you accept this controversial appointment?

I accepted the appointment because I believe in the project and its potential for economic development through tourism. The project is a joint venture between the province and the First Nations, which promises to benefit both parties. I don't believe in the concept that a single person can make decisions for a community that has been involved in the planning process. It's not fair to the community to not have a voice in the decision-making process.

Why are you a good choice for the appointment?

I think the only pertinent experience I have is that of having been through the creation of a municipality before, as the founder of Radium Hot Springs. This experience has provided me with a wealth of knowledge about municipal governance, budgeting, and community development. I believe in the potential of the project to bring economic benefits to the area, and I am committed to ensuring that the development is guided by the principles of sustainability and community engagement. I am confident that I can work with all stakeholders to ensure that the project is successful.

I understand that you have always been in favour of creating the mountain resort municipality. Please explain why.

Yes, I have always been in favour of creating the mountain resort municipality because I believe it is the best way to ensure that the project is managed in a way that maximizes its potential for economic benefits while minimizing its ecological footprint. The municipality will have the authority to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community, and it will be able to prioritize the needs of the residents over the interests of developers. I am confident that the municipality will be able to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the community.

What do you think will be the biggest challenge in implementing the project?

The biggest challenge will be ensuring that the project is developed in a way that is consistent with the values of sustainability and community engagement. It is crucial that the project is developed in a way that minimizes its ecological footprint and maximizes its economic benefits. I believe that the municipality will be able to achieve this by working closely with all stakeholders and ensuring that the project is guided by a clear and comprehensive set of guidelines.

Is there a particular area of the resort that you are excited about?

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to create a vibrant and diverse community that is welcoming to all. The resort will be home to a variety of businesses and services, and I am confident that it will be a place where people can come to relax, to explore, and to connect with nature. I am also excited about the potential for the resort to become a hub for outdoor recreation, and I believe that it will be an important destination for visitors from around the world.

Arlene Yofonoff is Silverton's new councillor

I didn't arrive at this position lightly. And I don't know if I would have got here as easily if I didn't have the municipal experience of having to balance budgets against the demand for services. But my position is that the intrusion of commercial activity and human settlement into relatively unaltered back-country habitat is one of the ways that residents of BC are going to have to pay for the services we enjoy. I don't think it should happen often. And I think that we need to be very careful about where and what type of development we propose. But in this situation, where the access was already in place to a location that offered truly exceptional commercial tourism potential, I think that the trade-off is justified – with the proviso that the development work to achieve the commercial benefit within the smallest possible footprint and with the highest possible care to avoid unnecessary conflict with wildlife, particularly grizzly bears.

With those provisions, I continue to believe that commercial tourism is a good addition to natural resource extraction in those areas where we can contend with some level of human settlement. I also contended that this high elevation habitat is not generally at risk in BC, and that the 110 or so hectares for the village itself might best be used for this purpose than 110 hectares of valley bottom winter range that is much more at risk to development. I also contended that the truly remarkable tourism attributes of this site have the potential to create a resort of such stature that it helps to provide much needed additional traffic to the existing tourism assets in the region. In brief, I admit that it is very much a trade-off, but one which I think is justified in this situation.

I understand you have always been in favour of creating the mountain resort municipality. Please explain why.

This is true. I was the sponsor of the motion at the Regional District of East Kootenay in 1996, when that board unanimously agreed that, if the project received its Environmental Certificate, the Province should create an MRM as the administrative structure. Unanimity did not endure on this issue, and while subsequent resolutions were divided, the Province did proceed based on a resolution later confirming this position.

I supported this course of action for several reasons. One is that the MRM legislation is designed specifically for the purpose of providing a municipal structure and servicing plans ahead of the arrival of residents and visitors. It is not satisfactory that developers open the land use question at the regional district table. This project was very explicitly included in the CORE process to determine the fundamental land use question, and that group, by a wide margin, recommended that the project be approved, subsequent to an Environmental Assessment.

Both the CORE process and the EA process were extremely wide-ranging and very technical, much more so than would ever be undertaken by a regional district. And they addressed the commercial use of a provincial resource – crown land in this case – distant from other residents. In that case, it remains my opinion that our regional district land use planning process, designed to address predictability of development for neighbours within a community, was not the appropriate process to return Jumbo Glacier Resort to all of the approvals and processes that it had already achieved in good faith. Were the project to come back to the RDEK, that process may have been set aside by a local re-zoning process. I think that I would have been.

Arlene Yofonoff won the Silverton byelection held January 26. At the 65 ballots cast, Arlene garnered 59 votes and her opponent, Don Broughton, garnered six. One ballot was spoiled. Her first council meeting as a new councillor is on February 12. Arlene takes this position of Christopher Lowe, who had moved out of the area for family reasons late last year.

Some people got what they wanted, and some did not. For those who didn’t, that pain is the pain of democracy. That’s how you know it’s working. I’ve been on the losing side of civic votes on subjects about which I cared deeply. It’s hard to get over. But I would rather be in a society where battles are fought with words and processes than with any other implements, even when I lose.

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Community Calendar

Thursday, February 7
Nakusp Chamber of Commerce AGM
Café Lago, Nakusp
6 pm

Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce AGM
Hidden Garden Gallery
7 pm

Friday, February 8
Dances of Universal Peace
South Slocan Hall
7:30 pm

Saturday, February 9
Sat. easy ride in party with Billy Sunday, February 10
Duo Solista
Ariel Studes, ND
9 am-noon

Bromberg Arts Center
3 pm

Monday, February 11
Nakusp Celtic Fiddle Night
Nakusp Inn
10 pm

Tuesday, February 12
Nakusp Council Meeting
Council Chambers
7 pm

New Denver Council Meeting
7 pm

Cranbrook Council Meeting
7 pm

Wednesday, February 13
Sculpture Chelsea with Edith Steene
Ariel Studes, ND
7 pm

Thursday, February 14
Valentine’s Day
Bar
7 pm

Friday, February 15
Move Night (Dave of the Guardians)
Bar
7 pm

Saturday, February 16
Expensive Pancake Breakfast
Hand & Soul Wellness Centre 9:30-12:30
Vulkan Wicked
1-4 pm

The Charms Agency
Brilliant Cultural Centre
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Appalled at Deck’s appointment to CBT

“Appalling” is the word that leaped into my mind when I read the lead article in the January 23rd Valley Voice. The article reports the appointment of a man to chair the Columbia Basin Trust who is the “mayor” of a fictional municipality. I refer to the anti-democratic intrusion into the Jumbo Valley that is strongly opposed by many citizens in the East and West Kootenays. Since this is such a contentious issue, I see no other way of understanding this but as a blatant conflict of interest.

Judy Wagg
New Denver

Opposed to Deck’s appointment to CBT chair

Greg Deck’s recent dual appointment to CBT and mayor of Jumbo is in conflict with CBT’s own “Board Composition, Appointment, Skills and Attributes Policy” and “Code of Conduct.” I will quote only one section of the Code of Conduct to support this, although there are more: Section 3.1.3: Duty to Avoid Conflicts. Directors should attempt to avoid putting themselves in a position where their personal interests or their duties to another body interfere with their duties to CBT.

My understanding is the executive committee, made up of Kim Desane, Am Naqvi and Laurie Page (vice chair) made the decision Greg’s dual appointment was acceptable. Please let me know if there is any legal recourse (an appeals process) the public can take with regard to this.

I am wholeheartedly opposed to this appointment.

Joe Karlson
Kootenay

Columbia River Treaty

I attended a meeting in Falkiner on January 31, it was attended by 50 percent of full time Falkiner residents. Below is my personal view of this meeting.

Lynda Lefleur from the CBT office in Nakusp spoke at this meeting speaking to the Columbia Basin Trust. Lynda is a wonderful source of information and very approachable.

Clyde Spicer is a private citizen and an inspiration to me. Clyde and her partner took to the Columbia River Treaty and how it can be changed in 2024. The terms of this treaty are such that public meetings and input must be part of the process, but the treaty does not articulate how this is to be done.

School insecurity

As a mother and grandmother, having watched over children for two generations at Lame Creek School, I was totally appalled by the letter from the superintendent concerning the new security at the school because of a shooter in another country. Around the same time, ten little schoolgirls died in a (US) made mine blast in Eastern Afghanistan while searching for firewood and nobody ever cared. Were they not as valuable?

The letter told everybody that you have decided to lock the school doors and we have to sign in. There are four years of guidelines to prepare us for trauma with our children. This type of behaviour is hierarchical, and treats people as unctuous and creates more fear.

Eloise Charvet, Bear Clan
New Denver

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Smart meters and politics

Vancouver Sun, January 31 (Business D3) reads, "According to the Telcom, both BC Hydro and Energy Minister Rich Coleman said Tuesday that the controversial devices will not be installed without a customer's consent. Given that approximately 140,000 customers are still holding out against the new radiation-emitting meters, NDP Energy Critic John Horgan called this change in position a Liberal "pre-election Hail Mary" to get Hydro to back off until after the provincial election in May."

Further, once your analogue meters go, it's gone. BC Hydro spokesman Greg Alexis, confirmed that once the new meter is installed, "it will not be removed" and analogue meters are "no longer available." Indeed. And, shamefully so, but that's for another letter.

Here, in Fortis country, we still have February to forensic BC Utilities Commission to deny approval of Fortis' application to install smart meters. BC Hydro did not have to have our commission's approval because the Liberals were able to sidestep the legal requirement for this review process.

The smart meter is a proven health hazard, porous, and, according to the World Health Organization and more recently the Biocentitics 2012 report.

Daphne Fiddes
Shawn

Open letter to responsible politicians

I recently received an email from the Green Party of Canada asking for a donation to help defeat the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). There is something horribly wrong with Canada's political system when citizens need to be asked to donate to a responsible political cause or in order to prevent democracy.

I am constantly bombarded with requests for donations from NGOs such as Council of Canadians, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting, Greenpeace, the Wilderness Committee, Ecojustice, etc, to help protect us and the environment. This is unacceptable. I have written to the Green Party for its efforts. Elizabeth May and the entire Green Team are pulling out all the stops to make this country (and parliament) a better place. The personal discomfort who still works part-time to be able to live comfortably, I am marketed out when it comes to making small donations. I am most willing to let my voice be heard, willing to see and expose and defeat bureaucratic silliness, but I fail at having to pay for the privilege of doing so.

David K. Stewart
Argenta

Re: Dog killed in trap

In my opinion, you should stay out of areas that you believe hold some type of imagined threat that you are unwilling to confront and handle. That the two of you were incapable of rescuing your poor ill-treated dog, by whatever means possible at your disposal, certainly reflects poorly upon your level of responsibility for this "faithful companion." To stand in object terrain whilst your overworked imagination conjured up all manner of nasty scenarios, and your "faithful companion" died an unnecessary death because of your inaction, solidifies my belief in my prior statement, that you folks who don't have the necessary skills, or comprehension of the means to combat unexpected occurrences, should stay on the heavily populated trails where it is "safe" with no chance of unexpected encounters with non-existent predators!

I'm sure you will refute this opinion of mine with a multitude of justifications, none of which will bring your "faithful companion" back to you. Let's put up a million more signs to indicate all of the invisible, and visible dangers that await the unwary. Be prepared, it's a good motto to hike with!

K. Hawes
Answorth

Provincial trapping regulations in need of change

With respect to the recent tragic loss of a dog in the Nakusp area to a legal trap set in a front-country area (and near a provincial park), I don't believe, as one writer submitted, that all dogs should be kept on a leash. If so, that is news to me.

The conflicts between trappers and people's pets, including dogs, being part of the trap of "incidental catch", have been around for a long time. Our government is remiss in not adopting more proactive policies that recognize that a lot more people are using front country areas and some back country areas today, including walking their dogs, than in the good old days.

Current regulations and policies are nothing more than antiquated, favour only the trapper, and will only continue to create more lost pets and escalating conflicts if not updated.

People should be writing to the Minister of Environment asking that trapslining bordering front-country rural and residential areas should no longer be allowed, and current boundaries of existing traplines should be adjusted to reflect that. Many of the animals that are caught such as pine martens, fishers, bears, wolves, and deer are killed by the local trappers of us to prefer to see in the wilds, even if it is only their tracks. These furbearers should be left alone in front country areas where we live and recreate, for people to enjoy - there is still lots of back-country for trappers to carry on their activities.

Additionally, where traplines overlap with water recreation activities in the back-country, notices should be posted that there is an active trapline in the area and any traps along recreation corridors used by the public, should by law be shut off. We also take their dogs in the back-country.

Last but not least, and as I learned when I was a boy and went out with "Tony the Trapper" (i.e. Kascos), on the trapping locations in the 1950s, the public should be aware of the "incidental catch" of innocent birds including Stellar's jays, grey jays, and various species of woodland hawks including the listed northern goshawk.

Go in any trapline area in the summer and you will see their feathers lying near some of the "sets." I suspect that now that bold eagles have returned to our area, that some of them may also be the unfortunate victims of front-country traps.

Wayne McCurry, Wildlife Biologist

Re: Brenda Szabo's letter demanding change to the trapping laws

First, know that I am sorry for your loss. People become very attached to their pets and it is always sad when one passes.

However, it is time for you to take responsibility in the demise of your pet. Your dog should have been contained on a leash, under your control. Dogs off leash enter into too much of mischief and are a detriment to wildlife. I have graphic photos of deer torn apart by pets such as your own that were not under direct supervision of their owners.

What laws should we impose to deal with that?

But it was not the trapper's fault. He/She should not be punished along with all the other registered trappers in the province for your carelessness. You can, on the other hand, should face some sort of penalty for illegally set traps on a registered trapline. The whole country is a trapline in the winter season and should be treated as such and your pets should never be out of your direct control.

K. Hawes
Answorth

Re: Kaslo ER services 24/7

I am writing this letter in regards to the "Emergency Room at our local hospital in Kaslo. There have been comments, notices in the paper that the Kaslo ER is opening and discussions about the "nights of no coverage continues," p. 3, Valley Voice Jan 23, 2013 and "Voices Heard, Action Taken," p. 6 Nelson Star, Jan 25, 2013. I would like to say that the Kaslo ER was open 24/7 in December.

My father was transferred to the Palliative Care Room in the Kaslo Primary Health Centre from Mountain Lakes Senior Community Centre in Nelson on December 6, 2012. Over the weekend of December 8 and 9, the hospital was on "diversion," which meant the trauma. Mom and dad locked eyes as they were wishing to see a doctor had to wait until Monday or go to Nelson. I had to be let out at night after spending time with my father, who was passing away. When I went to see my father Sunday morning (after working night shift), I noticed a great change in him and I realized my siblings who lived in Nova Scotia. My sister called the hospital and the nursing staff wouldn't tell me my sister how long my father would live. My sister asked that the doctor call her after the doctor had seen my father in order that my sister and brother could make travel plans. When I saw my father Monday morning (after working night shift), the nursing staff stated that the locum who was working was swamped and wasn't able to see my father but authorized some changes in the administration of the pain medication my father was taking.

I stayed with my father and he passed away at 11:20 pm on December 10. My sister Bonnie received a call from the locum at 5 pm December 11 to give her an update on my father's condition. Bonnie told the locum that my father had passed away the night before. The doctor was devastated and very embarrassed at the news.

I feel the situation in Kaslo is deplorable and unacceptable and NOT justifiable. I understand there is a shortage of doctors and the local doctors are burning out. I understand that the nurses are doing the best they can. Kaslo has some of the best nursing staff in the Kootenays. I wish to thank all of them for the care they gave my father and stepmother (who passed away on April 1, 2012) during their stay at the hospital. Thank you Robert for being there for me when I needed you the most.

But a solution needs to be found so that the hospital isn't put on "diversion" anymore. Let's hope it is found very quickly.

Linda Liu
Kaslo

Re: New chair and vice-chair for the CBT board, Valley Voice

January 23, 2013

As a long-time resident of the Columbia Basin, I was sorely disappointed to read of Mr. Greg Jaworski's election (or appointment, the article didn't say which) to chair the board of the CBT.

Disappointed you say? Why? Well, it is obvious the CBT was formed by a career politician of the small town species who has been a major obstacle in keeping Jumbo Pass wild. The way is ought to be.

Mr. Jaworski isn't going to sit so as to accept appointment as the mayor of the now Jumbo Mountain Resort Municipality, where he will govern nobody and be given a budget of some $290,000 to do so — funds that come from the taxpayers of this province, people like you and me. I don't think career small town politicians should ever be placed in positions of power in public trust similar to the CBT like careers that just don't prepare one well for such positions. Remember, the 'C' stands for "community" and I've yet to meet a small town politician, I could trust, a provincial one for that matter (well, not counting Gary Wright).

Now, Mr. Deck has the temerity to say: "As our [CBT] funds grow, we don't want to keep getting bigger. We need to be able to scale it — devote the funding where decisions can be made through engagements with communities to find out what works best for them." (cough, cough).

And also with respect to the CBT's Community Directed Funding program, Mr. Deck states, "we don't want to make funding decisions for you. We think you are in a better position to do it."

What I'd like to know is where these sentiments were when Mr. Deck was mayor of Radium Hot Springs and stood directly against the will of the people in both East and West Kootenay. In fact, I believe the proposed ski hill development at Jumbo Pass would probably happen decided made exclusively in Victoria, unencumbered by "those who know best" and who are "in a better position to do it."

Really, Mr. Deck? Really! I don't know who laugh at or cry at.

It's precisely this kind of double-talk that small town back politicians like Mr. Deck are good at and even take pride. Is how they know how to appease the "right people" at their mouths at the same time. They are masters at obfuscation, champions of misinformation.

The CBT has made a shockingly bad decision by promoting this man to its chair. I predict they will live to rue the day they did it.

As Laurie Magie gaining the position of vice-chair, she's just an innocent bystander who probably has a good heart, I must say as for Mr. Deck, I say: phooey!

Meanwhile, I suggest Mr. Deck keep a low profile when he's getting around the Basin, for I suspect he may encounter lots of people with rotten tomatoes who will take great pleasure in peppering him with them. I'll be in the first row with a large basket of these projectiles, and my target is Mr. Deck. No physical harm intended, of course.

Sean Rooney
Vallancian

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February 6, 2013 The Valley Voice
Open letter to Kaslo councillors

I watched with interest, which quickly turned to total dismay, the appearance of Jodie Addis and Mayor Lay on the docket at tonight’s meeting of The Brain Trust.

For the record, and as it will appear on the minutes shortly, Mayor Lay was in the chair. Councillor Holland—the new RDCK designate—was absent. All other members of council were present.

Addis requested council immediately re-instate Mayor Lay to the RDCK as the Kaslo appointee, rescinding a motion of council in December, which removed Lay from that appointment.

Addis discussed at one point or another, the nature of governance, council’s ability or inability to work as a team/unit (my own interpretation), and transparency of council actions (which is at best, minimal, in my view).

Mayor Lay remained in the chair.

Councillor Lethwood noted council had not had time (none) to consider the petition, as council had not seen the petition. Her view was in line with the way in which council had dealt with petitions in the past, council members should have time to read them and to think about them, in line with its own ‘Delegation Guidelines.’

Mayor Lay remained in the chair, without direction from senior staff regarding his presence in the council chambers.

Councillor Lay finally proposed a motion which would have had Mayor Lay re-instated, as the RDCK appointee. The motion failed for lack of a second. (Politically, it is clear Councillor Lay did not have his ‘dukes in a row’ and had no prepared support for his motion.)

There is an age-old adage: ‘As in life, (political) perception is reality.’

Draw your own conclusions of the perceptions after the meeting tonight.

There is another age-old saying when analyzing performance at the political table, no matter what level, and it applies to council’s stellar performance in the public interest at tonight’s meeting: ‘Shame, shame.’

This is not good local governance, it is local governance pandering to the egos and interests of individuals, without regard to the people who put (you) individuals in power.

I am only grateful and fervently hope for the reporting of this remarkable exchange. I am grateful too that it will ‘all be out there’ on the internet.

Shame.

Jim Yount
Kaslo

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Bulk food buying - not the right choice for a healthy community

As the operators of one of the three grocery stores in New Denver / Silverton, we take to exception to the recent survey this distributed regarding bulk buying food in bulk or in a means of food security. We were appalled when we saw the questionnaire, and can only assume that the operators of the other grocery stores in town feel the same way. This questionnaire seems like a direct attack on our businesses, and we find it disheartening that the Healthy Community Society, a group which received public funding for this program through CBT, should go into competition with local business owners. Our store already offers the option of buying foods in bulk at reduced prices. The society’s plan has nothing to do with a healthy community, but rather with a small group of people who are interested in getting food cheaper than we can supply it. Furthermore, it would actually create much less food security, not more.

Food security means having a reliable local network of farmers and gardeners, food processors, storage facilities and distributors of food, so that in the event of bad things happening, the people of Kaslo have access to all of the people – will have access to. We are now fortunate enough to have three stores in town providing a more diverse range of products than we’ve had in many years, and proper storage facilities for large amounts of food – even in the event of lengthy power failures.

The more we support those stores, the better in turn they can serve the needs of everyone in the community. This includes people who have no transportation, little money, special diet requirements, and those with no ability to buy large amounts of food at one time. They also provide people with fresh food such as diary and produce, and prepared food items that augment a variety of goods that many in our community rely on. The group behind this survey does not take into consideration the fact that by putting pressure on local businesses, it makes it more difficult for us to offer this wide range of goods, or that if stores in town were forced to close, it would leave the people who rely most heavily on local outlets in the most vulnerable position.

If the group going into bulk buying wants to get their food cheaper than we can offer, they offer every right to do so. However, so label it as a measure of ‘food security’ is a convenient way of feeling righteous about buying food out of town rather than supporting local businesses.

Sue Bridgett & Mark Adams, Rutabaga’s Whole Foods, New Denver

Jumbo Glacier is melting

Jumbo Glacier is melting, as are Commercial and Ferndale Glacier, and Glacier Dome. Their assigned sarcophagi are in the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort’s (JGR) Controlled Recreation Area (CRA).

Reviewing my 2012 Jumbo file, I found two letters-to-editors concerning the proposed JGR’s melting glaciers: Margaret O’Sullivan’s, Sept. 4, 2012, Valley Echo, “Jumbo Resort A Threat To Glaciers;” and, E. Irene Verry’s Dec. 12, 2012, Valley Voice, “Will Melting Ice Affect Jumbo?” Dec. 12, 2012, Valley Voice letter questions investors’ rationale: “This can only lead to people thinking there’s something else going on here, something to which the public is not privy.” As Nicole Trzyn’s Valley Echo editorial, Nov. 21, 2012, “What’s the point of having a glacier based resort when all the rest will be protected as it is a water supply?”

After creating the world’s largest wildfire, just think what garbage-drenched types might do with that crystal-clear liquid if they had 99 years renounceable tenure to JGR’s meltdown.

The West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo, the group led by Joyce Nelson (researcher/writer) publish the May 9, 1998 LYNX Newsletter, the entire contents of which express the proposed master plans behind JGR. From pages 7, 8, 9: “National Bank (of Fr. giant, Burnos-Martelle’s Canadian affiliate, National Public Relations) is closely connected to water privatization efforts underway in Canada. National Bank’s subsidiary, Louis-VanBusschoten, is actively lobbying for water privatization in the Province of British Columbia and has a stake in Noverco Inc., which (with Hydro Quebec) owns water privatizer Gunclometropol (another escrow of B M’s National Public Relations).”

National Bank’s directors include representatives from seven companies that are bidding ‘jockeying for position’ in what the Fraser Institute calls Canada’s privatized water—a $90 billion industry.

Of particular interest is that the World Bank directors have these strong connections to the Desmazac family’s Power Corp. Power Corp’s aging patriarch, Paul Desmazac (PM Jean Chrétien’s in-law) has long been a member of David Rockefeller’s Trilateral Commission.

Power Corp is partners with the world’s leading water privatization, Compagnie Générale des Eaux de France, in a proposal for shared private ownership of the City of Montreal’s water system. Power Corp has also long been involved in massive Canadian water export schemes like GRANDICO, which includes western Canadian water exporting.

R. 1985, the GRANDICO consortium was Paul Desmazac’s brother, Louis (president), SCN Group, Underwood McLellan Ltd., and Bechtel Canada. Relatedly involved with these privatization businesses worldwide, although almost nothing was written about this during the early 1990s.

It is for these reasons ground to believe that there is a dangerous dog in a place. A justice may, by warrant, authorize an animal control officer to enter the place and seize the dog. “A place” is not limited in any way.

Staff Sergeant Siegel was reported to have said that the Community Charter did not “appear” to apply because the incident happened in a private residence. In order to enter a place, any animal control officer, including a peace officer, would require a warrant. The Community Charter only restricts entering a “private dwellings” with or without a warrant.

The seriousness of the injuries inflicted by the dog, as witnessed by First Responders and ambulance attendants, obviously demonstrated the reasonable grounds necessary to seek a warrant to seize it. It really is not responsible to do otherwise. No dog in question has been involved in previous attacks outside the residence. Leaving the dog owner to “consider” having the pit bull put down is not good enough. The dog is a dangerous dog, which a warrant to public safety, inside a house or outside, regardless of whether or not there is any bylaw or a dog control service.

Patricia McGeorge
Slocan

Car lost to vandalism

My car was a 1991 Subaru Legacy. "Nadine," as she was known, never let me down. She always started, and saw, her body was a little wrenched where the bump ball decided to try his horn out, and maybe she was a little noisy after I went up a hill too steep and backed up filling the muffler exhaust with dirt, resulting in blowing out a bolt in the intake manifold. But otherwise, but she was never quite the same.

No matter where I took her, even though she didn’t have great clearance for back-country roads it handled snow and ice, she never let me down. She was, in essence, my lifetime and I loved her.

Now, someone has taken the shaved out of her back area and smashed all three windows on the right side and then they stuck the shaved into her windshield. I know that the vehicle is worthless, since the cost of replacement (for which I have no insurance) is likely more than she is worth. She’s a write-off. Being over 60 and living off grid, this is a severe blow.

Does the masochist male who did this and even apparently unironically on her hood feel like a “real man” now? Women dress up or dress down. But just because a car is old doesn’t mean it isn’t essential to someone. Lots of us older timers don’t have access to cash by a bank, because we have had to put our vehicle to one side. If someone had such vandalism happen to them, please contact the Kaslo RCMP.

Gabriela Grabowsky
Gleniffer Creek

The Environmental Assessment Office’s report notes that the Jumbo Glacier Resort’s water supply will be taken from groundwater sources at the “ultimate estimated rate” of 35000m3 per second— that’s 1,728,700 litres per day! A 1995 posting on Obert’s website included UMA KPA Engineering, P. Eng., Ferdinand Brassard’s report attempting to appeal public suspensions of the promoter’s intent. Enter 2012, Joyce Nelson’s article, “CEA and Jumbo Resort,” Sept 1. Gets Watershed Sentinel, exposes the Canadian Environmental Trade Agreement’s thirst for “glacial water.”

Rowena Elsloe, Argenta, for the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild

Mumbo Jumbo

I can’t believe Greg Deck was elected to the position of chair of the Columbus Basin Trust board. It was an insult to those who were here the fake mayor of a fake municipality that was created to bypass the local RDEK vote against the project — and in the same breath they are talking about being friendly with RDEK.

It is an insult to the people of the Columbus Basin and those who have held Jumbo Wild for so long.

He should abdicate his position with the Trust and as mayor if he truly wants to impress us with his integrity. As a member of the Basin, I vote that we all those who voted and accepted this hypocrisy.

Peace on earth,
Elise Charvet, Bear Clan New Denver

RCMP have responsibility to deal with dangerous dogs

I write regarding the Valley Voice article of January 23, “Winlaw man injured January 12 pit bull attack.”

The last paragraph of the article stated that the majority of Slocan Valley residents polled in 2011 had said no to a dog control service. True though that may be, it has absolutely no relevance to the incident reported in the article, nor to the action which could and should have been taken by the RCMP.

According to the Community Charter, s. 49 (1), “animal control officer” means, among other things, “a peace officer.” Staff Sergeant Siegel and all RCMP officers are peace officers and therefore animal control officers. “Dangerous dog” is defined, among other things, as “a dog that has attacked or injured a person.” This describes the dog in question.

Community Charter s. 49 (5) states: “Wherever there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a dangerous dog in a place...”

A justice may, by warrant, authorize an animal control officer to enter the place and seize the dog. “A place” is not limited in any way.

Staff Sergeant Siegel was
February 4, 2013, The Valley Voice

**SLOCAN VALLEY**

New Denver council, January 22: Campground policy in the works

by Katrine Campbell

• The General Affairs committee met to discuss a policy for the campground, Councillor Heather Fox reported. The policy recommended code reservations for groups only, and the group must get permission from council and pay in advance.

• Other recommendations are that no overnight camping be allowed in the centre field because the park’s infrastructure can’t handle that many extra users, and that all permits be assessed by the campground host, to prevent some campers hogging the best sites and to give those in the overflow section a chance to upgrade.

• The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (EDC) is moving forward with the CBT’s CBT Recreation and Interpretation program. The program provides the community with $100,000 per year for a minimum of three years. The funding will be administered by the EDC, which will distribute the money to projects. Projects must be valley-wide. The EDC plans to have a consultant, and have groups and organizations come forward with project ideas.

• Mayor Ann Banks reported on the January 17 Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) meeting.

  Her resolution, that the next steps in the Slocan Lake Management Plan be a planning project to be completed in 2013, was passed.

• Columbia Power attended as a delegation; it is looking at possibilities for the future, such as power generation at Duncan and Elkko dams. CPC is looking to find alternative power generation but has no expertise and would have to partner with an expert.

• Recreation Commission 6 will be allowed to transfer unspent 2012 Biglow Bay funds to the 2013 budget.

  Directors passed Area K Director Paul Peterson’s motion that the province be asked to change legislation to require well posted and visible signage to warn the public of public bear traps, and that traplines not be allowed in recreational areas near communities, rural developments and residential clusters.

  Directors received a report on insurance options available for non-profit organizations using RDKC facilities. They approved participation in a liability insurance program with SBC Insurance, which would provide insurance to non-profit organizations based on type of activity, frequency, and number of participants.

• Councillor Nadine Raymond reported the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce held its AGM February 7 at the Hidden Garden Gallery. The Chamber has been approved for a Community Tourism workshop, and has a call out for people to participate.

• Commenting on an update from BC Hydro on its smart meter program, Councillor Fox said “resistance is still strong in New Denver.”

• Council discussed a letter from Norbert Doerichen re: the safety of Village drinking water. He suggested prohibiting the sale and use of herbicides and pesticides in New Denver. Council noted that no store in the village carries them, but if they were to bring them in from elsewhere, then there was no practical way to monitor who was using them. He also suggested educating people about what was and wasn’t safe for septic systems, and informing merchants about safe products. Councillor Fox noted “our usual approach is education” and suggested the information be worked into council’s communications strategy.

Finally, Doerichen suggested locating a well farther up Carpenter Creek, to ensure clean water. CAO Carol Gordon said the Village has already drilled a test well, and farther upstream there likely would be problems with flooding and silting, so the area is in the middle of a floodplain.

• Council will supply a letter of support to REACT for its program of reducing the use of plastic bags in the village.

• Council renewed its lease agreement with Jim Powall Log and Timber Farmhouse Homes for Village land above Denver Siding. Their $6,178.58 per year, is based on a percentage of the assessed value of the land.

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Local folks say the first time the lake froze over in 1979 was because it was so calm—it won’t rain and the ripples to break up the developing ice. The other two documented freeze overs were in 1950 and 1923.

**SLOCAN VALLEY**

**Sew Much More opens in Silverton**

by Jan McMurray

A new shop in Silverton called ‘Sew Much More’ offers mending services, along with dresses, blouses, skirts, pants, yarns and woollies, and, well, so much more.

Two creative women, Kathy Provan and Carole Hendema, have set up the storefront in the Hard and Soul building. They will be selling products they make themselves—chocolates and greeting cards—made by Carole, and wool items made by Kathy.

“We are willing to offer our mending service and products to the community and to share our experiences, passion and talents. We welcome ideas and input from the community,” said Kathy.

Both Kathy and Carole have experience in retail and customer service, and are skilled in sewing, knitting and crafting. Carole, also known as ‘the Slocan’s Martha Stewart’, is well-talented with crafts, sewing and design. Kathy’s forte is her knowledge of all things wool. She loves to knit and crochet, and is always happy to share her experience with others. Workshops and classes are being planned for the near future.

“There is a need for a service of this kind in our area, and the ability to shop locally is a benefit for the community and the local economy,” adds Kathy.

Kathy and Carole welcome everyone to drop by the new shop, open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

**VILLAGE OF SILVERTON**

**MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT**

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton is currently seeking a qualified individual(s) to provide, under contract, the services of a municipal attendant. The seasonal contract shall be from May 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013. Pursuant to the tender, attendance is to be a 50/50 split between the Contractor and the Village of Silverton.

**DUTIES OF THE ATTENDANT:**

- Assisted with pre-season opening and post-season closing of campground
- Ensure that campers use designated campsites
- Collect camp fees at least twice daily
- Prepare for garbage disposal
- Maintain fire pits and campfire area
- Supply and sell firewood to campers
- Clean washrooms daily and replenish supplies
- Provide basic tourist information
- Keep accurate campground log and receipt book
- Other related duties that will be assigned from time to time

**COMPENSATION:**

- Campsite attendant(s) will be available on site (minimum) between 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, and 9:00 pm – 9:30 pm

This position is seven days per week, for five months, and is physically demanding. Suitable for more than one individual to share the workload. For detailed responsibilities and duties, contact the Village Office at 250-356-2472. Interested parties should submit a letter outlining their experience and include two references, by 4:00 pm on Thursday April 11, 2013.

The Village of Silverton

PO Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue

Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0

Phone: 250/358-2472 Fax: 250/358-3231

Email: cao@silverton.ca

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- And Sew Much More...
Kaslo Winter Festival: lots of free fun for all ages

It’s back! Kaslo’s free and fun outdoor winter festival returns to its original starting grounds at the Kaslo Airport on Monday, February 11, from 10 am until 3 pm. Expect lots of activities and fun competitions, music and storytelling around the bonfire, and plenty of free homemade food – baked beans, chili, songs and bannock on a stick, hot dogs, too.

Bob Thompson and his beautiful horse, Annie and Jim, will offer sleigh rides, and if you’ve always wanted to try cross-country skiing, this is your best chance since you will have instructors and ski available. Serge Retzlaff with famous maple sugar tents in the snow, which will give you a boost after a ski on the trails or between games of exciting four-on-four street hockey.

Maybe you will win a prize in the human dressed race or a cross-country ski race. For the little ones, there will be a snow in the snow and a giant snowball, huge, heavy people too. You will try their woodworking skills in juniper loggers spirit – fostering the winter Bolivia competition, dot split snow.

Join the community forest’s Woodland Manager Richard Marchand on a walk through the forest at 11 am, and be back in time for the woodman competition at noon. Snow shoes will start that. A tent will be dedicated to an outdoor recreation gear swap. Sell something you no longer use, or buy something new to you that will get you out and enjoying the great outdoors.

The IVth Ukrainian school grad and the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society are helping to organize the event, and Karen Behn is organizing the music and entertainment in the airport. The main event will be the live performance in the street hockey tournament, courtesy Kaslo Hockey on Facebook or call 250-335-8858. Enjoy the festival, and take part in the free ride to the festival? Take advantage of the free shuttle bus leaving Meadow Creek at 10 am and making stops along the way. Return trip will then be kept at the festival.

Check on Facebook for the schedule closer to the day or call the call-a-ride hotline 250-335-3499. Many thanks to Blue Ridge Land & Timber Ltd for making this free transportation possible.

Winter gardening workshops in Meadow Creek

Larneau Valley Seed Savers is pleased to present two informative and dynamic sessions to enhance your growing success. There is something for everyone: novice or experienced, farmer or gardener. Everyone is welcome to this free session supported by the Columbia Basin Trust.

Sunday, February 10: Patrick Steiner and Colleen O’Brien (Stellar Seeds and Kootenay Joe Farm in Johnson’s Landing) will report on the first provincial seed saving conference, ‘BC Seed Gathering: back in Vancouver in 2013’. We will be sharing information from various enthusiastic seed savers: a segment of keynote presentations by Oregon farmer/seed-grower Don Tipping; update on GMO; formation of BC Seed Growers Co-operative; Basta Initiative on Canadian Seeds; Seed Works; and a series of BC trade YouTube videos on seed saving. A seed exchange table will be set up for you to share your collection and take some home.

Sunday, March 10: Colleen Ross returns after an informative talk at our AGM. Her workshop, ‘Scaling Up Organic Production’ addresses both farmers’ economic viability and gardeners’ success. Included are marketing details, planting and letting go of certain dollars or ideals that keep us from truly being successful.

Both sessions are on Sundays, from 2 – 4 pm at the Larneau Valley Community Hall in Meadow Creek.

Refreshments will be served. For information contact Kate at 250-366-4452.

Larneau Valley Seed Savers has, since 2010, provided information and encouragement to local growers.

‘Saving seeds provides resilience and can be simple on challenging depending on the crop. Working toward Kootenay-acclimatized seed, reducing dependency on seed companies and hybrid seeds, and saving open-pollinated seeds are our constant goals’ says Kate O’Keeffe, founder and acting president of LVSS.

Have you heard?

Connect Hearing is pleased to be hosting a complimentary hearing screening event in your area:

Location: Kaslo Community Pharmacy
Date & Time: March 1
10:00am - 1:00pm
For more information call: 250.354.4949

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

February, 2013

Although 2012 was the busiest harvesting year yet in the history of the Kaslo community forestry, we were not able to meet our 5-year cut control, a goal we set at the beginning of 2012. In our cut control period, from 2007-2012, we harvested approximately 76,621 m³ out of the allowed 125,000 m³. The Society’s Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is 25,000 cubic metres of timber.

Areas harvested in 2012:
Milton Creek, Shifty Bench
Ski Petering (CP) 23, 24, 25
Simpich Creek, Nashton Face, CP 25
Highway 31, Brake Check, CP 28
Nathalie, CP 22
Brache 3, Shifty Bench, CP 29
Nathalie, Creen Creek North, CP 20

KDCF is striving to accomplish our cut control based on economics and sound planning, while the lumber market did rebound in 2012, our attempt to target the undercut fell short.

Planning

Integrated planning (either Total Chance or Integrated Resource Management Planning) will become the focus as we move forward into the next cut control period, 2013-2018. Total Chance Planning considers the sum of all resource opportunities across the landscape over multiple rotations and serves as a solid link between high-order strategic plans and operational plans.

KDCF will be developing both short and medium range integrated planning for future development, essential if we are to capture any upswing in the log market. Integrated planning seeks to identify the opportunities across the entire planning unit using best practices, keeping up front that the plan is merely a blueprint by which to manage all resources well.

Without this type of planning, any current or future activities (at a marginal profit or a loss) could seriously jeopardize future economic opportunities. We will strive to determine accurate profit/loss projections concurrently with the integrated planning so that activities on the licence area are sustainable into the foreseeable future.

Financial Picture

At the beginning of January 2012, the Society’s financial balances was approximately $431,000. By the end of December, 2012 the balance was approximately $808,000 – an increase of $377,000. This gain is due to an increase in the Timber harvested (41,847 m³ of timber was cut in 2012) and an improvement in log prices. $34,000 of the income (52 from every cubic metre of timber cut) has been contributed to the Dividends Account, which will be disbursed to the community by April, 2013. The sum of $41,800 ($1.29/m³) will be invested in the Legacy Fund.

Roads

Our current rouled STI (Standing Timber Inventory) has diminished significantly over the last cut control period. We have focused on harvesting only where we have had road systems or where we have not needed to develop any significant road systems.

The board of Directors voted to institute a $7,000/m³ levy on all timber harvested to help offset future road costs. Historically, road levy was ever specified in the agreements for future road construction from the proceeds of timber that was accessed on existing roads. We ask ourselves, as a board of Directors, is this amount – the $7 levy – enough, given the cost to develop roads over the within our licence area?

Recreation

The Ministry of Lands, Forests and Natural Resource Operations (MLNRO) has granted a Section 57 for the Mt. Buchanan Recreation Area. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between KDCF and Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society. The two societies will work together to develop this recreation area for future ‘all-inclusive’ recreation use and enjoyment by the public. A management plan will specify the timelines and the process for the development of cross-country skiing and mountain biking trail networks over the next five years.

We are grateful, once again, the Winter in the Forest Festival. This year the free family event will be held at the Kaslo Airport, 20 January, from 11am – 3pm.

Inter-Agency Meeting

Hosted By KDCF

On November 10, KDCF hosted a meeting attended by 18 people, representing several ministries, the Village of Kaslo and the Regional District. Everybody at the table had some professional or political experience with the geographic area of the community forest. The goal of the meeting was for all of us to get up to speed on the research and activities of other agencies and what the community forest will be like in the future. At the request of our guests, a similar meeting will be scheduled before spring arrives. If you would like to see the minutes of the meeting, please call or email the KDCF office.

Moving Forward in 2013

A committee has been struck to undertake a careful selection process for a new Woodlands Manager and possibly a new management structure for the operation of our Forest licence. The committee reports to the board.

If you would like to participate in our planning process, we will be reinstating a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The objectives of the CAC will be to work cooperatively with management and Board members and to provide recommendations to ensure the public, Society membership and local contractors are consulted in a meaningful way.

Please contact the KDCF office if you would like more information about these committees or anything else concerning the community forest.

Casino & District Community Forest Society • 250-353-9677 • kcfs@netidea.com • www.kaslocommunityforest.org

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
February 6, 2013
The Valley Voice
Nakusp council, January 28: Sewer lagoon cover project grant approved

by Jan McMurray

- CAO Linda Tysan reported on the many exciting projects underway in Nakusp.
- The sewer lagoon cover project is going ahead, now that the $248,000 gas tax grant has been approved. The cover that will be installed is from Denmark and is designed for municipal systems. It will be a model for other municipalities if it is successful.
- Construction of the boat ramp was awarded to Linda Burke Construction of Salmon Arm and the project will begin February 5.
- The hot springs footbridge contract was also awarded to Lindstrum (metal installation and lumber supply and installation) and Stinger Welding of Revelstoke.

Tourism workshop in Nakusp sparks regional collaboration

by Jan McMurray

At a tourism workshop held in Nakusp January 29 and 30, participants learned that regional collaboration is one of the secrets to success. Practically everything could go right, but predictably, it was clear that there was an appetite for collaboration among the participants, representing the communities of Nakusp, Kootenay, New Denver-Silverton and Revelstoke.

A group of about 10 people stayed after the workshop to discuss ways the communities can begin working together. They would have had a great start from the ideas shared at the workshop.

Mike Stolte of the Centre for Local Food and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL) out of Nelson was the facilitator. At the Tuesday evening session, he presented interesting statistics about tourism, the "seven deadly sins" that prohibit the development of tourism.

Columbia River Treaty meetings in Nakusp"
Canadian FLiKS Fest celebrates two milestones with 20th festival

Friday and Saturday February 8–9 is Nelson’s 20th annual film festival, The Canadian FLiKS Festival. This is also FLiKS 10th season of showing great independent films in the Kootenays.

‘Becoming Redwood’ opens the CFF Friday February 8 at 7 pm and was the most popular Canadian Film at the 2012 Vancouver International Film festival. Shot in BC, this inspiring dramatic comedy is about 11-year-old Redwood Forrest Hanson (a child of the stars) who dreams that he can beat Jack Nicklaus at the 1975 Masters golf tournament, he will rename his parents. Luminary! 7 follows at 9 pm on Friday, and is a wacky documentary about people who are infatuated with the moon. From selling moon lots, to registering with the United Nations as king of the moon, to those who want to move there NOW! It is insightful, dog about our favourite white orb, speaks about our sense of home, place and acceptance on Earth. Saturday’s set free stars at 1 pm with ‘The Fruit Hunters’ - a humorous and exotic film on hunting for and preserving the gene pool of exotic, rare and endangered fruits. From the makers of Up The Yangtze’, The Fruit Hunters’ is sponsored by the Kootenay Coop Credit Union.

Following at 3 pm on Saturday is the top doc ‘The World Before Her’, an expose on the effect that beauty pageants are having on India’s culture, and the backlash of women who are becoming militant Hindu cult activists.

‘Occupy Love’, Velcrow Ripper’s third and final film on transformation, is the headline on Saturday night at 7 pm. Woven throughout the moving, action-oriented backbone of the story is a deep exploration of the heart of the Occupy movement, the meaning of love, and concrete examples of just what ‘another world’ could look like, featuring some of the world’s key visionaries on alternative systems of economics, sustainability, and empathy. ‘Occupy Love’ is a moving, transformative, heartfelt film, featuring Ripper’s signature stunning visuals and rich soundscapes, a powerful cinematic experience that will leave audiences inspired. Velcrow has some deep roots in the Kootenay has shown all his other films and presented workshops at previous FLiKS fests. He will Skype in from New York to introduce the film.

The final film of the festival is the astounding ‘Storied We Tell’ by Sarah Polley. Weaving together archival footage and reconstructed scenes, Sarah and her family unravel the mystery of the family history, resulting in an amazing, riveting documentary. This film just won the Toronto Film Critics’, Rogers Best Canadian Film award and was listed as one of TIFF’s top ten films of 2012. All films are rated PG. Tickets to the festival can be bought in person at Otter Books in Nelson, online at www.FLiKS.ca where you can also watch the trailers.

Experience Jennifer Chocolates in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

When Jennifer opened up Jennifer Chocolates in the storefront across the street from the movie theatre in Nakusp, it was a dream come true for her – and probably for her customers, too.

Going into the shop is a lively engaging experience. You smell the sweet aroma of chocolate, see her beautiful displays, taste delicious samples, and you can see Jennifer working, dipping truffles and making chocolates. “I think that adds to the fun of the shop – people love to see how it’s done,” she said. “And like that you can see how much effort and craftsmanship it takes to produce the things I love to make.”

Making chocolates is a very artistic, creative endeavour for Jennifer, and she is continuously inventing new products. “I come up with new ideas, try them out and tweak the recipes until I have what I want,” she explains. Then, she puts a lot of effort into finding the right packaging for the product. “The finished product needs to look as rich and delicious as the taste inside tastes,” she says.

For Valentine’s Day this year, Jennifer has dark chocolate hearts filled with white chocolate, dark chocolate diamonds filled with strawberry cream, and dark chocolate truffles rolled in shredded coconut – and each type comes in its own special heart-shaped box. She also has dark chocolate truffles in flavours such as cherry brandy, cinnamon and Bavarian cream, and as signature, her signature boxes of truffles. Soon, she plans to experiment with sugar-deprived, sugar-free chocolates that has been getting requests for. She also has 70 percent chocolate, which is not very sweet and is a hit with some of her customers.

This spring, she will work on improving the exterior of the shop, with a fresh coat of paint and signage. “I love to put paper on the map as somewhere you have to check out when you are in Nakusp,” says Jennifer. “That’s why my tag line is: ‘A decadent indulgence from Nakusp, BC – I want everyone to know that this wonderful, elegant product comes from a beautiful little community.”

Jennifer Chocolates is open late for Valentine’s Day – February 12 and 13 from 10 am to 8 pm. Pre-orders are accepted, and ordering is available on her website (www.jenniferchocolates.com).

Salmo hosts second Nancy Greene zone race

submitted

On February 3, Salmo Ski Hill was a friendly host of the second Nancy Greene zone race of the season. The Nancy Greene Summit Lake (NGLS) racers had a great turnout with even a few first-time racers.

Salmo had experienced some rain on the hill the week before and had to change the schedule of racing from a slalom course and a giant slalom course to only a GS course. The team were informed that they may only be racing once, depending on conditions. Race officials then announced how the snow was holding up through the first run and determined they could have the racers compete in a second course. The flags were efficiently re-set and the teams did not have to wait long before getting to hit the slopes for their second GS course. Savannah Olson, a first-time racer, said her favourite part of the day was “skiing with friends after the race.” Everyone enjoyed a great hill for the afternoon while they waited for the race results. Our NGLS teams did great with third place!

Next on the schedule of races, Summit Lake ski racers will host a Nancy Greene zone race on February 17. Teams from four other ski hills will be out to compete.

Then on February 24, Summit Lake Ski Hill will have their club races. Everyone is invited to come out, sign up and enjoy a great day on the hill.
The Change Agents: One-of-a-kind local movie makes film history

Submitted

The local film ‘The Change Agents’ is back by popular demand to screen on Saturday, February 16 at the Amenity International Film Festival in Castlegar. The movie has made Canadian film history as the first feature length film that has been produced by a high school. Since its premiere in November, there have been numerous requests for screenings around the Kootenays, BC, Alberta, in Eastern & Northern Canada, Europe, China, Indonesia and in the US.

Shot in Krestova and Nelson, the film is the coming of age story of 17-year-old Dondohor Carly Dutko, who is vocal about the impacts of climate change, especially the impact of the tar sands development on Canada’s fresh water supply. Amidst family disillusion, she and her peers set out to speak up for a planet in distress, eventually inspiring their community to change. And movie goers have been blown away by it. Guided by film professionals, 70 per cent of the production crew were youth, some of whom are now planning careers in film making. Associate producer 18-year-old Alexia Masechko says “it opened doors to help me discover what I want to do. I want to become a film producer to be able to get out messages like this that inspire.”

“The Change Agents” was two years in the making under the working title ‘Projet Turquoise Snowflake.’ The impulse to write it came to writer/director Robyn Sheppard after an exchange with a fearful student who asked, “If everything being said about the environmental crisis is true, then why aren’t we doing more to change things? It’s an emergency. We need to do more.”

The result that came is what one small mountain community can about the changes they’re making in their lives. This is good news,” says executive producer Jo Ann Lowell.

Come out and support this community project and hear what one generation is voicing about a planet in peril...inspiring us to change. Showtime is 7 pm on Saturday February 16 at the Brilliant Cultural Centre in Castlegar, followed by a brief discussion. Tickets are available at the door, which open at 6 pm, $8 students/seniors and $10 for adults. The trailer can be viewed at www.thechangeagents.net.

Slocan Valley’s Networks for New Parents a thriving success

Submitted

Toddlers delight in one another, sharing toys and books, as their mums stroll through tables of baby’s and young children’s goods. Everything from diapers and blankets to clothes, baby swings or strollers is on offer for the taking at the wildly popular Networks for New Parents, a free monthly program at Passmore Hall.

A brainchild of the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council, the program is in its fifth year, and aims to connect parents with other families and local resources, while easing financial burdens with the exchange program. A most popular feature of the program is that parents can bring their old or lightly worn baby clothes, furniture or other goods for sale. Parents can purchase any of the goods at the same price as the sale price for their own goods. This arrangement makes it possible for parents to provide for their children at a cost that they can afford. In addition, the program has expanded to include a twice-monthly drop-in program for parents and toddlers where they can bring their own goods to sell and purchase.

Each week, the program offers a variety of activities for parents and children, including classes on topics such as nutrition, infant care, and parenting skills. These classes are led by professionals in the field, and are designed to help parents develop the skills they need to raise healthy and happy children.

Parents and toddlers share a hot meal at the wildly popular Networks for New Parents.

Winter Women in the Slocan Valley

Submitted

Slocan Valley Recreation’s popular Winter Women snowshoeing program will start on Saturday, February 9, running until the end of March.

If you are a woman 55 years of age or older, you are invited to join this popular program that encourages physical activity through weekly snowshoeing experiences on local trails and in the backcountry. Facilitated by certified fitness instructor Helen Kissinger, women will be given the support and encouragement they need to participate and enjoy the benefits of snowshoeing.

Read more about this event on the Columbia Basin Trust website at www.cbt.ca. A registration fee of $5 is charged, which covers the cost of the program. All equipment is provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes, but they may be available for loan if needed. Additional information and registration details can be found on the website or by contacting Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-353-2447.

Winter Women in the Slocan Valley offers a fun and active way for women to get outdoors and improve their fitness level. The program is open to women of all ages and fitness levels, and is led by a certified fitness instructor who provides guidance and encouragement throughout the program.

The BC Services Card, You Care Card, and more.

One card. Many services. The new BC Services Card is part of government’s plan to modernize BC’s health care system. It replaces your CareCard, can be combined with your driver’s licence, and also acts as your photo ID. It’s more convenient and more secure, with enhanced features to protect your personal information. And getting yours is easy. Starting February 15, 2013, and for the next five years, you can simply enrol when renewing your driver’s licence. And even if you don’t drive, you can enrol at the nearest location where driver’s licences are issued. To learn more visit: BCServicesCard.ca
COMMUNITY

New Denver Council Café conversation covers garbage, water, trails, economy

by Jan McMurray

Mayor Bunka and Councillors Fox and Hoftaft and seven residents attended the New Denver Council café at Pub on January 26 at Numa Coffee Bar.

Mayor Bunka started off with an update on the review of New Denver and Silverton’s assessment roles. One resident pointed out that the value of a home varies widely, depending on which agency is doing the evaluation. She asked council to invite representatives from BC Assessment, real estate agencies, banks and insurance brokers to a meeting to discuss how consistency in home values can be achieved. Council members explained that this was not within their area of responsibility or authority. The resident said consistency was necessary “to get the market going again” and that the Village would not lose tax value.

Mayor Bunka explained that the Village doesn’t lose tax dollars on account of assessment values. She said the Village needs “a little (amount of dollars)” to operate, and the taxation rate is set so as to collect the amount needed.

Discussion turned to the sticker system for garbage collection in the Village. Residents receive 52 stickers for the year, allowing them to put out one bag per week. Those who use up their stickers before the end of the year must purchase extra stickers at $3.50 each. One woman at the meeting said she didn’t use anywhere near the 52 stickers in a year, and asked if the Village would refund them back. Council members explained that garbage costs must be recovered. “Until the amount of garbage decreases, the cost is what it is,” said Councillor Fox.

“Are we solving anything with the stickers?” asked another resident. Mayor Bunka replied that the amount of garbage decreased considerably in the first one-and-a-half years of the sticker system.

Another resident asked if council was looking at user pay water. Mayor Bunka said council looked at putting it in meters, but it was too expensive. “It’s not the usage of water that’s the problem here. People are really good about the restrictions,” she said. The increased cost in the pumping cost, not usage.

Council is planning a public tour of the water system. The main well is located behind the recycling area. A secondary well, only used if needed in summer, is in Great Park by the lake. Water is pumped up from the wells to the reservoir and is distributed to residents via gravity flow. There is a back-up generator for the pumps, in case of a power outage.

The local economy was another topic of discussion. The Chamber’s upcoming tourism planning process was mentioned, with Councillor Hodlau pointing out that many people who first come here as tourists end up being residents. Councillor Fox said she likes the idea of conferences and events during the shoulder season, and likes the ‘local’ philosophy: attracting people who can work, at a distance from “corporate headquarters” was another idea, and many agreed that the community’s online presence is key. The Village, the Chamber and the school have all recently re-designed their websites.

Weedie Harrington put forward her ideas on seniors’ housing. One is cohousing, where everyone has their own space, but there is a communal kitchen so people can have meals together. Her other idea is house-sharing among people who find themselves alone in homes that are too big for one person. Two people could sell their homes, for example, and move in with a third person. The proceeds from the two sales would go towards common costs. She hopes to discuss these ideas further at the seniors’ meeting in the Silverton Lunar Memorial Hall on February 7.

Cosmetic pesticides and other potential contaminants that end up in the lake came up, and education seemed to be the best solution. “Yes, we could pass a [cosmetic pesticide] bylaw, but who will enforce it? Use education as a better way to go,” said Councillor Fox.

A resident asked about the Mental Health Clinic, which has been closed with a gate for several months now. The trail was damaged during high water last spring, and there are some danger signs. Mayor Bunka said the trail was gated because of liability concerns, but council has recently received advice on wording for signage that will allow the trail to be re-opened.

Council was asked if they felt a Stockade Management Plan was needed, and all councillors expressed support for it. “By not having a plan, we have no control, so that’s why I feel it is most important,” said Councillor Hodlauf.

Mayor Bunka reported that the council voted split on the request for a letter of support for a fixed link to the Goose Bay crossing. One resident said he felt lobbying for improved ferry service would be the way to go. “The amount of traffic doesn’t warrant a fixed link,” he said.

At the end of the meeting, everyone congratulated council members for their fine work.

Review of New Denver and Silverton assessments results in 6-8% decrease from last year

by Jan McMurray

BC Assessment has determined that New Denver and Silverton’s 2013 assessment roles should be down only six to eight percent from last year’s roles, not the 18-21 percent originally reflected on assessment notices.

“Notices of our intention to amend the assessments will be mailed out very soon,” said Dennis Hickson of BC Assessment. “In addition to the notices, we will send out a special letter to the residents of New Denver and Silverton that explains what has happened, because this is certainly a departure from the norm, to have a large-scale revision like this.”

Hickson explained that he completed a thorough review of the assessments after being contacted by the two mayors. “We responded to council’s concerns and left no stone unturned in our review,” said Hickson. “I talked to purchasers, vendors, realtors and looked at listing prices and collateral sales. We did a lot more ground work than we normally do.”

Hickson explained that the 2013 assessments are based on real estate sales between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012. However, there was only very little sales activity in the two municipalities during this time period. “Generally, we have analytical tools to determine market changes, but there was not that amount of data to do a statistical analysis on,” he said. “Essentially, in our review, we ended up doing a more qualitative analysis as opposed to empirical because of the scarcity of data.”

New Denver and Silverton Mayors’ Message

It was brought to our attention that our assessment had dropped more than 10 percent compared to the rest of the Central Kootenays. We expressed our concern to BC Assessment, and they immediately responded and started a review. As a result of this review, BC Assessment will appear before the property assessment review panel to initiate the amendments. Property owners will be receiving notices from BC Assessment that include the proposed amended property values, and the location, dates and times of the hearing on the amendments. “If a person is not in agreement with what we intend to do, they will have the opportunity to speak to the valuation on their own behalf,” said Hickson.

Panel sittings usually occur in May, and for this instance, it is more appropriate to hold them in New Denver or Silverton, said Hickson. He said they would likely occur at Knox Hall during the last week of February and the first week of March. “We are not certain that property owners are of same opinion as council, so we want to allow ample opportunity for people who want to discuss the amendments,” he said.

Assessment will recommend changes that result in an average decrease from 2012 to 2013 of approximately six to eight percent. This will be reviewed by the Property Assessment Review Panel, which is an independent panel.

We feel this review brings us into line with the rest of the Central Kootenays. All property owners will receive a notice from BC Assessment and will have an opportunity to appeal their assessments. The appeal hearings are expected to be held in either Silverton or New Denver late February or early March. Any questions? Please contact BC Assessment: 1-800-990-1194.
Birders spot 38 species in Slocan Lake bird count

The second annual Christmas Bird Count for the Slocan Lake North area was held on December 29. Twenty-two birders, with binoculars and cameras, plus three people monitoring their feeders, identified and counted 38 species. The search area is a 24-km diameter circle that covers Hills, the north part of Red Mountain and reaches almost to Sandon.

Especially noteworthy birds were two common loons spotted near Silverton, 37 robins in New Denver (a very large number to over-winter here) and four trumpeter swans feeding in the shallows at the north end of Slocan Lake. Although not found on count day, a grey coot has been hanging around New Denver and has been photographed.

An exciting find was a male hooded merganser catching fish at the north end of the lake. The male is one of the most elegantly plumaged birds in our area. This species is occasionally seen on Slocan Lake during the summer but seldom in the winter. A cell phone call to two local bird photographers brought both rapping up the highway to capture some beautiful pictures.

Three birders from New Denver participated in the Slocan count on December 29 and found a female hooded merganser on Summit Lake. The Slocan records show only six previous sightings in the past 32 years.

(Four bald eagles (1), merlin (1), downy woodpecker (1), red-shafted flicker (16), plumed woodpecker (3), gray jay (3), Snowy owl (12), American crow (19), ravens (2), Mosch-capped chickadee (9), mountain chickadee (2), chestnut-backed chickadee (24), red-breasted nuthatch (13), brown creeper (3), Pacific wren (4), American dipper (4), golden-crowned kinglet (4), robin (37), varied thrush (3), starling (3), Bohemian waxwing (66), song sparrow (15), junco (20), pine grosbeak (50), Cassin’s finch (12), house finch (7), common redpoll (2), pine siskin (172), American goldfinch (4) and evening grosbeak (14).)

Lucerne students take the Eco-Challenge

Wildsight’s Beyond Recycling program is teaching kids at Lucerne Elementary Secondary School in New Denver how to shrink their footprints—through ecological footprints.

The kids of Katrina Summer’s Grade 4/5 class are taking a month-long survey of how their homes and school use resources—water, energy, food, and what they can do to improve the numbers.

“The kids will investigate how big a footprint their daily lives have,” said Monica Nissen, Wildsight’s education program manager. “They’ll measure things like electrical and gas use and find ways to reduce it. They’ll add up the kilograms of garbage and find ways to recycle more. It’s an intensive process, but they’re ready to tackle it.”

The students are taking part in the 22-week Beyond Recycling curriculum which is only program of its type in the Columbia Basin. Working with the classroom teacher, Surrey Frederickson outlines the key concepts of energy and water use and works to find ways to reduce waste. Students learn how their lifestyles use and impact resources and land.

Duo Solista returning to Nakusp

On Sunday, February 10, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council welcomes back Duo Solista to the Bonnington Arts Centre. This is the fifth concert in this season’s concert series. For more information, please note the starting time is 3 pm. Violinist Olga Kotova and pianist Dmitry Nesterov will bring to the Arrow Lakes their unique combination of solo piano and solo violin music along with piano and violin duos, hence the name Duo Solista. Since the age of 17, they have played together in Moscow Central School. Before coming to Canada in 1994, they toured Europe as soloists and joint recitalists in Russia, Eastern Europe, Germany, England and the USA.
BC Hydro lets up on smart meters
Internet interference continues to delay program in Arrow and North Slocan

by Jan McMurray

While BC Hydro struggles with a strategy to deal with people refusing smart meters, "BC Hydro is still working with selected local internet service providers (ISPs) in your area [the New Denver, Burton, Faquier and Edgewood areas] and is still temporarily delaying meter installations as an precaution," BC Hydro’s Cindy Verschoor told the Valley Voice on February 1.

"For the North Kootenay Lake communities, we have installed new meters and are successfully coexisting together with the local ISP wireless systems," she added. "It is worth mentioning that we have successfully coexisted with over 60 ISPs to date throughout the province."

People may have been confused when they received a letter from BC Hydro in early January, stating that "we will no longer delay the installation of a new meter at your home." This letter was sent to everyone who has written to the corporation to refuse smart meters — whether or not they live in the areas affected by the internet interference issue.

After that letter went out, StopSmartMeters.ca started receiving reports of what they called "geocaches" by BC Hydro and Cortix representatives going to homes to install the meters. An article by Rob Shaw published in Victoria's Times Colonist on January 18 titled 'BC Hydro storming ahead with new meters' quotes Cindy Verschoor of BC Hydro saying that refusal signs would be ignored and locks and other types of barricades to the old meters would be removed.

Then, it seems, BC Hydro did an about face. In a statement on January 23, Energy Minister Rich Coleman issued a cancellation statement, and on January 28, a message sent out from Surrey-White Rock MLA Gordon Hogg’s office stated: "Last Wednesday, Minister Coleman advised Gordon that individual home owners, who had not yet had a smart meter installed on their home, would not have to have one. BC Hydro may be contacting those 'hold outs' - this one last time before you say no and do not consent - that is the end of it. You will not be forced into having one or be in fear of it being installed when you are not home." When asked when they would be installing BC Hydro's position, Verschoor told the Valley Voice on February 1, BC Hydro will be working with our customers over the next several months to help them understand the benefits of a smart meter and work with them to finalize the installation. We will not install a new meter without the homeowner's consent. If the homeowner does not want one, they will have the opportunity to ask to have the meter removed.

When asked why people cannot opt out of BC when they can in other jurisdictions, Verschoor replied, "We are trying to do right now is identify customers who just want their questions answered and are willing to take the new meter once their questions are answered. The Province and BC Hydro will assess the situation once we've had the opportunity to speak to those remaining customers."

When asked why wired smart meters, which are more acceptable to many and which have been installed in other jurisdictions, cannot be installed in BC, the replied, "We were careful to ensure both wired and wireless technologies were considered in the procurement process. No wired alternatives were proposed."

"If choosing options used in other markets will not work in British Columbia with our existing electricity system, a wireless solution or one that is more manageable may be prohibitively expensive."

"It's worth mentioning the BC Utilities Commission has twice dismissed an application to place an injunction on the project due to claims the wireless technology used in the new meters exceeded the authority of the Clean Energy Act." BC Hydro claims that it is not allowed to enter people's properties to read, maintain and exchange the meters under BC Hydro's Tariff, and that customers agree to the terms and conditions in the tariff when customers request service from BC Hydro. The Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) response to this is that BC Hydro is not exchanging information with every customer, but rather for a transmitter. "Nowhere do they have the right to install a transmitter anywhere in the world without permission from others through my home. They are in essence using my home for doing business, for sending their information to other customers and receiving it back from other customers. I have not been asked for permission for this, and, further, I do not agree for this to happen," said Sharon Noble of CST.

By BC Hydro's count, 85,000 people have written to them to refuse the smart meter. Verschoor says the extra costs to Hydro caused by the installations often need to be covered by the existing smart meter budget. The $930 million Smart Metering System Tariff budget, for instance, would be "out of the budget," she said. "Having customers hold on will result in additional costs that will be applied to the customers within the existing smart meter budget."

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

FrontCounter BC Cranbrook has accepted an application made by Letus Communications Inc. of Sunnybank, BC, on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), Kootenay Region, for a licence of Occupation for the purpose of a telecommunication line upgrade situated on Provincial Crown land in the vicinity of New Denver and containing 0.0100 hectares more or less. The MFLNRO File Number that has been established for this application is 4050319.

Written comments concerning this application should be directed to FrontCounter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 7G1 or email to: AuthorizingAgencyCranbrook@govbc.ca.

Comments will be received by FrontCounter BC until February 25, 2013. FrontCounter BC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website http://www.nrl.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp to search or Search by File Number. Insert Lands File Number for more information.

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

Rosebery-Summit Lake trail: RDCK application for tenure to be withdrawn for now

by Jan McMurray

It looks like the RDCK will withdraw its application for tenure on the rail trail from Rosebery to Summit Lake. Although the Province is just about ready to approve the tenure, the conditions attached are estimated to cost roughly $250,000.

"We're not abandoning the project," said Area H Director Walter Popoff in a telephone interview, "but we are going to look into all the costs involved. We want a sustainable possible tenure on that trail, so we will establish all the costs and establish a business case for it and see if we can get grant funding to proceed."

The decision to recommend the withdrawal of the application was made at a meeting of the Galena Trail Commission on January 30 at the Luxeume School library. Director Popoff chaired the meeting.

Also in attendance were Joe Charlo, general manager of community services at the RDCK, and Gary Gaynor, the area's chief accountant. They outlined the conditions of the tenure: a survey of the trail, an archaeological assessment, Ministry of Transportation approval of the entrance and exit points, a public management plan, and more.

Popoff said a survey may not have to be done on the entire trail, but would have to be done on those parts of the trail where there is potential for infringement on private property. Gary Gaynor, parks supervisor, has outlined there are 24 such locations.

Three archaeological sites have been identified along the trail by the Province, and Popoff said there are environmentally sensitive areas, "so we'd probably have to hire an environmental consultant to do some environmental studies in relation to maintenance - that would be the responsible thing to do."

After much discussion at the meeting, "the consensus was that we are not prepared to increase taxes to offset the costs associated with this trail," reported Popoff.

The commission has recommended a committee to be established to work with staff to develop a business case for the trail, and will also look at the possibility of a non-profit society obtaining the tenure instead of the RDCK. Both Rosebery Valley Rail Trail and the Nakusp-Summit Lake Rail Trail are managed by non-profit societies.

A significant advantage for a society is there are more grants available than to local government. I'm willing to work with any organization to secure the trail for public use," said Popoff.

Popoff also reported that a representative of the Nakusp Area Community Trails Society, which has the tenure for the Nakusp-Summit Lake Rail Trail, attended the meeting as a guest, and spoke briefly about the group's activities. Of particular interest is the possibility of splitting the rail trail with the Trans-Canada Trail.

The RDCK board will vote on the recommendation to withdraw the application for a Licence of Occupation on the rail trail at its February 21 meeting. Popoff said that once the application is withdrawn, any other entity can apply to the Ministry of Forests and Lands for the rail trail. However, the RDCK would be notified and "if this happens, we'll ask the Province not to consider any other applications while we are doing our investigation," said Popoff.

The RDCK application for tenure was submitted in March 2009. The RDCK then had to get provincial sponsorship, which came through in December 2009. In January 2010, public input was invited, and the Province received numerous comments - about the same number in favour and opposed to the RDCK application for a meter, for a non-profit society. In November 2012, notice that the application was ready to proceed to cabinet and the list of conditions was released. One of the conditions was approval of the proposal; the RDCK successfully asked for that condition to be dropped. RDCK represents the local community and extension and a notion of interest on the property while pursuing a business case were deemed...
Kaslo council, January 22: Delegation asks for re-instatement of Lay as Kaslo’s RDCK rep

by Ian McMurray

- John Addison attended, representing the residents who support or voted for Greg Lay as mayor, to let council know they want Mayor Lay to be re-instated as the RDCK director for Kaslo.
- Councillor Holland, whose council recently voted the RDCK director was not present at this meeting.

In his letter requesting to appear as a delegation, Addison indicated that he was speaking on behalf of the petition council. Councillor Lathwood pointed out that delegations are asked to submit petitions ahead of time, and suggested that council receive the petition at this meeting and hear the delegation at the next meeting. Council agreed to hear the delegation. The petition was not submitted.

Addison read a prepared statement and read out a letter “from a resident who supports Mayor Lay.” He called the change in Kaslo’s RDCK appointee “a divisive action.” The letter he read said that residents are “painfully aware there is and have been challenges at the governance level” and “although mayor and council are doing their best to work through those issues, they have failed in their duties.”

After reading the letter, Addison said his delegation “wants council to have a hard look” at themselves and ask if they are making balanced and informed decisions.

Councillor Lathwood put forward a motion to re-instate Mayor Lay as Kaslo’s director on the RDCK board. The motion failed for lack of a second. Addison asked for written responses from each councillor with the reasons for the way they voted on the RDCK appointment.

Mayor Lay said he would be submitted.

The Arts Mean Business

Visual artists and craftspersons looking to take their careers to the next level need look no further than the Slocan Valley for leading edge professional development.

The Slocan Valley Community Arts Council and West Kootenay Regional Arts Council are pleased to present a two-day instructional workshop for West Kootenay visual artists and craftspersons wishing to focus on the business side of running their practices. It will be held in Slocan Valley February 23 – 24, with an optional personal consultation with the instructors by appointment on February 22 to discuss your practice and specific goals.

The ‘Professional Development Workshop for Visual Artists and Craftspersons’ is a highly respected course taught by two experienced local artists and educators, Lon Lynn and Helen Sebelius. Together, they have been offering the course through Kootenay School of the Arts and other art institutions, with outstanding results.

They are widely regarded as being among Canada’s foremost independent experts in the field of marketing and craft.

The course is available to visual artists and craftspersons of all levels, on a first come, first served basis. The fee is $90 for both days and $120 with the 45 minute personal consultation. Classes are from 9 am to 4:30 pm both days, in the library of W.E. Graham Community School. Wireless internet is available, as is local accommodation. Sign up is being arranged by the Arts Council. For more information please contact Lon Lynn at 250-226-7792, email lvarts@gmail.com or visit www.slocanvalleyarts.ca to register or for more information.

The SVACC is happy to be partnering with the West Kootenay Regional Arts Council to offer this workshop, and would also like to acknowledge the support of the BC Arts Council and the RDCK.

Don’t delay, seating is limited, and we mean business.

Break the winter blues at dance for the Langham submitted

It’s time again for the community to come together and party it up in support of the Langham Cultural Centre at the Langham’s second annual February Dance, Saturday, February 16. And to make sure there’s loads of room for dancing, we’re holding the dance across the street at The Legion!

Award-winning DJ Tuaran Macion from Nelson will be bringing all the dance party goods for all sorts of remorse – blues, rock, pop, disco, you name it – so there will be something for everyone.

We’re making it a family dance this year, so all ages are welcome, and there will be finger food and a bar available. Doors open at 8 pm and tickets are $10 adults, $5 for kids with five and under free. Tickets at the door.
The Blended Family – What’s His, Hers and Theirs?

I’m sure everyone would agree that the ‘happily ever after’ first marriages don’t always work out. Statistics show that there are more second and third marriages nowadays and that the blended family is becoming more the norm.

For most first-time couples, the idea of joining lives includes the sharing and building up of their nest egg together. However, it is a much different scenario when couples come together later in life, after building up their own significant net worths. Quite often, the children from the previous marriages could be facing financial threats and the term ‘gold-digger’ is tossed around quite loosely. Realistically, there could be a net worth inequality where one partner may have substantially more in assets. So, how do they move forward and look after one another while protecting their own families?

Here’s a story of a couple who faced similar challenges:

Steve and Joan recently married after having lived together for 10 years. Both in their late 50s, they each have two children from previous marriages and several grandchildren. Joan’s children happily welcomed Steve into the family but Steve and Joan’s children have not adjusted to Joan being in their father’s life.

In addition to the home they jointly own, Steve has retirement savings of $500,000 and investments of $250,000 while Joan has retirement savings of $150,000 and investments of $350,000 from the sale of her condo, when she and Steve started living together. Joan also owns a cabin on some recreational property she inherited from her father.

The couple had talked about their expectations regarding their assets in the event of death, but felt they did not need a formal agreement since ‘they trusted each other’ to do the right thing. They planned to have simple wills prepared, leaving everything to each other (except for a few items they each wanted their own children to have). The idea was when the second of them died, what was left of Steve’s assets would go to his children and what was left of Joan’s assets would go to her kids.

Although the plans seemed to make sense on the surface, the idea of simply leaving everything to each other was effectively relying on both of them to honor a verbal promise that the assets they each owned would eventually get to their own children. This is where it became abundantly clear that a proper estate plan was so incredibly important and why working, with a financial planner and an estate planning team was essential.

The Recreational Property: Joan’s children have a strong emotional attachment to the summer place. If Joan died first, Steve would inherit the property leaving no guarantee that it would be preserved for Joan’s children or even be allowed for them to use in the interim. In this case, the estate plan could consider the possible use of a ‘family trust’ so that the property could stay in Joan’s name.

Taxes: Steve and Joan’s home and the recreational property had both substantially appreciated in value but neither of them had considered the capital gains taxes and how best to utilize the principal residence exemption to reduce the overall tax burden. Neither of them had considered the income tax that would be payable when the second of them died and how this might impact their children.

Joint Assets: Steve and Joan had not addressed how their jointly owned homes and investments should be divided once both of them died.

In the end, Steve and Joan realized that their estate planning had to be reviewed and likely revised. With the assistance of their financial planner, they were able to compile a list of their assets, including ownership details and beneficiary designations. The planner was also able to work out an estimated tax bill on the second death and showed them how this would affect what their respective children would receive. Further discussions on estate planning options included a review of their life insurance and whether it was adequate for their purposes.

After a thorough review and a family meeting, a new estate plan was developed that reflected Steve’s and Joan’s wishes and accommodated the expectations of their children. Based on this plan, Steve and Joan proposed new wills with their lawyer, obtained proper life insurance and arranged their assets and beneficiary designations accordingly.

So, will this assure a ‘happily ever after’? Well, as we know in life, there are no guarantees. However, planning openly and honestly about your situation and relying on the assistance of a financial planner and a professional estate planner can truly break down the barriers by promoting understanding and instilling trust, thereby making a world of difference for the entire family.

Debbie Perespoli, CFP, CPCA is a Financial Planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd. (Mutual Fund Dealer) and Vice-President of her company The Assante Financial Group Inc., in Calgary. Please contact a professional advisor to discuss your particular circumstances prior to acting on the information above.

Give peace of mind as your Valentine submitted

This Valentine’s Day give your loved ones peace of mind. Would you understand what you want if you were no longer able to speak for yourself? There are tools for managing your money estate and for giving directions for your health care needs when you are no longer able to speak for yourself.

To manage your finances while you are alive you can appoint an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA). A person can manage your estate and investments, pay bills and act on your behalf if you can no longer direct your affairs. It is a very important position and gives direction to ensure that your loved ones know what you want.

Making an EPOA is a process so carefully choose the type of Power of Attorney (specific to your needs); choose a trustworthy and ethical person(s); discuss details of how you want your funds to be handled with this person(s); receive consent to appoint the person(s). It is recommended that you appoint another individual as a monitor and include how you wish the EPOA to report financial activities to your monitor. The monitor is there in case of financial concerns arise among family or friends and reduces the risk of your funds being misused.

For managing your estate and finances after your death those you care about are best served by having a registered will with current copies appropriately distributed.

To manage your health care submitted

Vancouver folk singer/songwriter Pernell Reichert is bringing his brand of folk to Nelson and West Kootenay Saturday, February 9. Set number one will be at Elko’s Market at 1pm and set number two will be at the Cedae Creek Cafe in West Kootenay at 9 pm. The shows are part of a 13-city solo tour of the Kootenays. This is the first time Reichert has played the area.


Reichert’s songs reflect his experiences on the road of life and the highways of the world. His style of guitar playing has been described as high energy, with fast finger picking numbers that keep the listener intrigued.

After several years as a tree planter.
The Kaslo Community Garden Club plans to grow again

by Hezel Calder

The Victoria Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society now sponsors the Kaslo Community Garden Club. The VKAS leased the garden from the Village of Kaslo and the required insurance is provided. Thanks to this support the club is now in a position to do the necessary organization for the 2013 growing season.

The garden needs people to start working early this spring to prepare the garden for the growing season. An executive must be elected so that proposals for needed improvements can be approved and grant applications can be prepared and submitted on time. Friends of the garden are canvassing for an executive and members. Watch for a membership drive on February 1 and at Kaslo Kootenay Savings Credit Union.

The goals proposed for the KCCG are to:

- Provide accessible garden space to area residents for growing food and flowers.
- Recruit, restore and maintain the garden using organic methods.
- Use the garden as a demonstration and teaching site.
- Encourage the positive interaction between members and the community.
- Remind of policy set out in the Kaslo Food Charter.
- Provide garden produce for food distribution in our community.

Markings: news from St. Mark's Anglican church

Submitted by Karen Padcock

A stimulating and enlightening study of the Book of Revelation has begun, Wednesday morning at 10:15, to which any interested person is welcome. The instructor, via Great Courses DVD, is an engaging New Testament scholar who will uncover for us the original context of this much-maligned and oft-abused final book of the Bible, which has both inspired and challenged theologians, artists, scientists and musicians since its writing. We too can consider what might reveal of Modern, and explore the questions of good and evil it raises.

The 40 days of Lent, during which the church prepares for the celebration of new life at Easter, begins Ash Wednesday, February 13. We worship at noon that day, with ashes on our foreheads to remind ourselves that “from ashes we come and to ashes we return,” as a sign of our mortality and dependence on the grace of God. But the night before, we celebrate Shrove Tuesday (from an old English word meaning ‘drove’ from all that separates us from God’s love) gathering at 5 pm for pancakes and sausages and all manner of yummy toppings. Donations in gratitude for enough food to eat are sent to the national world relief and development fund of the Anglican Church of Canada, which then are available for immediate response to natural disasters and for development projects worldwide which our club is standing for on an executive position please call Donna Butt 353-2988, or Anne Head 353-7432.

Thanks to all the people who have given their time and energy to maintain the KCCG and contributed to the ongoing possibilities.

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The Valley Voice February 6, 2013
New federal electoral map continues to split up Central Kootenay communities

by Jan McMurray

The re-drawn federal electoral map was tabled in the House of Commons January 28. If approved, it will come into effect for the next federal election, scheduled for October 2015.

Despite appeals to keep our regional community together in one riding, the new map continues to divide into two – and the two ridings have changed.

Currently, residents in the Valley Voice coverage area are in either the BC Southern Interior riding or the Kootenay-Columbia riding. The new map no longer has a BC Southern Interior riding, but puts people of our area in the South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding or the re-drawn Kootenay-Columbia riding.

The new South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding includes Nakusp and Area K (Arrow Lakes), New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H (Slocan Valley), the City of Castlegar and Areas I and J, the entire Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Trail, Castlegar, Warfield, Montrose, Fertile Vale, Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks and Area), Osoyoos, Oliver, and Penticton.

The re-drawn Kootenay-Columbia riding includes Kaslo and Area D (North Kootenay Lake), Nelson and Areas E and F, Slocan and Area G, Creston and Areas A, B and C, Revelstoke, Golden and the entire Regional District of East Kootenay.

At a public hearing held October 2 in Nelson, overwhelming support was given to Area D Director Andy Shadrick’s proposal to keep the current BC Southern Interior riding together, but to also bring in all of Area D (North Kootenay Lake), which is now split between BC Southern Interior and Kootenay-Columbia, and to bring in Nakusp and Area K, currently in Kootenay-Columbia. Shadrick’s proposed riding, then, would have included Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, all of the DRC except Creston and area, Grand Forks, Midway, Osoyoos and Oliver.

In the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission’s final report, commissioners state that although they were encouraged by the public to keep Nelson, Castlegar and Trail in one electoral district, this would have resulted in an electoral district with a population well above the electoral quota of 104,763. The commissioners point out that they have, as requested in some submissions submitted, put Nakusp and Area K together with New Denver and Area H into the South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding. They have also kept Kaslo and Area D together in one riding (Kootenay-Columbia).

The Commission was required to re-design electoral districts to reflect the very considerable population growths in the province over the past 10 years. Five new electoral districts were added in the Lower Mainland and one new electoral district was added on Vancouver Island. The remaining 36 districts were reconfigured. In the interior of BC, with a population of 675,826, the Commission concluded that an additional riding was not feasible.

“The Commission has sought, throughout, to give primacy to historical patterns of representation and communities of interest without sacrificing due regard for the electoral quotas of 104,763,” states the commission’s final report.

The new South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding has a population of 112,508, which is 7.9% above the quota. The new Kootenay-Columbia riding has a population of 107,589, which is 2.7% above the quota. Electoral districts may vary from the quotas by as much as 25%.

“The final configuration of electoral districts throughout British Columbia has been greatly influenced by submissions and presentations from the public. While it is not possible to satisfy everyone, the commission believes its final report provides for effective representation in all 42 electoral districts,” said the Honourable John E. Hall, chair of the three-member commission.

International trade and investment representatives visit Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Three of BC’s international trade and investment representatives (ITRs) visited Nakusp on January 31 and February 1 to tour the hot springs and village.

“ITRs focus on finding investors for opportunities in BC,” explained Linda Tynan, Village of Nakusp CAO. “Now that they have seen the hot springs, they are better able to represent the opportunity to someone who is interested in this type of investment. They can also give the Village valuable feedback on what might make it more attractive to investors from the countries they represent.”

One of the ITRs who came to Nakusp represents South China, one represents Europe and the other is based in Vancouver and manages ITRs in Korea and Japan.

“The visit resulted from work which the Village has been doing with the Ministry of Jobs, Skills and Training over the past number of months, which has focused on the economic development potential for the Village that investment into the hot springs may bring,” said Tynan.

The Province’s full group of ITRs are expected to return for another trip through the Kootenays in late summer.