Long-awaited Nakusp boat ramp construction underway

by Katrine Campbell

Work has started on the Nakusp boat launch, after seven years of effort. On February 4, the night before the construction began, about 60 people attended a public meeting to get details of what was planned, and when it would happen.

“We’ve been working with BC Hydro for seven years,” said construction manager Bill Smith from Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), “and we’re pleased its finally going to happen.”

Hydro announced in April 2012 that it was partnering with Columbia Power for three Arrow Lakes boat ramp projects, including replacing the Nakusp ramp and upgrading Edgewood’s.

According to BC Hydro, it developed the designs in collaboration with local communities and was relying on CPC’s local knowledge and relationships to carry out the work.

The contract was awarded to LaMarsh, from Salmon Arm.

Although the project was given the green light last year, water levels have been a problem. This year, the low water mark will come at the end of February, a month earlier than usual. This has created a rush to get the work done, although Smith warned that the lower part of the ramp might not be finished before the water levels start to rise again.

In that case, there is a contingency plan to finish it in the future.

As well as building the new ramp, with concrete panels over granular fill, filter stone and riprap, contractors will place boulders and cobbles on either side to provide habitat for juvenile fish.

The new ramp will be shorter than the old one, but will be on the lake bottom rather than sitting above it. The grade is 13.5 percent, and “some pretty aggressive Y-grooves will aid with traction.”

Environmental monitor Paul Seaton will be on site to ensure there is no damage or disruption to the environment.

Smith credited Landmark for coming up with a way to minimize disruption to boaters, by building a temporary ramp for access to the water.

Rob Udy, Landmark’s general manager, said there will be a notice board on site to inform people of the work’s progress. This will include the phone numbers of site supervisors. Anyone wanting to use the temporary ramp, which will not be available at all times, should contact the supervisor to be escorted through the congested work area.

CPC will also have a representative, Rusty Hewitt, on site.

Smith invited anyone with questions or concerns to contact someone from Landmark, or Hewitt, or CPC’s Audby Reppin. All the numbers will be posted.

“They can get problems resolved faster than if you call BC Hydro, or your MLA or MP,” he said.

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MP Alex Atamanenko unhappy with electoral boundaries report submitted

BC Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko is disappointed that the federal Electoral Boundaries Commission’s report does not reflect a majority of submissions at last fall’s public hearings in BC’s rural ridings.

The final commission report divides the current riding of BC Southern Interior between a newly created riding, South Okanagan-West Kootenay, and the eastern riding of Kootenay-Columbia. The communities of Nelson, Kaslo and Salmo will become part of Kootenay-Columbia. Castlegar, Trail, Grand Forks, Nakusp and the Slocan Valley join Osoyoos and Penticton in South Okanagan-West Kootenay. The communities of Keremeos and Princeton have been added to a third Okanagan riding.

“This report goes against the submissions of an overwhelming majority of people who provided feedback at the Commission’s public hearings,” said Atamanenko. “We heard the message loud and clear that Nelson, Salmo and Kado did not want to be separated from Castlegar and Trail, but that is exactly what the commission has done.”

In a recently released op-ed piece Dan Albas, Conservative MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla, also criticizes the commission’s report. According to Albas, the commission based the redistribution solely on numbers and did not consider geographic accessibility or equity of representation when redefining rural riding boundaries.

For constituents living in the Slocan Valley an MP’s office in Penticton (five hours away) is never easily accessible. Winter driving conditions on mountain passes will curtail MP visits to the West Kootenay area. A similar accessibility problem exists in the Kootenay-Columbia.

“I agree with Dan,” added Atamanenko. “What may work on paper does not translate to reality on the ground.” The commission has added significantly more mountainous area to the already challenging size of Kootenay-Columbia and equitable access to the MP will be impossible in this large territory, he said.

Atamanenko and other MPs have 30 days in which to register their objection and signify their intention to appear before the parliamentary procedures committee. The member for BC Southern Interior is slated to appear before the committee in early March.

“I will be pleading my case against the changes to the riding boundaries and encourage everyone who is concerned to provide me with a letter of support. Letters from constituents will add weight to our case.”

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Valley VOICE Free!

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“The independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys.”
Retired naval officer speaks on dangers of wireless to packed house

by Art Joyce

The Slocan Park Hall was jammed to standing room only on Sunday, February 3 with over 100 people eager to hear retired Canadian naval officer Jerry Flynn speak on the dangers of wireless. A former Canadian Armed Forces Captain, Flynn worked in signals intelligence and radio warfare and in National Defense headquarters at Ottawa in its Directorate of Electronic Warfare unit. Flynn said he came out of retirement because “the telecom industry everywhere is cesspooling the truth about the harmful effects of low power, pulsed energy signals being used for wireless communications.” Flynn has spoken in 10 BC communities so far.

Concern for his grandchildren drove him out of retirement. “I’m 77 years old and I have no business being up here in front of an audience. But then one day I got a call from my daughter asking if I knew anything about smart meters.”

Through a combination of his career experience and internet research, Flynn quickly realized that both military applications and the new generation of wireless smart meters use the same frequency spectrum. By 1971, the US Naval Research Institute knew of 2,800 illnesses related to microwave exposure or what was then known as “microwave sickness.” He described the popular 2.4 Gigahertz signal range as “one of the most lethal frequencies known to science.”

But from the start of his presentation, Flynn was careful to make the link between all forms of wireless devices – cell phones, Wi-Fi, cordless DECT phones, iPads, Bluethooth, GPS satellites, radio networks and baby monitors. The appliance industries are selling a new generation of home appliances, all of which communicate wirelessly. Combined with the two wireless transmitters in a “smart” meter, that will mean 17 transmitters in every home, assuming 15 appliances in an average household.

“This technology has been around for 30 years so they HAVEN’T had time to study the effects and they know the latency period for cancer is 10 years,” said Flynn. “The shame of it is that this stuff should be taught in medical school but isn’t. I’ve written to the OMA, I’ve written to the Cancer Society and I didn’t even get an answer. It’s disgraceful.”

He cited the “baffling” effect of increasing RF power in the form of microwave signals. “If it was 100 MHz it was 100. If it was 10 MHz it was 100 milliwatts.”

Scientists estimate that Earth’s level of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) is now 10-100 million times more than it was 100 years ago and that it has increased one million times in the last decade. “All wireless transmitting devices emit EMR but none more than these wireless smart meters in meshed grid networks, which, unlike personal devices, operate 24/7 and can’t be turned off.”

“Noise of these devices has proven safe. Health Canada does not require any of the industries to prove their devices are safe.” Flynn added that government has been dominated by industry in respecting introducing this technology. Flynn noted his counterpart Bernie Trower, who worked a microwave wave for British intelligence and is also now giving devices to the people. Trower leaked a 1976 document that lists all the known health effects from microwave exposure and concludes it must be kept secret to protect military and commercial interests.

Flynn supported all of his statements with references to source documents and studies as well as repeated statements of concern by physicians and scientists, including one signed by 10,000 German doctors. He explained how the telecommunications industry was able to place its own advocate, Dr. Michael Repacholi, at the head of the World Health Organization’s International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The result was an exposure standard that is inadequate to protect public health. Colombian physician Dr. Carlos Sosa has said, “The international epidemic of the microwave syndrome is getting to levels of genocide. As long as the cell phone industry owns the WHO, the genocide will proceed.”

Repacholi’s Canadian equivalent is Bernhard Lord, head of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA). The CWTA has provided major funding for the University of Ottawa’s R. Michael McLaughlin Centre, which advises Health Canada on exposure standards. Consequently Canada has the worst electromagnetic emissions in the world, allowing for thousands of times higher EMR than countries such as Russia, China, Italy, France, Australia, and most European countries. Upon one coming out of retirement, this is obscene – I’m being experimented on without my consent for my entire lifetime,” said Flynn.

Flynn’s other concern is national security. He’s written the Ministry of Defense and Prime Minister Harper telling them Canada has been put in a position of extreme vulnerability because there are so many electromagnetic weapons that will destroy wireless communications. Meanwhile nations such as China are building a fibre-optic based smart meter network.

The presentation was introduced by Cliff Pakoh of the West Kootenay Concerned Citizens and by local activist Dawn Fields. Both have registered as intervenors in the Fortis application to install a wireless “smart” meter network. MP Alan Atkinson was also present for Flynn’s talk.

Picture This! Share your Slocan Valley photos submitted

Many professional and amateur photographers call this valley home and the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission is seeking some great photos.

The SDCEC is updating its website, www.slocanvalley.com. People are invited to send up to 10 of their favourite photos of the Slocan Valley in return for a photo credit on the website – which could include a link to your professional website if you have one, or to a listing in the website directory.

We are looking for photos in the following categories: Markets, Scenery, Then and Now, Nature Activities and Events: current and historical. Please go to www.slocanvalley.com/submit photos to find out more about submitting your photos. Don’t delay, we are hoping to receive some fabulous photos by March 22, for the launch of our new and improved website.

The Kingfisher Restaurant is looking for a trained server to join their team.
West Kootenay EcoSociety challenges Jumbo municipality in court

submitted by West Kootenay EcoSociety

The West Kootenay EcoSociety filed a response to the BC Courthouse in Nelson on February 18 to challenge the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality. The application for judicial review argues that the appointment of municipal councilors without any electors violates the constitution and various provincial statutes.

“Our action today is in defense of democracy,” said EcoSociety Executive Director David Reid. “Every Canadian should shudder at the idea of a provincial minister appointing a mayor and council for a municipality with no residents. It’s an affront to our constitution and our democracy.”

The West Kootenay EcoSociety has been a long-standing member of the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild! and has been an active opponent of the proposed ski resort since 1994. EcoSociety is filing the application with the support and cooperation of the coalition, and with partial funding from West Coast Environmental Law.

Steve Ostrander was appointed to council and Phil Taylor was hired as the interim corporate officer, tasked with getting the municipality up and running by its incorporation date of February 19, 2013. The Province has earmarked $260,000 of taxpayer money to support the creation of the council and its operation.

The Ktunaxa Nation has submitted an application for a judicial review concerning their right to consultation as a holder of Aboriginal title. The Jumbo Glacier Resort plan calls for 6,300 beds including hotels and private residences. At build-out, the plan calls for more than 20 ski lifts, with over 2,500 visitors per day in the winter. The proposed land tenure includes approximately 6,500 hectares. The proposed resort would create an average of 943 car trips per day along the Jumbo Glacier Road, which bisects the Purcell Mountains and would create a significant barrier forizzly bears and other wildlife.

Dr. Michael Proctor has found that this core anchor sub-population is likely to maintain the long-term self-sustainability of the larger regional grizzly population as well as maintaining the international distribution extending directly south into the US.

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Community Calendar

Saturday, Feb 23
Kokanee Heritage Tea
Kokanee Lakeside Park Poker Run
Leaves from Lake Mill
Nakusp
9 - Noon

Monday, Feb 25
Kokanee Council
Council
Kokanee Council Meeting in Sandon or Lake Mill
Saturday, March 2
Kokanee Community Centre
Meeting in Sandon or Lake Mill
Wednesday, March 5
Kokanee Community Centre
Meeting in Sandon or Lake Mill
Saturday, March 23
Sicamous Fire Hall
Tournament
Sicamous Legion Hall
9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday, March 3
Nakusp Chamber Strolling Carnival
Nakusp
8 am - 5 pm

Tuesday, March 5
Helen Garden Gallery
Nakusp
8 am - 5 pm

Thursday, March 7
Arrows and Eagles
Nakusp
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 9
Nakusp Rotary Club
Meetings at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave
Nakusp Rotary Club
Meetings at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave

Bridging the Divide: special author reading celebrates International Women's Day

submitted by West Kootenay EcoSociety

The day Marcia Bramandy was about to take her inter-provincial exam to become the first woman carpenter in British Columbia, she found a twisted frame square on her classroom desk with an unprintable word scrawled across it. Now, more than 30 years later, Dr. Marcia Bramandy has developed and delivered countless courses and seminars in workshops and institutions on the subject of women in trades.

The author of Men & Women and Tools: Bridging the Divide (Fenwood Publishing, 2012) presents her book and engages a jumpstart to International Women’s Day on Monday, March 5 at 7:30 pm at the Nelson Public Library, co-sponsored by the Nelson & District Women’s Centre. Admission is by donation.

Bramandy says she never intended to write a book, but found herself constantly being asked about her experiences on the job. “Since the first time I picked up a hammer as the volunteer co-ordinator at the Vatican Whole Community Centre, I have loved construction work,” says Bramandy in her prologue. That love is clear: Bramandy was the first woman in the construction sector of the BC Carpenters’ Union, building hospitals and apartments and hotels from hospitals, housing and shopping malls to cool silos 278 tall – and she continues in the trade today.

Bramandy will be reading from her book Men & Women and Tools: Bridging the Divide, Tuesday March 5 at the Nelson Public Library. A networking mixer will be held following the reading from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the library.”
Geotechnical surveys necessary

Dear Sloan Valley Residents: After reading the CBT climate change report, I urge every home dweller to ask the RDCK for a geotechnical report for the whole extent of the Sloan Valley. Blue clay is a sticky foundation prone to sliding. The RDCK was going to do a geotechnical study but it was cancelled. The time is right for the study now before someone dies. Seriously?

Susan Eyez Tehk

Unselected CBT Board chair AND Jumbo mayor

According to CBT Code of Conduct 4.3, the present conflict of interest exists when a reasonably well-informed person could perceive that a Director’s ability to perform a duty was or will be affected by his or her Private Contact.

According to section 9.4 “Directors should attempt to avoid putting themselves in positions where their duties to other organizations are likely to conflict with their duties to CBT” and “In circumstances where conflicts cannot be resolved, the Director may have no other alternative but to resign from one or both positions.”

In a telephone conversation with Greg Deck January 30, 2013, I asked Greg, “Yes or no: Do you feel that 50% or more of the Sloan residents wouldn’t agree with your dual appointments?” Greg’s response was “I am not on that here.”

Um... Perhaps you are not on trial Greg, but your dual appointment is.

How do the people of the Sloan get Greg Deck to resign his CBT Board chair position?

The public has two options to address a concern around a breach in the Code of Conduct:
1. Convey their concerns to the CBT Board;
2. Convey their concerns to the Minister responsible for CBT.

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited.

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous.

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

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

Jerry Flynn

Impressed with Sloan Valley

It was both a pleasure and a privilege for my wife and me to visit your lovely community. God bless you all and please don’t waiver in your resolve. Having made presentations in approximately 10 other communities in BC, I was absolutely thrilled and most impressed that your small community was able to fill the Sloan Park Hall such that they literally ran out of chairs. I couldn’t help thinking that, were the people of Vancouver able to turn out an equal percentage of their population, they would produce an audience somewhere well in excess of 60,000 people easily.

Not only that, the community solidarity and determination I witnessed at the presentation was so inspiring that it, in my mind, any politicians foolish enough not to listen to these people will have their future in peril, just as this rampant, and irresponsible use of dangerous wireless technology is putting the health and lives of not just Sloan Valley citizens but all citizens in peril. By the end of the evening, I was left with feelings of satisfaction, gratification and admiration all rolled into one.

Yours is a wonderful community and I can only hope that your resolve and determination to keep this community pristine and unpolluted would extend out to the world. Good luck with FortisBC.

Jerry Flynn
Kelowna

Abolish the Indian Act

I write in response to Mr. Bill Wells’ letter to Stephen Harper, in which he contends that the prime minister wishes to rid Canada of aboriginals. It was the Harper government that formally apologized for the mistreatment of aboriginal children in residential schools.

Mr. Wells comments that Indian Act restrictions and the absence of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for First Nations people are a “dirty word” in this time of hyperacceptability and political correctness. Assimilation need not be the death knell of a culture and in Canada this is not the case. It is preferable to being tethered to a remote reservation, living in Third World conditions. At least there is hope for a better life through assimilation.

In fact, there is a growing trend among assimilated aboriginals to connect, or even re-connect, with their culture and spirituality. National cultural centres, museums and heritage sites are operating and flourishing across Canada. None of this would be taking place had the Conservative government been the genocidal regime that Mr. Wells claims it is.

What should be gotten rid of is the Indian Act, which perpetuates the plight of many aboriginals. While it is very easy to lay the blame at the doorstep of the Government of Canada for neglect and marginalization of aboriginals, with its “out, out of mind” approach, equal appalling is the corruption and mismanagement on many reservations by the chiefs. With their five figure annual salaries and government funding (taxpayer dollars, I might add) on top of that, it is in the interest of the chiefs that the Indian Act remain in place because it allows them to squander all that money on themselves and their cronies, while everyone else languishes in squaw and misery. Residents of those reserves are afraid to speak out for fear of arrest, as the local police are loyal to the chiefs.

Let me be clear — I am not painting all chiefs with the same brush. There are successful, well-managed reservations. It is almost always the honest hands we hear about.

On a final note, the Indian Act was the inspiration for apartheid in South Africa.

Brendan Benda
Kaslo

Jerry Flynn

The Valley Voice

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The Valley Voice February 20, 2013

Kaslo Hotel

Kaslo Hotel is closed for the winter, but will reopen on May 1, 2013, call then! 430 Front Street, Kaslo, BC 250-355-7714

The Valley Voice is independently owned by community members of the Valley Voice and is not under the political control of the editor.

In defense of the Liberals INKING 20 YEARS DEALS: THAT FORCE BC HYDRO TO BUY POWER IT DOESN’T NEED AT MORE THAN TWICE THE MARKET VALUE
Lightning Injury Prevention Policy

Introduction

In light of the recent changes to make our schools safer, I believe that the dangers of lightning strikes have been overlooked.

According to the National Weather Service, there have been 28 lightning fatalities in Colorado in 2020, with 5 of those being children 16 or under. In the United States, there are about 25 million lightning flashes every year. Each of those 25 million flashes is a potential killer. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. In addition, lightning injuries to many more people than it kills and leaves some victims with life-long health problems. Understanding the dangers of lightning is important so that you can get to a safe place when thunderstorms threaten. If you hear thunder— even a distant rumble or a clacking sound—you are in danger of becoming a lightning victim.

I would like to suggest a few modifications to our district’s Lightning Injury Prevention Policy (LESS LPP).

Recommendations:

1. A list of the day at 8:30 am, as staff, students, and parents arrive at school, there will be two staff members on supervision and on the lookout for suspicious dark clouds.

2. When unlocking any doors, staff should step outside and make a 360-degree check of the horizon to ensure there are no suspicious clouds in the sky.

3. If there is a rain or sunshine, teachers should be on alert to see if the sky looks dark and has no clouds with any, they will take a quick look at the sky, but there is no expectation that the teachers should remain in their classrooms during this time.

4. The school office should have a Skylight installed so that office staff can see the clouds coming in.

5. This may result in some interior office design changes.

6. Lightning rods need to be from the playground grant or the district maintenance fund and installed on each corner of the school grounds.

7. Teachers, staff, and supervisors should be trained in the identification of potentially dangerous clouds. They should also be able to use the 100-meter rule, carrying 75 hour or 45 kg standard weight for a child 1:2:3 when you can.

Remember: When Thunder Roars, Go Inside.

A Dangerous Cloud Record Book should be kept in the office and entries should include date, time, location, duration, description and date of suspicious weather activity, and entries should be signed by the witnesses.

If parents or guardians spot a concerning cloud or see lightning in the area, they can call the school at the school, they must report it to the office and enter it in the Dangerous Cloud Record Book.

Conclusion

We must take every precaution when it comes to safety, and no measure should be overlooked. By implementing this LESS LPP, we will set an example for the community and district leaders. The best way to prepare for the potential of lightning is to avoid the threat. We simply don’t want to be caught outside in a storm. Coming soon: Loose Dog Safety Policy, Poisonous Plant Safety Policy, Thorough Student Health Policy, Don’t Get Tasered Safety Policy, Stay in Bad Safety Policy.

Rayn Bost
New Denver

Microwave radiation may affect birds and bees

In the latest Valley Voice’s February 6 edition, the Christmas Bird Count article specifically reported that “A cell phone call to a local bird photographer brought both ripping up the highway to capture some beautiful pictures.”

I find this highly ironic, given that it is well known that birds navigate by magnetic fields and that these fields are disrupted by wireless communications, often causing them to go off course. There have been studies done in Europe and India which suggest that the current Colony Collapse Disorder amongst bees worldwide is not caused by pesticides but by microwave radiation. This makes sense given that while not every country uses the same pesticides, every country uses cell phones, all operating on the same frequencies. When a problem is global, you have to look for the common denominator.

According to European scientist Ulrich Winkler in his report, “Bees, Birds and Mankind: Destroying Nature’s Way to Protect ourselves from Lightning,” that depends on the natural electromagnetic, magnetic and electromagnetic fields for their orientation and navigation through earth’s atmosphere can be caused by the church stronger and constantly changing artificial fields created by technology and fail to navigate back to their home environments. Most people would probably dismiss this column, but it affects among others one of the most important insects species: the honeybee. Because the bee hives are the indispensable prerequisite for fructifications, without the bees, fruit, vegetables and agricultural crops will fail short. “Trees were wiped out entirely, in as little as three years these crops would fail completely,” with serious consequences for the food supply.

An experiment conducted in India’s southern state of Kerala found that a sudden fall in the bee population was caused by towers installed across the state by cellphone companies to increase their network,” notes an AFP press report. “The electromagnetic waves emitted by the towers crippled the ‘navigational skills’ of the worker bees that go out to collect nectar from flowers and return to bee colonies, and Dr. Swaminathan Prabhu, who conducted the study, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. He found that when a cell phone was kept near a beehive, the worker bees were unable to return, leaving the hives with only the queens and eggs and resulting in the collapse of the colonies within a day.”

As Jfray Flynn pointed out in his presentation at Stacion Park Hill February 3, scientists are now saying that with man-made background radiation, they have been finding natural levels within which we are conducting a massive medical experiment without consent of all life forms.

A land line call to a local birders couldn’t have accomplished the same thing? It always shocks me how quickly people assume that a new technology is suddenly indispensable when we’ve lived without it for thousands of years. Not much taking pretty pictures of our birds of the technology we are using is also contributing to their demise.

Art Joyce
New Denver

The un-science of Slocan Lake

Over the past year, the Slocan Lake Stewardship has printed many little “factsoids” in the Valley Voice for the interests of readers. Most of these are derived from scientific data or lake studies. On February 6, the factoid said that the lake froze in 1979 due to the very cold weather and that mainly because of the severe cold snap, I remember a week of 20° nights in November.

Oh, that’s unbelievable and long ago, but it caught my attention and reminded me how again I feel that the SLSS has spent the last five odd years assimilating studies and data from a variety of sources and great cost — yet I feel there has been a failure to confer at the local level with traditional lake users.

I attended the informal first meeting of the SLSS and was a member representing the New Denver Marina to an extent and recreational boaters, I hope. Keep a log book of my outings on Slocan Lake in my kayak, rowboat and power boats and was on the lake more than 150 times in 2012. I also measure lake temperature and turbidity for the SLSS and record it in the log book.

Anyhow, my chief concern is that many statements and concerns presented by the SLSS may be based too much on hard to decipher studies when in fact there is a large number of people who are on the water much of the year and who may offer useful observations. The hand wringing nature of SLSS meet certainly, generally for about four hours and truly mean well, but I think could come to decisions faster with more use of local input.

The SLSS has methodically conducted creef surveys and dripped and bagged hundreds of samples of lake water for analysis. Many hundreds of hours have been spent on meetings, computer time and research of all sorts. But in spite of these efforts, I find myself often at odds with the society for conservation of Slocan Lake, woods, greens and development.

Unfortunately, it appears to me that the SLSS has generated an air of simplicity and uncertainty among many folks who live here and enjoy our lake, and increasingly among those people who wish to visit our valley as vacationers. Slocan Lake is a distinctive lake but it is not unique, not magical and not endangered. The lake no longer has the rail bridge, the railroad and many more log booms, log dump or sawmills, and boating activity remains evident but not excessive.

All the people living on the lake — any lake — should be mindful and respectful of its values and visitors should feel welcome to enjoy sensibly and reasonable days on the water. The Slocan Lake stewards are a serious and dedicated group of folks and I plan to keep offering some balance and insight to their deliberations.

Peter Rodnich
New Denver

Bulk food buying — let’s give it a try

A letter from the owners of Rutaba Ga Foods in New Denver entitled “Bulk food buying — not the right choice for a healthy community” appeared in the February 6th Valley Voice.

As a frequent patron of Rutaba Ga Foods in New Denver, I have watched Susan and Mark create an excellent new natural foods store with an amazing varied stock. Consequently, I was shocked, as were many others, when they announced closure of their store last fall because a buyer couldn’t be found. It appeared we would no longer have a local source of organic, GMO-free foods. What to do? Ad hoc discussions occurred about forming a buyers group. Other stores were asked to consider stocking new items. Then, surprisingly, Rutabaga has decided to stay open over the winter after all — for how long after that? Such uncertainty may have been a factor in the recent interest in local “food security.”

I know several members of the Health Community Society, and have followed with interest their innovative sustainability initiatives over the past few years. Their recent bulk food buying survey seemed like a sensible and prudent undertaking to me, so I filled one out. It would be interesting to compare the conclusory portion put forward in the letter by Susan and Mark which strongly objected to this survey and its concept of bulk food purchasing for the area with a report from the Tidal Enterprises Group.

To be specific, here are some reasons why, at least in my case, participation in a local bulk buying group would not reduce my frequent patronage of Rutabaga’s. There are several items I need which Rutabaga’s either does not or cannot stock. Other in-store items may either be unavailable to my needs or are available only in small pre-packaged quantities. I always inquire at Rutabaga’s first before going elsewhere. When an alternative food source becomes necessary, it would be very helpful to be able to buy a part bag or case of a product through a bulk buying group. Such a group could allow two or more individuals and/or families to go in on large quantities.

As a former member of Fed Up! Co-op, I know how much work is involved in member-run bulk food buying, what with ordering, transportation and distribution. Bulk buying likely would end up being used for a limited selection of staples, especially for winter use. My guess is that retail outlets would still retain ample business from small-scale day-to-day purchasing and from the sale of dairy, produce, and personal care products.

It would be helpful, however, if the Healthy Community Society could provide clarification about bulk food buying plans as they evolve, and show willingness to make adjustments, so the retail sector could feel less fearful about having business compromised. Based on years of personal experience with natural foods, I believe that retail stores and a bulk food buying group can not only co-exist, but can be mutually beneficial and collectively add to local food security.

Stephen Lones
New Denver

KNOW YOUR JUMBO WILD! Take it to the People Tour

Saturday, March 2
Kaslo, Langham Cultural Centre
Doors open 6:30 pm Show 7 pm

By donation

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MOVIES, Q&A, GREAT JUMBO STUFF FOR SALE

Info? Check posters

This is the only Nor Art presentation

THE WEST Kootenay COALITION FOR JUMBO WILD
Pipeline proposal compromises our political and ecological sanity

Two years ago I registered to speak at the Enbridge Gateway pipeline inquiry regarding communist China’s desire for Canada’s resources.

This year, on the morning of January 28, a busload of Kootenay folk arrived in Kelowna to the prayer song and dance of 40 or so Okanagan/Shuswap Indians with twice that many rallying outside the convention centre.

The inquisitors restricted public access to the public hearings (for good reason; they are frightened. They know they are provoking serious unrest with western Canada’s non-treaty natives. These Indians have the legal right to protect creation from wanton industrial destruction. They also have growing support from many Canadians)

Canada’s Conservative government appears caught off guard by the united native resistance to Enbridge’s proposal. It is acting like it has no choice but to proceed with the project. After two years, I finally get to be one of the panel of three Canadians to read my ten-minute opinion about a pipeline from Alberta to China. They cut off my microphone because my words inspired people to peaceful resolve against the global cabal of fools that are confused by a pack of lieutenants.

Alberta’s dirty tar boom may have peaked. The tar must be 20 to 40% discounted against benchmark Texas sweet crude. Current and near futures for natural gas and heavy tar oil stuck in the middle of Canada, behind 60 or so Inuk tribes ready to go to the legal wall, combined with a native youth movement that always looks for sober second thought when Canadians consider a pipeline proposal that compromises our political/ecological sanity.

Tina Prior Nelson

Burial incident

I recently had the misfortune of trying to get a grave prepared for a loved one in the Slocan Cemetery. My brother-in-law, not from this area, passed on Wednesday, January 30 and had a prepaid plot. Since the Slocan Village Office is closed Fridays, I had to wait until the following Monday to request that the grave be dug by Wednesday.

The Village Foreman informed me that there cannot be winter burial in Slocan because the ground is frozen. I replied that I had just ploughed our driveway and was bringing up fresh dirt and snow now is one of the best amendments, I could not see the ground being frozen under the plot site. We are not telling Nunavut here. Then he said that “it’s not allowed... it’s frozen... if the ground is frozen, there shouldn’t be any mud, and if there is mud then the ground is not frozen.”

He suggested that the funeral parlor could dig it as he had done in 1973 and get the burial off as they often do. Do they really? I was not aware of that. I reminded him that this was a full grave burial, not a partial one as my brother-in-law’s wish was NOT to be cremated. How long can you hold a body before it starts decaying? The Foreman finally told me to call the funeral parlor in Creston and see if they had any suggestions. I was horrified. I inquired about the funeral home and was told that everything was going to be fine.

In the meantime, the widow and her sons became aware of what was happening and were understandably upset. They were prepared to dig the grave for their father by hand if necessary. Did the family need this extra grief when they were already in mourning? I found this not only unbelievable but unacceptable.

So I was warning people who may want to have their final resting place in the Slocan Cemetery to not die in the winter as apparently the ground is frozen and it cannot be done. Or, if the Village of Slocan cannot accommodate winter burials then perhaps they should purchase a larger freezer in which to store the corpses until winter warms.

Alina Winie Slocan

Will Atamanenko fix the Last Post Fund?

Politics of all stripes claim to support our veterans, yet our country is quietly letting them down as they pass away after a lifetime of service.

The federal government’s Last Post Fund is supposed to ensure that no veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial because of their financial hardship and uses outdated eligibility criteria, depriving veterans and shortchanging their families when their loved ones have passed away.

The fund will pay up to only $3600 to cover veterans’ funeral costs, which does not come close to covering the actual cost of a proper funeral. All but a few veteran who have served since the Korean War are excluded from the program. Families who do apply have faced an unjustified rejection rate of over 60%. Over 20,000 veterans have been excluded over the past six years. Families of veterans must pay the full cost themselves unless they are nearly destitute.

The Veterans Affairs department has the gall to claim this is “one of the most successful programs.”

No amount of political spin can change the reality that far too many of our veterans are not getting the respect they earned and deserve when they pass away. The Veterans’ Ombudsmen, Royal Canadian Legion and department officials recommended that access to the program be expanded and funding be increased so it can meet the needs of veterans and their families. After years of frustration, the Legions has started a letter-writing campaign to MPs.

We agree and introduced motion M-422 in Parliament to fix the Last Post Fund. We write our colleagues and your representative, Member of Parliament Alex Atamanenko to fix the fund and vote in favour of M-422 later this week.

When MPs say we support our veterans, we should mean it. It is long past time we give our veterans the respect they deserve.

Joyce Foote, MP
Sloan

The smart meter mess

About 20% of men (less for women I guess because it is necessary for us to be able to colour differentiate the plants when we were becoming humans all those millennia ago?) are colour blind. If you didn’t know that fact, you might argue for quite a while with someone who was colour blind trying to convince them that “no, it’s green, not blue.” Presumably the person who is colour blind, knows it, and doesn’t get their nose all out of joint when they see their blue sweater the wrong colour to the drawer instead of the green one like you asked. And, because they’re aware of this ‘limitation’ they can be very clever. Oh, and of course they see the world in greys.

But what is wrong is, instead of giving you your lights and electricity, they double your rates all of a sudden, sell your radio station preferences to some company in India and on top of that the ill-health in a certain part of your body coincidentally becomes a disease, or the stress you feel at work when you deal with lots of “buzz” there, you’d settle down because now you have 24/7 Wi-Fi at home too, and you turn dysfunctional. That’s the sort of thing that is happening since the installers told us, we need smart meters all around the world today.

It’s something to get concerned about for us and our area. Fortis’ service area, from Kelowna to Trail, and from Princeton to Creston, is an area worth protecting. Fortis is proud of its electrical services, and its infrastructure is well maintained, in good shape. The analogue meters we have now (the digital Iron meters that are on many homes just recently are not smart meters) usually last around 50 years. Smart meters last 10-20 tops. Why do we have as a society such a weakness for what is new and unproven?

Wendy MacKenzie

Advertise your community event in the Valley Voice and get a FREE listing in the Men With Brooms Community Calendar
Slocan council, February 12: Mayor Perrierre to receive Queen’s Medal

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

With Mayor Perrierre away, Acting Mayor Elliott chaired the meeting. CAO Richardson, still recovering from surgery, attended the meeting by teleconference.

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has selected Mayor Mulcahy and Mr. Paterson as "leaders of tomorrow." Perrierre joins Bernie Czudzinski, who was previously chosen for the award. They will receive their awards on February 27 at the Slocan Legion Hall. The public is invited to the ceremony.

- An update on the Spring Creek Forest Products situation was included in notes from the Slocan Valley Local Government Forum held January 24. The notes were distributed at the council meeting but not discussed. The mill update was as follows: "met with Ralph Tomin - timber licenses to be sold to interior - not at Ministry level yet. Stated - not to have mill again on that site. Today, those areas are owned by the Village. Stating to mobilize forest owners may have AKBLG resolution as lack of process - no survey, consultation. Mill will be asking for reassessment. Village asking BC Assessment what is process. Spring Creek owns mill site (parent co. BCRCO) and those are reviews of owners."

- Councillor McGreal reported on year-end statistics for the library. It was the "best year ever," she said. Patron visits were up 33%. Twice as many books were returned that were borrowed; 6,000 items were donated. 28 volunteers had worked a total of 3,000 hours; 80 people attended the readings, and the children's reading program had attracted 140 participants.

- During public participation, the library was the focus of five people's remarks. All five are library volunteers and two are library committee members. Neither McGreal nor Patterson, the two councillors on the library committee, responded to any of the questions asked by the volunteers. Diane Smith spoke first. She said the library was "definitely running out of space" and that it needed "more stacks" (bookshelves) and a "place to put them." Council responded that the lots east of the library were still being held for a possible project to build seniors' and assisted living units. The area directly behind the library is a septic field.

Further questions, though unrecruited, indicated there had been problems in administering the library. The library committee had been in mediation during November; the mediation is confidential. Michelle Morelli asked about "the ramifications" when a Village councilor "breaches the duty to respect confidentiality" and said she would meet with the CAO to discuss the matter.

Lid Neuman, another council member, asked council to define "library committee" and to "explain its relationship to the Village." She asked whether it was a standing committee of council, a special interest group, or whether it had some other kind of relationship. She expressed concern that the volunteers on the library committee had not been appointed by council resolution, and that she had been told "we don't count because we were not appointed." Teresa Hackett asked to explain what has been a lengthy process. The two councillors did express their dissatisfaction, though, while Councillor McGreal spoke about the benefits of catalogue control. Acting Mayor Elliott explained the others, saying "bylaws can be reviewed and amended" and, later, "this isn't set in stone." Lunn added: and that's the essence of how it made it through the first and second readings."

- The Solid Waste and Wildlife Attractor Bylaw was adopted without discussion.

- The Public Works written report stated that staff has started building timber frames for the new Village directional signs and has finished building the main structure for the new woodshed at the RV park. The gander was repaired in time to escape the ice from the streets. The Emergency Preparedness Committee met. Staff extended a wall and installed a security gate to the airport. Two and fellow worker Eric travelled to Armstrong and picked up the archives from Ian.

Career Opportunity in the Slocan Valley
WE GRAMA COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY is seeking applications for an Executive Director/Community School Coordinator.

Qualifications:
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to assist people and families in distress.
- Demonstrated ability to write grants to funders.
- Knowledge of the community's needs.
- Understanding and comfort with bookkeeping and financial records.
- Computer skills including ease with use of Microsoft Office and Simply Account.
- A degree level of equivalent work experience is preferred.
- Leadership experience and a willingness to engage the public.
- Successful applicants will report directly to a Board of Directors and be responsible for all aspects of the daily operations of WEGCSS including supervision of staff and contract workers, hiring, recruitment of volunteers, grant writing, project development, budgeting, reporting, and fundraising.

Closing date for applications is Thursday FEBRUARY 28, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

Please send your cover letter & resume to:
Attn: Hiring Committee
WE GRAMA Community Service Society
Box # 10
Slocan BC V0G 2C0
Fax: 300-355-2389
Email: coordinator@wegcss.org
Please call: 300-355-2484 for details
Start Date: April 2, 2013

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

PUBLIC MEETING
RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER, VILLAGE OF SILVERTON AND ELECTORAL AREA A ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE 2013 BUDGET
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013 AT 1:00 PM
AT THE NEW DENVER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
115 SLOCAN AVE, NEW DENVER, BC
Kaslo council, February 12: Gravel pit operations at airport being planned

by Jan McMurray

• Council received a draft Kaslo Airport Gravel Pit Assessment report from Sitkans Consulting. The report concludes that there is a significant volume of sand and gravel to the east of the current gravel pit and north of the airstrip. Sitkans will be invited to submit the final report to the municipality and Public Works will be directed to prepare a plan outlining future areas for gravel mining operations at the airport.

• Stan Baker, Councillor for a gravel pit lease was tabbed to the next Development Services Committee meeting.

• The Village will re-apply for funding for the City Hall under the Parks Canada National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program. The deadline is March 8. A letter from John Aldag, program coordinator, has some good news for Kaslo — funding in this round will be provided only to projects where there is a threat to the integrity of the historic site and the interest of present preference will be given to applicants who have not received funding from the program in the last four years.

• The application is for a project to stabilize the rock and brick foundation, and to halt the deterioration of wood on the building’s exterior and the building’s core.

• At a Development Services City Hall Committee meeting held January 17, the committee decided to ask Don Scarlett for an electrical quote for the main floor of the building. Committee members agreed that the priority is to finish the main floor and move the offices back to the building. The committee will also ask Thomas Lob for a quote to update the building plans with the deletion of the elevator and the addition of a wheelchair access ramp on the B Avenue side door entrance.

The Kaslo & District Hospital Society has received a $4,100 CBT grant to design and construct portable exhibit booths for the City Hall courtroom space. The committee determined that the courtroom capacity will be 50 people, and that KLHS and other groups could co-use the space.

KASLO & DISTRICT

KASLO & DISTRICT

New fire hall for Kaslo and area discussed at public meeting

by Jan McMurray

A public meeting about the proposal for a new fire hall in Kaslo was held at the Legion February 13. The meeting had been presented the results of the Fairbank Architects report, including the architect’s rendering of the hall and the floor plans.

The hall is 7,500 square feet, has six bays for vehicles, a large training area, washrooms, and office space for the fire department and for Search and Rescue. The second floor is designed so an office could be added for the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) if required in future.

Councillor Bray said that there was a consensus in the new Kaslo Emergency Services Building because all emergency services are together in Kaslo. The fire department, Search and Rescue and Ambulance are housed in the same building. The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is interested, and although BCAS is happy with its current space at the health centre, that could change. If the Coast Guard and BCAS moved into the new building, the rental income would mean that the taxes would be kept lower.

The cost estimate for Kaslo’s new fire hall is now $1.02 million, down from the $1.25 million presented at the previous meeting in April last year. This change in cost is to be the PSO. The total cost is to be $1.02 million. The current cost, of course, nothing, everything will stay the same. That’s not true. We risk losing the fire department if we don’t build the hall. He said he called Folknor and found out that insurance costs could exceed $4,800 per year on a $300,000 home, but if there is no fire protection, that would jump to $2,325 per year. To me, if I’m not a better man, I will not be able to take that risk,” said Mr. Bray.

One resident said he felt the hall was too big and commented that the Balfour fire hall was much smaller and seemed adequate. Said Mr. Bray that Balfour has approached him about a $75,000 addition so they can house more equipment. Balfour’s hall is about 5,000 square feet with two bays. Swain also reported that the Oyeshena fire hall needs a $400,000 addition.

When these halls were built, they were putting pumps to pay pounds later. This will save us money and tomorrow’s needs,” said Mr. Bray.

Swain explained that in order to be a certified fire department, a minimum amount of equipment is required, regardless of the number of people in the fire protection area. Kaslo has the minimum amount of equipment. The minimum amount of equipment includes two fire engines, a tender, a pump, and a first response vehicle. Mr. Swain said that in order to respond to structural fires and interface fires, and can provide road rescue and first aid, Fire and Emergency BC, which is needed, said Swain, and the proposed new fire hall can accommodate it with one bay left over for the ambulance. It’s building resident showed a photo of a new metal building recently constructed for a Nelson helicopter business at a cost of $750,000. Swain said that he had been speaking to the building contractor and his building is being used for a backup building. There are no washrooms and the firefighters have to use the washrooms at the gas station. The firefighters deal with the chemicals in the building, and there is no running water to shower so they take those chemicals home to where their families are. I have wanted these changes ever since I became a councilor, and the first step is the building. The next step is the ambulance bay. I am looking for that. I am looking for the ambulance bay, and then I am looking for a first aid bay so we don’t have to go out to the ambulance bay and get everything ready before we go to the ambulance bay. I am looking for the ambulance bay in Kaslo. Yes, it will cost us, but it is the future. No more confusion.”
Summit Lake hosts Nancy Greene Zone Race

The Nancy Greene Summit Lake race teams had home course advantage this last Sunday as hosts of the NG zone race.

The morning started with icy conditions and proved tough for racers in the first slalom run. Conditions softened slightly in time for the second run down the giant slalom course. Emelia Hoffman, member of the Red Mountain race team, said the “slalom was hard to race” making the second GS course her favourite.

When the results were in, the NSGL racers had strong finishes with some of the best teams finishing yet this season. In the U12 boys and girls division, Garrett Waterfield received silver on the slalom course while Kiley Waterfield finished with silver on the slalom course and bronze on the GS course in the individual U12 girls division.

Congratulations to all the racers and a huge thank you to all those who worked hard to put on such a great race day! Next zone race will be March 3 in Nelson at Whitewater Ski Resort.

Coming up this Sunday, February 24, be sure to come out to the Summit Lake Ski Hill club races. Cost is $5 to pre-register up to February 23 at 6 pm. To register on the morning of the event, the cost is $10. Race start is scheduled for 10 am. There will be categories for all ages, as well as novice for children and adults. Pre-register by email to Trish at scamper@telus.net or 265-4355.

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

OF AN ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR A PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES

Notice is hereby given that under section 86 [Alternative Approval Process] of the Community Charter and section 20 of the Local Government Act, the Council of the Village of Nakusp intends to petition the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development requesting an extension of the area of the municipality to include the following described lands:

P.O.B.: 017-884-409
District Lot 16930

The Village of Nakusp owns the property adjacent the Hot Springs property. It is in the interest to add the parcel to the municipal boundary to facilitate development at the Hot Springs.

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

And Further Notice That the municipality may proceed with the boundary extension request unless at least ten percent of municipal electors indicate that a referendum must be held by submitting a signed Elector Response Form to the Village of Nakusp office not later than 4:30 PM on April 5, 2013. Elector Response Forms must be in the form established by the Village of Nakusp, and only those persons who qualify as electors of the municipality are entitled to sign Elector Response Forms.

Resident Elector—You are entitled to submit an Elector Response Form as a resident elector if you are age 18 or older on the day of submission, are a Canadian citizen, have lived in BC for at least six months, and have been a resident of the Village of Nakusp for the past 30 days or more.

Non-Resident Elector—You are entitled to submit an Elector Response Form as a non-resident property elector if you are age 18 or older on the day of submission, are a Canadian citizen, have lived in BC for at least six months, have owned and held registered title to a property in the Village of Nakusp for the past 30 days or more, and do not qualify as a resident elector. Note: Only one non-resident property elector may submit an Elector Response Form per property, regardless of how many owners there may be.

If less than ten percent (119) of municipal electors submit an Elector Response Form, the boundary extension request will be deemed to have the approval of the electors and the Village of Nakusp may proceed to Cabinet for approval. For the purpose of conducting the alternative approval opportunity, the number of electors is calculated as 1187.

Elector Response Forms are available at the Village Office, 91 1st Street NW, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0. Open Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, please contact Linda Tynan, Chief Administrative Officer at 260-365-3689.

And That this is the first of two publication of this notice in a newspaper.
The meaning of ‘carbon neutral’ spelled out at Kaslo council

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Kaslo is a participant in the Carbon Neutral Kootenays (CNK) project and has signed on to the Climate Action Charter, which commits the Village to being carbon neutral in its corporate operations by 2012. Trish Dehnel, Kootenay Boundary Liaison for Carbon Neutral Kootenays, made the presentation at the February 12 Kaslo council meeting. She outlined the three phases of the CNK project.

First, in 2010, the CNK project team assisted the participating local governments to measure their corporate carbon emissions. Second, the team helped the local governments to identify ways to cut down on their carbon emissions. Third, the project team has researched the issue of carbon offsets, which the local governments must purchase by March 8, 2013 to make up for their remaining emissions and be carbon neutral.

It was determined in 2010 that the Village of Kaslo, in its corporate operations, uses 440 gigajoules of energy, emits 713 tonnes of greenhouse gases and spends $96,800 on energy. Based on this, the estimated cost of offsets for the Village is $1,900 and this will be covered by the provincial CARIP (Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program) grant. At this point, the Charter signatories receive the CARIP grant.

The CNK project team could be spent on offsets, reported Dehnel. She said the CNK team had negotiated a price of about $17/tmCO2 for the Darkwoods hydro project, which has the public sector (provincial government, schools, hospitals, etc.) paying $3.25/tm through PowerSmart.

Dehnel said the CNK project team will be investigating local projects other than darkwoods to determine the purchase of offsets in future.

Barge sinks in Slocan Lake at Rosebery Log dump

by Jan McMurray

A barge sank in Slocan Lake at the Rosebery log dump at the end of January. The barge belongs to KAT Underwater Logging, which was doing underwater log salvaging work for Springer Creek Forest Products. Ralph Tomlin, general manager of Springer Creek, confirmed that the barge had sunk and said there was concern about fuel on board.

Jillian Glover of Transport Canada in Vancouver reported that Transport Canada had not been contacted regarding the vessel.

“The owner of the vessel is interested in recovering the sinking of its vessel to Transport Canada if it is an obstruction to navigation,” she explained. She said the Navigation Protection Act allows Transport Canada to order an owner to remove an anchored or sunk vessel that is obstructing navigation, but the agency has no legal grounds to take action against a vessel that is solely on aesthetics. She said next steps would be

New Denver council, February 12: Grant application for Nikki Centre garden

by Karine Campbell

Council approved a suggestion from Nikki Centre manager Monolocko to apply for the National Historic Site cost-sharing program for funding to help restore and maintain the centre’s grounds and garden. The garden needs pruning and replacement of dying plants; the dry river bed needs gravel and the sidewalks have sections that are damaged and lifting. It was authorized to attend a grant writing workshop in Nakusp on February 27.

The Ministry of Highways and the Silverton-New Denver Trail group have discussed the possibility of using the road shoulders for areas where the lakeshore is not available for a trail. All three applicants sit on the CBT (Instruments Program Selection Committee) were accepted. They are former councillor Bonnie Greenaway, former mayor John Everett, and Darin Tremaine.

The three-year tenure for the campground is up, and the Village has advertised the position. The boat washing station is “not in an optimal position” according to Mayor Ann Bunka. The location interfaces with the Kohan Garden; boat owners find it difficult to get in and out, and users are blocking the boat ramp. The Garvin committee will assist to look at moving the station to a better location.

Mike Koolen of the North Kootenay Trails Society attended in a delegation to request a letter of support for a grant application to Mountaineer Equipment Co. The society is seeking $5,000 towards research, design, production and installation of historical and directional signs on frequently used trails on Idaho. In the future, the society hopes to letter the society can use for this and any other grant applications it makes.

Eddy Sufferth received permission to use Crescent Park and the campground to set up food and drink tables for the participants. The 100 km bike event will start from the campground, as well as the Idaho Peak mountain trail run.

Councilor David Hadley reported on topics raised by the nine residents who attended the recent Conversation Café, including water usage, the local economy, and housing options.

He also reported that Recreation Commission #6 has radically changed the grant application forms to ensure that everything is ‘up front’ council and has changed requirements around insurance.

Council received a staff report recommending replacing the lease agreements with non-profit groups operating Village-owned facilities. By switching to rental agreements, “undesirable taxation implications” would be avoided. The report also covered establishing standards and responsibilities for each property, increasing the amount of liability coverage, developing a reporting checklist, and requiring tenants to provide Hydro bills for the Village’s carbon neutral reporting to the province. Staff were directed to implement their recommendations.

Councillor von Krogh reported on the January 23 meeting of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board of directors.

Marguerite Rottwell (Midway) was elected chair, Walter Popoff (Area J) is vice-chair, and continuation in that condition of the district’s facilities’ incentives is the worst in the Interior. The board discussed its fiscal position and the Darrwood hydro conservation contribution to reserves should remain at the current $1 million per year, or be raised to $2 or $3 million. The directors wanted some more financial information, but made no decision at this meeting.

Councilor Hemming von Krogh was authorized to attend a Bear Awareness workshop.

Transport Canada was working with its partners to address this shortfall in the legislation. She said if there is a threat of pollution from the vessel, the Canadian Coast Guard would take the lead in dealing with the pollution threat or spill.

Attempts to contact KAT Underwater Logging were unsuccessful.
**Duo Solista enchants audience at the Bonnington Arts Centre**

by Cédra Kutchener

Duo Solista could translate roughly as “solists together,” and they are, Dmitry Nesterov plays and teaches piano, and Olga Kotova plays and teaches violin. They are both concert soloists, but have been playing together since they were 17 and classmates at Moscow Central Music School.

**Nakusp figure skaters compete in regional competition**

Submitted

Skaters from the Nakusp Figure Skating Club competed at the Kootenay Regional Competition in Nelson February 1-3.

All the Nakusp skaters competed in the Star 1 Category, which includes three Jumps, two Spins, a timed stroking exercise, a spiral sequence, and a creative exercise to music.

The results were bronze evaluations for Olivia Meng, Hannah Corven, Chana Mitchev and Kimberly Roberts; and silver evaluations for Melissa Hascall, Kennetha Paznik and Maya Watson.

Next up for the skaters are Test Days in March in Revelstoke and Beaver Valley.

Several skaters tested in Castlegar in early January and successful passed tests were as follows: Maya Watson - Dutch Waltz and Canotta Tango, Tana Maca Baby Blues, Lindsay Cron Swing and Preliminary Skating Skills; Kennedy Paznik: Baby Blues; Kiley Waterfield: Tomb and both parts of the Preliminary Freeskate Test - Elements and Solo.

All skaters in the club, from Pre CanSkate, CanSkate and StarSkate, will be featured in the year-end show on March 5 at 2 pm. The public is welcome to come and watch.

**Journey through time with local skaters**

Submitted

From tents fluttering across the ice as bluebirds, to kids rockin’ around the clock in poodle skirts, to the area’s top skaters impressing the crowds with their competitive solos, the Nakusp Figure Skating Club’s popular spring carnival is a great way to enjoy an afternoon while supporting a local club. With the theme: ’A Journey Through Time’, the carnival takes place at 2 pm on Sunday, March 3, and everyone is invited.

“’The skaters work hard from September to March, and the carnival is a great way for them to have fun while showing off their skills and performing, said Val Hill, club president. ’We’re really pleased each year at the community’s response, with people of all ages enjoying the show whether they have a relative performing in it or not.”

The club strives to keep skating fees low in order to make the activity accessible to as many skaters as possible, and the carnival is an important fundraiser. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for students and seniors, free for children five and under, and are available at the door.

The carnival will also offer a baking table and 50/50 draw, plus flowers will be available for sale to congratulate the skaters.

The draw for the club’s raffle will also take place at the event; the grand prize includes a one-night stay at Halcyon Hot Springs and a $50 certificate to Kingdom Fisher restaurant.

Tickets are only $2 and are available from any skater or at Bon March Dollar Store in Nakusp.

The club is also excited to take part in the Pee Wee vs. volunteer minor hockey tournament on March 9. To help up the players and audience, the club is hosting a spaghetti dinner in the arena auditorium at 5 pm. Tickets are $10 and are also available from any skater or at Bon March.

This year the club boasts nearly 40 skaters from in and around Nakusp and as far away as New Denver. Trained by coach Sabrina Hanson, the skaters range in age and abilities, from those just learning to skate to those rising through the ranks of competitive skating. Fall registration will open in September 2013.

**Nakusp Figure Skating Club presents A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME Annual spring carnival**

**World Day of Prayer Friday, March 1 7:00 pm**

Arrow Lakes Alliance Church on France

Theme: I am a stranger and you welcomed me. Following the service, juice, coffee & tea will be served.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3 2 PM**

Nakusp & District Sports Complex

Adults $5; Students and Seniors $3; Children 5 & under FREE

Raffle baskets, 50/50, Bake Table

**FAQUIER COMMUNITY CLUB**

Emergency Storage Garage

INVITATION TO TENDERER

The Owner, the Faquiere Community Club, offers to receive tenders for the construction of a 1,600 sq. ft. emergency storage garage to be located adjacent to the existing Faquiere Fire Hall, 609 Willow Street, Faquiere.

Tender Documents may be obtained from:

Village of Nakusp, Village Office, 91-1st Street NW, Nakusp, BC, (office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) upon payment of a twenty dollar ($20.00) non-refundable fee per set (HST included).

Digital copies may be obtained free of charge by emailing a request to: si@bambertech.com

All enquiries shall be directed to: Simon Bamber, ASCT, Project Manager Tel: 250-285-1767

Email: si@bambertech.com

Tenders are scheduled to close at 3 pm local time, Thursday March 28th, 2013 at Village of Nakusp, Village Office, 91-1st Street, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. Tel: 250-285-3556.

**VILLAGE OF NAKUSP**

Well #2 – Tie In Civil Piping Reference: T2013-17

**INVITATION TO TENDERERS**

The Owner, the Village of Nakusp, offers to receive tenders for Well #2, water main and electrical conduit installation works.

Tender Documents may be obtained from:

Village of Nakusp, Village Office, 91 1st Street NW, Nakusp, BC, (office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) upon payment of fifty dollars ($50.00) per set (HST included) which sum will be non-refundable.

Or online at:

BC Bid: www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca

BidCentral Online Planroom: www.sica.bc.ca

All enquiries shall be directed to:

Dana Stahlstrom, P.Eng

WSA Engineering (S.A) Ltd.,

2248 Columbia Avenue

Cranbrook, B.C. V1N 1X1

Tel: 250-365-3656

Email: danas@wasaeng.ca

Tenders are scheduled to close at: 3 pm local time, Thursday March 14th, 2013 at Village of Nakusp, Village Office, 91 1st Street NW, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0

Tel: 250-265-3899.

from Raymonda by Glazunov and Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens. What a partnership! The power of the instruments was well balanced (the lid of grand piano no longer all the way up), and the handling of the music – melody and pleasure – was wonderful to see. They paced each other beautifully, violin and piano in conversation and dance.

A standing ovation brought them back for an encore, Meditation by Massenet, and then another. Their second encore was a piece of fiddle music, in which Kotova strummed the violin at times, a surprising and cheerful ending to an afternoon of great music.
It’s Winter Wonder time in schools throughout the Columbia Basin!

submitted
Primary students all over the snowy Columbia Basin are learning about how plants and animals adapt to winter. Kids take a magical journey to discover the natural world in winter through these walking field trips, which occur in and around their schoolyards and neighborhoods. Exploring snow crystals and their formation, students become detectives, with magnifying glasses and crystal identification sheets.

They find animal tracks in the snow, and learn how different species deal with winter—either by hibernating, migrating, or just ‘staying and coping.’ They learn about the special adaptations it takes to be a chameleon or winter-loving animal; things like white winter coats or feet like snowshoes. The children learn about the kinds of plants and trees that are part of our native ecosystems, too—and how these plants survive the frozen season.

Winter Wonder programs support our youngest students in developing a love for nature and for what makes our local ecosystems special. Gillian Sneders of Kaslo delivers the program in Kaslo, Meadow Creek, New Denver and Slocan.

“Children love the chance to get outside to learn,” said Monica Nissen, Wiskida’s education program manager. “Their enthusiasm makes delivering these programs a pure delight. I think every kid walks away appreciating what it’s like being an animal in winter in part of the world.”

Even though the field trip is fun, the kids are learning life sciences that meet BC Ministry of Education requirements for science education. Nissen said if they have time during the day of the field trip, “You can support your classroom teacher and be a volunteer during the field trip,” she said. “Or you can take your children what they learned.”

If you would like to support a Winter Wonder expedition in your community, please donate by calling Wiskida. “There is a lot to learn about winter adaptations,” Nissen said. “Kids begin to understand how the seasons contribute to the living systems around us. We provide learning materials to classes for and at the end; multi-guide TAGS; TAGS teachers learning material for their students; and BYOD: bring your own device.”

JVF staff exploring different school structures around BC

submitted
As we look ahead towards next year, the staff at JVF continue to explore different school models from around the province. On January 25 Steve Anderson, one of JVF’s long-term secondary teachers, and principal Dan Mills travelled down to Maple Ridge with staff from Crawford Bay, Salmo Secondary and Mt. Sentinel Secondary schools.

Sponsored by the district, this was an opportunity to attend the Thomas Hone Secondary school open house where visitors heard from teachers, administrators and students about some of the innovative approaches they have to high school education.

Kaslo RCMP nab four burglars

submitted
On February 4 the Kaslo RCMP responded to a suspicious circumstances complaint in Meadow Creek, and as they arrived saw a vehicle fleeing the area. Members stopped the vehicle and found several backpacks and duffel bags containing liquor, money, and various pieces of home electronic equipment. Further investigation revealed the major had broken into an unoccupied residence, as well as several other buildings situated on the property, on more than one occasion.

Two adult males and two young offenders from the Kaslo area were arrested and transported to the Kaslo Detachment. Forensic evidence was collected from the scene and from items found in the vehicle. Kaslo RCMP are reviewing recent break and enter files to determine if there are any similarities or comparable forensic material.

The four males were released from custody and are scheduled to attend the Nelson Court House in early spring.

Kaslo Mayor’s Message

On January 26, Kaslo Village Council and Administration participated in a priority setting workshop facilitated by Jim Gustafson, recently retired Chief Administrative Officer for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Council put forward and discussed a number of issues, and agreed at the end of the day upon four priorities for the 2013-14 term.

The four agreed upon strategic priorities which were identified and will be funded by the Village of Kaslo that year were:

1) Infrastructure renewal, including Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 1; waterworks renewal; increasing paving reserves for future projects.

2) Housing – Kaslo has many single family detached homes. The Village has a small percentage of multi-family homes.

3) Liquid Waste Management planning will clarify the direction sewage treatment will take. Waterworks will deal with replacing the main under the ‘A’ Avenue hill, a section of main not replaced in the community-wide project done in the 1980s, and a main which has broken twice in the past year. Kaslo is also undertaking a water loss management program, with the assistance of the Columbia Basin Trust Water Smart program and the engineering firm Kerr Wood Liedlaw.

As a matter of interest, Kaslo’s eight night water flows practically equate our daily water flows when we know logically our consumption should be much lower at night. Kaslo maximizes its paving dollars by co-operating with provincial programs when highways paving is done in our area. Money is set aside in reserves to do projects inside municipal boundaries which make a bigger difference, rather than piecemealing smaller, unnecessary projects.

3) Fire service advancement, supporting the joint effort with the regional district to provide a new fire hall. Kaslo and RDCK voters will be called to the polls May 11 to determine the fate of the hall. Council hopes to build a new fire hall in 2013 with night water flows practically equating our daily water flows when we know logically our consumption should be much lower at night. Kaslo maximizes its paving dollars by co-operating with provincial programs when highways paving is done in our area. Kaslo’s eight night water flows practically equate our daily water flows when we know logically our consumption should be much lower at night.

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COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice February 20, 2013

The Village of Kaslo • 28 years as its CAO and wants of many hats. RDCK has just ratified March 1. Succession planning is a major challenge for BC municipalities these days, with a generation of veteran administrators retiring almost daily. Many municipalities, large and small, are competing fiercely to attract professionals skilled in local government management and Kaslo’s now on a growing list of communities in this position.

Mayor Greg Lay
Village of Kaslo
Jean Baptiste flag pole still surviving after 125 years

by Bruce Rohn, Arrow Lakes Historical Society

In August 1966, photographer Ellis Anderson and my family made a trip to Galena Bay on the Arrow Lakes to see John Nelson about the history of the Jean Baptiste flag pole. We were in the middle of negotiations with BC Hydro about our Renata properties, and Rose, my mother, along with the Renata Women's Institute had just written the ‘Story of Renata’ a year earlier. One of our properties was the earliest settled in Renata, which had been where the Sandy Garden cabin and hotel was, plus the Jean Baptiste cabin. Baptist, Gaston and Burnette were the first three white men in Renata in the 1890s, Ellis Anderson, who had a post card business, had photographed many of the Arrow Lakes towns before the flooding and used to stay with us when in Renata. He had known John Nelson for several years and was trying to find a way to save the SS Minuto before the flooding of the reservoir, which is what he came and told us about Jean Baptiste. My brother-in-law had built the cabin and Baptist took his bag and left by the train for the east.

In 1952 Nelson Daily News article, John Nelson describes Jean Baptiste as one of the oldest known mining prospectors of the Upper Arrow Lake. When Nelson first came over from Lancashire England in 1903, he worked several years for the Arrowhead Lumber Co. and that is where John met Baptist. Baptist had a cabin to the east of the mill, where the mill workers’ cabins were. Prior to building this cabin, he occupied a log shack belonging to Mr. Aitken, another mining man, near the rock bluff where the Arrowhead Lumber Co. was later located. As far as he knew, this cabin was the first building erected in the Arrowhead area. When the mining house where John Nelson was staying burned down in 1905, he heard about Baptist leaving to spend his last days in his native Quebec and offered to buy his old-time lumber built shack. But the grey-haired, weather-beaten old French Canadian refused to sell at any price. The terms of transfer would only be that the British flag would be flown on the shack's hand-built flag pole each Sunday and on notable occasions. A warm handshake clinched the deal and Baptist took his bag and left by the daily train for the east.

New Denver’s Nikkei Centre welcomes new manager

submitted by the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre in New Denver is excited to announce the appointment of our new manager, Momoko Isawa.

Momoko is originally from Vancouver, and was first acquainted with the Nikkei Centre last summer when she was employed as a collections assistant for a digitization project through the federally funded Young Canada Works grant. The project was a success, with Momoko and a fellow assistant digitizing over 400 artifacts and uploading them to an online public database managed by the National Nikkei Museum. Momoko had previously worked with the National Nikkei Museum & Cultural Centre through the same program, and studied Library & Information Technology at Langara College.

Slocan Valley now has an Archives

submitted by Slocan Valley Historical Society

The inaugural year of the Slocan Valley Historical Society (SVHS) has been an exciting one. One of the main focuses was to have a physical archives in place by the end of the year. Well, it took an extra month, but the SVHS is pleased to announce that we have the space secured. Thanks to support from the Village of Slocan and RDCK Area H, we have realized our goal of opening the Slocan Valley Archives.

The 400-square-foot space has a humidity system installed and UV blinder on all the windows to address environmental requirements, and most of the furniture and equipment needed to operate the Archives. (We are still searching for a map cabinet.)

The second piece of good news is that we've had a significant donation from James Cooper, who for more than 40 years has been collecting and preserving Slocan’s history. The Cooper collection arrived at the end of January and we are thrilled to have such an extensive collection as the foundation for the Slocan Valley Archives.

We are planning a couple of projects for 2013: Photo Album and Shoe Boxes of the Slocan Valley; a digitization project of Slocan Valley’s history; and “ Those Who Served” remembering the soldiers of the Slocan Valley. Both these projects will be long-term and we hope that both former and current residents of the Slocan Valley will be interested in sharing their history with us to be remembered and preserved.

It is the fascinating stories and lessons of our history that help us project a solid and sustainable future. Heartfelt THANK YOU for keeping our roots alive and healthy! 404 Front St, Kaslo, B.C. (250) 353-9667
Neighbourhoods communicate a collective heritage

submitted by Monika Ito, Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre
I am so pleased and honoured to be working at the new museum of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre in New Denver, and what a tribute to see this area of New Denver that holds significant meaning, and reminds us of an unjust and remarkable period in Canadian history. The Peace Arch, located at the eastern gate of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, was built in 1964 through the efforts of the Koyawaka Society, which also spearheaded the establishment of the site. It is a handsome Western Red Cedar replica that pays homage to the historical Peace Arch built by Japanese Canadians who were interned in New Denver during the Second World War. The original Arch stood at the entrance of the New Denver Tuberculosis Sanatorium (today, the Slocan Community Health Centre) from 1943 to 1953, and symbolized peace and harmony among the spiritual souls and the living people. The Arch at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre also embodies the same energies of welcome and peace, but with the addition of the fence, representing the links between people of all nations.

Penetrating these thoughts, one may begin to see these varied structures tethered by streets and avenues as forming a mosaic of stories that echo softly, and inform us of how neighbourhoods and communities communicate a collective heritage.

The original Peace Arch in front of the sanatorium (now the Slocan Community Health Centre) in 1943.

We wish to commend the volunteers that maintain our archives and our local museum. Without our history, we have no future.

Saddle Mountain Medical Clinic
84 Broadway • Nakusp
250-265-3694

Village of New Denver thanks the Silvery Slocan Historical Society and the Koyawaka Society for their contributions to local heritage preservation.

Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West
Thank you to all the individuals and groups that work to preserve the heritage and rich history of the West Kootenay!

The Valley Voice  February 20, 2013
The shipping news from Kaslo: SS Moyie active for 59 years

submitted by the Kootenay Lake Historical Society

James Bolger and his crew built the SS Moyie at Nelson Shipyard during the summer and early fall of 1898. As they watched her being launched, none of them could have imagined the world work 59 years on Kootenay Lake. Today, 55 years after being brought ashore at Kaslo, the Moyie is still in use – the oldest intact steam-hauled passenger vessel in the world. This fact is due to the good work of the original builders, and to regular rest and upkeep by the shipyard during the ship’s long working life. After retirement, the preservation efforts of more than a generation of volunteers, paid staff, donors and expert advisors has kept the ship intact, and without a shipyard to turn to. Indeed, in many ways the Moyie is in better shape now than when she was built, but every year brings more work to keep her that way.

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society is preparing for the second year of what we call our Exterior Repair Project. Despite a soggy start, 2012 saw some important accomplishments thanks to Christopher Peterson, and volunteers Al Hedlow and Phil Trotter, as well as Sarah Miffitt and her small crew of helpers. Rotten timber was replaced and some important repairs got done. Peter Crawford organized a hull inspection with guidance from John Pollock, followed by a review involving veteran experts Ken Butler and Bob Turner. This review has identified priorities for work in 2013. The society acknowledges vital grant support from Canadian Pacific, RDCK Area D, Columbia Basin Trust and Kootenay Savings Community Foundation. Painting is the final touch in each work phase, and we see lots! Thanks to Jeff Davis of Kaslo Building Supply, who stuck-hand a large variety of gift in kind from General Paints, we’re ready to go.

The society’s annual general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, at 7 pm in the Langham theatre. We have seats to fill on our board, so please step forward – we will be happy to have you join us. Members will be asked to endorse the establishment of an endowment fund in memory of Jack Morris, and will hear how they can help build the fund and support long-term care of the SS Moyie. We also welcome new volunteers.

Meanwhile, enjoy Heritage Week in Kaslo, see the window display on Front Street with thanks to Debra Barrett and her artists, and visit our table at the Seniors’ Hall on February 23.

KASLO MONARCH

Thanks to our local historical societies for preserving our heritage.

405 4th Street, Kaslo, BC

Thanks to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for keeping Kaslo’s heritage alive for all of us to enjoy.

Kaslo Community Pharmacy
403 Front St - 250-353-2224

Thank you to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for keeping Kaslo’s heritage alive for all of us to enjoy.

Cornucopia
Natural Food Store
Heritage building – 1886
Former home of Hulks, Pool Hall, Drug Store, Church, Hardware Store
1016 Kaslo Landing Whole Foods
1985 Cornucopia
We would like to thank the Historical Society. Our history is important.
422 Front St, Kaslo, BC

Thanks to our historical societies for preserving our rich heritage.

Eric’s Meat Market
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Kaslo Automotive
404 4th St, Kaslo, BC
(250) 353-2645

“a generation which ignores history has no past and no future.”
Robert Heinlein

I41 Front St • Kaslo • 250-353-7633

Thanks for keeping our history alive!

Woodbury Resort & Marina
4172 Highway 37, Kaslo, BC
(250) 353-3717

Celebrated Kaslo’s Past during Heritage Week Feb. 18-24. Enjoy Heritage Tea Saturday Feb 23 at the Senior Hall 11:30 pm Entry by donation. Bring your pies and baked goods to support the Kaslo City Hall Building.

Kootenay Lake Historical Society
Thank you for all of your volunteer hours and for keeping us aware of our history.
Andy Shadrack, Director Area D

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Queen’s Medals presented to Lorna Visser and Richard Allin
by Jan McMurray

Lorna Visser and Richard Allin, two Hills residents who have clearly shown their commitment and dedication to the community, were awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals at a well attended ceremony February 10 at the Hills fire hall.

Area H Director Walter Popoff nominated Lorna and Richard for the award through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and presented them with the medals after saying a few words about their contributions to the community.

Lorna has sat on the boards of the Hills Recreation Society, the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, and the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society. She has been a key Hills Garlic Festival volunteer for many years. She also played an important role raising funds for the Hills fire hall. Her lasting legacy for the Slocan Valley, however, is the Valley Hall. Lorna led the massive effort to raise $3.5 million to purchase this 155-acre parcel with a mile of Slocan Lake shoreline. The property is now part of Valley Hall Park and has a conservation covenant on it that says the parcel can never be developed.

After being presented with the medal, Lorna said, “It takes a village to raise a child and it takes an amazing community like the Slocan Valley to get a Queen’s Medal. We know we would need help to make the Valley Hall a reality but we never knew how amazing the help would be.” She thanked everyone who played a part, with special gratitude to June Sharold of the Valley Hall Women’s Society, who “held BC Parks’ feet to the fire,” and to her husband, Wayne.

Director Popoff then spoke about Richard Allin’s community work. Richard moved to the area in 1971. He was an outspoken advocate for the Valley Hall Park proposal, and did an analysis showing that the land would provide more economic benefit to the community if it were a park than if it were logged. He served on the Hills Watershed Committee and chaired the Watershed Alliance. He has been a member of the Hills Recreation Society since 1976 and has served as president, vice president, and secretary. He was involved in building the Hills Hall park, tennis court and the new fire hall, and is a member of the Hills fire brigade.

Richard said it was heart warming to see so many friendly faces and people he had worked with on community projects at the ceremony. He said he felt awkward to be chosen for the medal, but felt he was accepting it “on behalf of everyone who has helped make this valley the great place it is.” He acknowledged Director Popoff for nominating community volunteers for the medal, and thanked his wife, Evelyn, for her support, care and love over the years.

Peter Wood receives Queen’s Medal
by Jan McMurray

The South Slocan Hall was packed on February 9 for the presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Peter Wood.

Before RDKC Area H Director Walter Popoff made the award presentation, there were brief speeches from MLA Michelle Mungall, RDKC Area D Director Andy Shadforth, and former RDKC board chair, Gary Weight.

MLA Mungall spoke about how special the Jubilee Medal is, with only 60,000 Canadians – less than 1% of the population – receiving them. Also, only two monarchs in our history have reigned for over 60 years: Queen Victoria and now Queen Elizabeth II.

Director Shadforth said he has known Peter for over a quarter century, having worked with him at Selkirk College.

“He was a selfless colleague who was always willing to help people,” he said.

Gary Weight noted that when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1952, she pledged her life to the service of the people she represents. “Peter, without getting crowed, has done the same thing,” he said. “And I understand that Peter was booed much more heavily than Queen Elizabeth some days.”

Director Popoff spoke about Peter’s contribution to the community, which began as soon as he moved to South Slocan 44 years ago. Peter joined Selkirk College’s biology department in 1969 and established a weekend club to encourage outdoor activities. He became a member of the South Slocan Water Improvement District and became very familiar with the water system. “He learned how the system worked – and how picks and shovels work,” said Popoff. “Whenever Peter gets involved, it’s hands on.”

Peter was alternate director for Area H at one time, and he sat on former-director Don Munro’s selection committee for the CIT Community Initiatives funding program. He had been involved with Scouting since 1949 and received the Silver Acorn Medal in 2000. He started the Selkirk Visioners in 1972 and is still growing grapes. He has volunteered for many groups: Creston Friends of Parks and Trails Association, West Kootenay Honey Producers Association, Kootenay Mountaincoring Club, St. Matthew’s Hall Association, and more.

“He has clearly demonstrated, over 40 plus years, his commitment to community life,” said Popoff.

After the presentation of the medal, Peter, clearly deeply moved, thanked everyone for coming. “I am blown away,” he said. “You should all be out skiing on such a lovely day!”

He said he was embarrassed to be singled out because he could not have done it without the ongoing support of many people, especially his wife, Ann. “If the award rules allowed it, this would be a dual award,” he said. He said he does community work because he enjoys it, and because he likes to live by the principle of just doing things that need doing. He also expressed thanks for his good health and high energy level, and his caring parents.

Director Popoff nominated Peter for the Diamond Jubilee Medal through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
Rita Moir and Rory Lindsay receive Queen's Medals

by Jan McMurray

Two very special Slocan Valley residents were recognized for their community service, most notably for the work they have done to bring the valley together, at a ceremony on February 9 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre. Community members packed the hall for the presentation of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals to Rita Moir and Rory Lindsay.

The ceremony began with Rita leading the singing of O Canada in both English and French, followed by a few words from MP Alex Atamanenko. MLA Katrina Courcy, Slocan Councillor Jessica Lunn (also Rory Lindsay’s daughter), former MLA Curly Evans and former RDCK Board Chair Gary Wright.

MLA Courcy commented that both Rita and Rory had touched the lives of people both near and far – Rita with her books and Rory with his work on the rail trail, particularly the event he organized last year to commemorate Japanese Canadian internment at Lennox Creek and Popoff farm.

Councillor Lunn said both Rory and Rita have helped to bring the community together and to share the history of the people of the valley. “After today, our words may be forgotten, but the work you have done will outlive today. We will be thankful for your work for a long time,” she said.

Curly gave sincere thanks to Rita and Rory for their work to unify the valley under divisive circumstances. Referring to Rita’s role in building the Vallican Whole, he said, “People can build buildings, but how many people can build the community that fills the building?” And Rory, he said, showed the way for the closure of the railway to bring the community together.

Area H Director Walter Popoff presented Rita with the Queen’s Medal after outlining her accomplishments. She moved to the Slocan Valley in 1975 to be caretaker of the Vallican Whole and held that position for 35 years. She is still on the board of the society that owns and manages the building (RARITS). She was a member of the group who founded the Dunzont Cemetery and was involved in the fundraising and construction of Fassmore Lodge. She is an active feminist and has worked on political campaigns, most recently the referendum to join the library service. An author, journalist and playwright, Rita’s latest book, ‘The Third Crop,’ is a celebration of all of us,” said Popoff.

“I am sincerely grateful for this recognition today,” Rita said after accepting the medal. She thanked Moe Lyons, “who brought me here in the first place,” and everyone who has been involved with the Vallican Whole. “This building has been my life for 34 years,” she said, commenting that she saw many difficult and decisive times for the community over those years and concluding, “Through our community halls, we come together.”

Greg Lay receives Queen’s Medal

by Jan McMurray

Greg Lay was presented with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal by Acting Mayor Susan Hewat at the Kaslo council meeting on February 12.

Hewat read the letter from the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) president, informing Lay that the FCM had selected him to receive the medal “in honour of the contributions you have made to your community and all of Canada.”

The letter goes on to say: “FCM chose you to receive this distinction for your exemplary efforts to make your community a great place to live. It recognizes the important role municipal leaders – and their leaders – play in ensuring our prosperity and high quality of life.”

Lay said he regards this as a reflection on his parents and family. He recalled the first time he was honoured, at age 5, with a Good Deed Award for saving a two-year-old from drowning. “My parents were so proud, and were able to share that honour with me,” he said. “Now my parents have passed, but the lessons they taught have made me the person I am today.”

Lay said that he was greatly honoured to receive recognition a second time in his life by his community.

Applications Now Accepted

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines and arts, culture and heritage groups in the Columbia Basin to apply for project funding.

Administered and managed by:
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Deadline for applications is March 8, 2013, or March 22, 2013, depending on the program.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

CAMP SITE ATTENDANT

May 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver requires a Resident Park Manager for the municipal campground. The Village of New Denver will supply one campsite for the sole use of the caretaker and a radio telephone if requested. The Resident Manager is responsible for supplying fire-wood. Remuneration will be at the rate of $8 per occupied site. Applicant must be bondable.

Please submit applications to the Village of New Denver, in person at 115 Slocan Avenue, by mail at PO Box 40, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0, by fax at 250-358-7251, or by email at new.denver@nelidena.com. Closing date for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2013.

For particulars please contact the Village of New Denver Municipal Office at 358-2316, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Duties:
- Ensure campers use designated campsites and obey rules
- Collect camping fees (cash or traveler’s cheques only) twice daily
- Cut, split and stack wood in firewood shed, and clean up woodshed area
- Keep campsites clean and tidy (including cutting grass and weeds in campsites)
- Collect money from showers
- Collect garbage and recyclables from campsites and park twice daily
- Clean washrooms and showers three times daily
- Maintain supplies in washrooms
- Provide basic tourist information
- Return all funds collected to the Village Office every Monday morning
The Disability Tax Credit explained to Nakusp audience

by Mariya Baxwell

An informative presentation on the subject of the federal Disability Tax Credit (DTC) was delivered to a Nakusp area audience recently. Andra Johnson told his audience that we live in a self-assessing country, meaning that it is up to us as individuals to file our income taxes correctly.

"Canada Revenue does not (automatically) let you know where you can save money in terms of tax savings or credits," he said. "It is up to the individual to find this out."

The DTC is directly linked to the income tax one has already paid, Johnson explained, making it possible for these funds to be returned to the eligible taxpayer who has made a validated claim. Many people live with chronic medical conditions and they do not know that they potentially are able to claim the DTC, he said. Johnson believes the DTC could be a "medical tax credit." The word disability evokes many meanings and images. If a person experiences an impairment to their day-to-day functioning such as limited mobility due to osteoarthritis, this does not necessarily mean that they are disabled. They have a chronic medical condition and therefore may be eligible for the DTC.

Johnson listed seven categories through which an individual can potentially qualify to benefit from the program. These include walking, hearing, sight, elimination, mental functions, life sustaining therapy, feelings and speaking.

The funds received do not represent a grant, nor are they by way of a government program, stressed Johnson. "This is your own money."

The DTC is also transferable to family members and it does not matter how old you are or whether or not you work for a living.

Members of the audience were particularly interested in learning that the tax credit is retroactive for a period of up to 10 years. Potentially, a person who has a medical restriction in one of the seven categories previously mentioned, could receive a lump-sum payment of up to $14,000.

Some medical conditions which may qualify an individual for the DTC includes malignancies, Alzheimer’s, osteoarthritis, arthritis, angina, bipolar disorder, bladder problems, diabetes, cancer, dementia, COPD, strokes, PTSD and liver transplants. This is not an extensive list and more detailed information is available by visiting his website at www.establishdada.ca. Johnson offers free initial assessments and confidential referrals to community services aimed at helping to determine whether the applicant is qualified to actually proceed with their application. He is also available to speak to groups or service organizations on the subject of the DTC and his role as an advocate on behalf of individuals.

For more information, contact Johnson at 509-427-4016.

BC Family Day fishing derby on Kootenay Lake is resounding success

submitted

The First Annual Kootenay Lake BC Family Day Fishing Derby, hosted by Canadian Training Resources, has wrapped up and prizes have been awarded. This derby was a tremendous success and a lot of fun for participants, say derby officials, for surpassing even their own high expectations.

"We had a grand turnout, the weather was beautiful, and the response from the participants was overwhelmingly positive," says Robert DiPetro, derby organizer.

"We’d like to thank everyone for their support and their fair play. We’re really looking forward to doing this again next year and we’ll be giving away $10,000 for the first prize so you’d better book early! Hundreds of people have already pre-booked for 2014 and we expect to be sold out within a few days."

A last minute decision to award $200 to the first fish measured in each category above 28" was enthusiastically welcomed.

"Not only did it get the derby going on the first day but it really helped encourage catch and release, which was very important for a derby of this size."

These daily random ticket draws for $100 were also very popular.

The first prize place of $5,000 for rainbow trout was won by Jordan Higgins of Trail, second place $1,000 went to Peter Payze of Trail, and the third place $500 prize was won by Gary Gigo of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. For Dolly Varden, Bill Miller from Castlegar placed first, winning $2,000, Brad Werner of Kaslo was in second place for $1,000 and Tim McMullin from Salmon Arm took the third place prize of $500.

For those who wonder why a Calgary-based business training company would sponsor a Kootenay Lakes derby, the Valley Voice discovered Robert DiPetro, CTI company owner, has been an avid fisherman all his life.

“I saw an opportunity with this new long weekend and, since there was nothing to do in February for our fishermen, I thought we should sponsor a derby.”

Running a business? Have you registered for the PST?

Government is helping businesses prepare for the return to the provincial sales tax (PST) on April 1, 2013.

Registration is fast and easy and now is the best time to get it done.

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Kaslo arena and curling rink improvements celebrated

submitted

On Saturday February 16, the Kaslo and District Arena and Curling Club celebrated the successful completion of $238,000 worth of improvements to both facilities. These improvements were possible thanks to the financial assistance of the provincial Community Recreation Program and the RDCK. The two non-profit associations that manage each of the facilities greeted officials, friends and supporters, shared coffee and cake, unveiled unique commemorative plaques and thanked everyone involved.

Both ice plants received new compressors, the curling club a new chiller, and the arena a new dehumidifier—replacing equipment that had ranged in age from 35 to 50 years. Safety equipment was installed and electrical problems fixed. The ice plants are now much closer to a two-plan decade level of reliability. The most visible improvements are the fire escape doors that now actually work and seal out the weather, together with the timber frame snow shed roofs that now guarantee an escape route. Dressing rooms were improved. The arena’s viewing room was renovated and acoustic panelling installed, creating a pleasing area for family and friends of those participating in the activities on the ice.

Among the messages heard at the ceremonies was one by the Honourable Bill Bennett, responsible for the $30 million Community Recreation Program that was designed to help cover the costs of infrastructure projects that make their communities healthier, more active places to live. Director Shadrack communicated that the funding assistance from the RDCK was based upon the support that Kaslo and area residents have shown for the arena/curling club complex. The two associations acknowledged that this improvement project was accomplished thanks to countless volunteer hours, following through from the past efforts by volunteers who built, maintained and improved both facilities.

Wing Creek Resort in the running for Best Green Business Award

by Jan McMurray

Wing Creek Resort, just north of Kaslo, has made it to the top five in the competition for the Best Green Business Award in the annual Successful You Awards Contest. The winner will be announced at a ceremony on February 28 at the Pan Pacific in Vancouver.

“We’re thrilled to be in the top five,” said Kevin Hoffart, who co-owns the resort with Debra Hamilton. The couple plans to go to the awards ceremony.

Of all the small businesses nominated for the award, the top ten were chosen through online voting. The top ten businesses then submitted an application detailing why they deserved to be named one of BC’s best. A panel of judges chose the top five based on these applications. The top five then had to make a pitch to the panel to help the judges choose the winner.

Debra and Kevin made their pitch via Skype on February 13 and said it went very well. “All of our competitors provide environmental products or services, like recycling, so we are different and we hope that works to our advantage,” said Debra.

Kevin and Debra explained that they take the environment into account in the design of their buildings and in every aspect of their operations, resulting in reduced use of electricity, water, fuel, and landfills. As they plan for the expansion of the resort, they are continually evaluating new options to reduce their impact on the environment.

“We have chosen to expand the resort in partnership with Hamill Creek Timber Homes,” said Debra, explaining that Hamill Creek uses FSC (Forest Stewardship Certified) locally harvested timber, milled on site just 20 minutes north of Wing Creek Resort and cut using a state-of-the-art machine to ensure minimum waste.

All new construction at the resort is being designed to be LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified, and the show home is on track for LEED Gold certification. Kevin and Debra say they are also planning for more solar lighting and solar heating, water-driven offset and backup power sources, and state-of-the-art septic treatment facilities.

The annual Successful You Awards Contest is managed by Small Business BC.

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The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.
Slocan Valley youth host fundraising dinner and Dr. Seuss movie

submitted

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” (The Lorax by Dr. Seuss)

Local Slocan Valley youth have organized a fundraising dinner to support the protection of the Slocan Valley, and to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday and Read Across America Day. The event takes place March 2, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Passmore Hall, by donation.

Why celebrate Dr. Seuss? Dr. Seuss shows a love of children and learning. Also, his use of rhyme makes his books a good tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful.

There will be dinner, eat in the hat cookies and desserts, a silent auction, an open stage and the showing of The Lorax. Come and help raise funds for the environment and see this educational film that celebrates the wisdom of Dr. Seuss.

The proceeds will go to the Slocan and the Perry Ridge Watershed Users Association, two groups that work hard to protect our environment and in particular the mountains and the rivers that we all love to play in. The Lorax, both book and film, has a message for its young readers. “I think it’s very much there and it will share some pictures and stories about the Mobile Bio- Diversity Festival (Celebration of Native Plants) as well as getting much of the society’s interests.

At 3:30 p.m., Gregore Lecomte will talk about the Saskatchewan Women of Deccan Development Society, a leading civil society organization working for the food sovereignty of more than 5,000 farmers and their households in four Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Gregore will also talk about the Canadian Seed Library, a project initiated by Seed of Diversity Canada. (Growing food you sell, trade or share. Individuals and organizations requiring a type are encouraged to contact Slocan Valley Recreation as soon as possible and secure space at $10/each, admission is $2. This event is organized in partnership with the Slocan Valley River Farm Group.)

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund grants are now available

It has been a fantastic year of development and growth for the community and the fund. Following the Annual General Meeting in April 2012, society members were busy developing a resilient society that is well as getting much of the society’s interests.

The endowment fund is growing with sizable donations that will be matched through the Columbia Basin Trust. This fund, the main source for future grants, is like an apple tree. Only the fruit – the interest earned – will be harvested, so that the fund may continue to give to the community, the year after year.

To learn more about the fund, the society, and how to contribute to this living legacy, visit the web site for more details.

News from Hills Nordic Ski Club

Hills Nordic Ski Club is having a very successful season with 22 kids from Silverton, New Denver, Hills and Nakusp participating in the Track Attack, Jackrabbit and Bunsie programs. These programs are for youth and are led by qualified parental coaches and assisted by parents, meeting weekly on Saturdays. We appreciate the support of the Recreation Commission to further the training of our coaches this season.

As you may have already noticed, we have an annual Snow & Ski party in Hills on Saturday, February 23, which will include individual races, parent/child relays, races for fun, prizes for most fun, and a dance. Two small sandwiches and potato foods will be served to satisfy big appetites. Fellow XC skiers are welcome to attend the Snow & Ski Party, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm at 113 Reids Road. If you have children, bring them! For more information call 250-358-2660.

Three of our Track Attack youth have competed at regional races, with Kolith Drobish racing in the first Teck/Kootenay Cup races in Kimberley on February 15-16 and the Midglen Cup Championships on March 2-3 in Revelstoke. About 200-nice to twelve-year-olds will attend the Midglen Championships this year.

If you haven’t done so already, plan an outing to check out some of the cross-country trails in our area. The club grounds and sets track on a five km section of the former CPR Rail as well as five km of trails in the hills. Summitt Lake Ski Hill is also packing a nice loop trail for XC skiing this winter. Nakusp-based Arrow Lakes Ski Club keep the trails clear of snow, checking the conditions daily in the morning, and the Kaslo Nordic Ski Club is grooming trails and leading their first Jackrabbits program this year.
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Maxfield, Douglas Craig B is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a loving husband, father and grandfather. Douglas Craig Maxfield died tragically on January 24, 2013.

Douglas was survived by his loving wife Sharon and children Jacqueline, Fred (Blanche), Janice (David Morgan), Colleen Marie Phillips (Jolie) Jessica, Jimmie, Tabitha, Raina and her Brother Charles Terry, Graham (Feather) and sister Meg Light (Gary). Doug was pre-deceased by his father Dr. Freddie, mother Elizabeth, brother Barry and grandmother Ocean Marie.

Douglas was a wonderful husband, father and the most amking of neighbors. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

The support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription. Only $10-$30

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Sarah, Matthew and Caleb Jeffery are seeking a home near New Denver for the summer. Please contact us by email at jennifer@jonesoutdoors.com. Can be reached at 250-992-5670.

SOCIETY

The Valley Voice - February 20, 2013


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ABSORBENT MATERIALS - Herbal Filled Aid with Colleen Hinsley. March 2, 600-635-5273.

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COMMUNITY

Provincial Ombudsperson Kim Carter has released her latest report No Longer Your Decision: British Columbia's Process for Approving the Public Guardian and Trustee to Manage the Financial Affairs of Incapacitated Adults. According to the report, vulnerable adults can often be exploited to make financial and legal decisions for themselves and a lack of accountability is a serious concern.

"Adult guardianship is an important protective system in our province and the current process fails to meet the requirements of a fair and reasonable procedure," says Carter. "Through this report, we looked at what needs to be done to ensure that the current process is changed to acknowledge the inherent autonomy of an adult and their rights."

The investigation focused on the process of issuing certificates of incapacity, which involves the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC assuming control over an adult's financial and legal decisions-making. This process is expensive, time-consuming, and often difficult for people to make important decisions. People who have not planned ahead or do not have someone to act on their behalf, can end up having those same decisions made for them by a provincial agency. "I am pleased that many of the recommendations have been accepted by the Public Guardian and Trustee, Ministry of Health and the ‘guardianship’ authorities," says Carter. "It is, however, the acceptance of 11 of the 14 recommendations for regulatory or legislative change made to the Ministry of Health...that allows me to be cautiously optimistic that what has been a very long wait for many, procedurally fair adult guardianship process may finally be coming to an end."

The Ombudsperson made 21 findings and 28 recommendations aimed at improving Guardianship and Trustee and health authority practice, establishing provincial training for staff and legally binding minimum requirements. Health authorities - five recommendations made; five accepted, Public Guardian and Trustee - seven recommendations made; five accepted, one accepted in part, one not accepted. Ministry of Health - two recommendations made; two accepted. Ministry of Justice - 14 recommendations made; 12 accepted. Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Shelley Bond issued a response to the report.

"We have received the Ombudsperson’s report and thank her for the recommendations she has made. Our government recognizes the importance of having a modern and effective system of adult guardianship in place - one that balances the need for protecting individual autonomy and protecting against abuse."

Most of the 12 recommendations to Justice will be implemented by July 1, 2014, by bringing into force parts of the Adult Guardianship and Planning Statutes Amendment Act and by introducing legislative amendments during the fall 2013 legislative session. The final two recommendations will be reviewed and the minister will report publicly on those within 18 months.

The new legislation will ensure that the process of determining whether or not an adult is incapacitated, prescribed standards will be followed that protect the rights of the individual by requiring: a current in-person medical assessment conducted by a physician, a both a medical and a functional assessment before making a finding of incapability; advance notice of a potential finding of incapability to be given to the adult and their family, along with time to respond.

No Longer Your Decision: British Columbia's Process for Approving the Public Guardian and Trustee to Manage the Financial Affairs of Incapacitated Adults can be downloaded from www.ombudsperson.ca.

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submitter

In the summer of 1999, a team of four skateboarders and two bands embarked on a life-changing tour. The goal was to inspire kids in rural areas by exposing them to skateboarding and music—something they wouldn’t otherwise have an opportunity to see in person. Everyone on board grew up in small towns themselves so the tour was affectionately dubbed ‘Hicks On Sticks’.

Towing a 5,000-pound portable skateboard park behind an old van with failing brakes, the young team traveled nearly 3,000 km through Western Canada putting on eight shows. The only financial sponsor dropped out shortly before the tour began but plans went ahead.

The film features the skateboarding of two Kootenay natives: the late professional skateboarder Josh Evans, and Eugene Vynnyk. It also tracks the dramatic peaks and valleys of Kootenay boarding and raised Ian Connish’s skateboarding company, PM Skateboards. Combining original footage of the tour with old home videos and recent interviews, the film spans two decades in the lives of these young men.

‘Hicks On Sticks’ is the second feature film by emerging Canadian filmmaker Soren Johnstone. He has been sporadically working on the project since 1999 when he travelled with and documented the tour. In 2006 Johnstone received a grant from the BC Arts Council to continue working on the film, following up and conducting interviews with all of the key players.

“It’s not just a film about skateboarding, music or the tour. This film is an honest documentation of the most pivotal 20 years of their lives,” said Johnstone. It features an original score composed and performed by Aaron Read.

‘Hicks On Sticks’ is the second feature from Warren Lane Pictures, the filmmaking team of Mike Babiak and Soren Johnstone. Their first film is an award-winning dramatic feature shot in Trail and Castlegar called Play With Fire.

The screenings will take place one night only at The Old Theatre, 185 Columbia Ave, Castlegar on Saturday, March 2 at 6:30 and 9 pm. Tickets are $10, available at the door. Hicks on Sticks Indiegogo fundraisers get in free. Director Johnstone and skater Eugene Vynnyk will be in attendance.

There will be a pre-screening skate jam at the Castlegar Complex skate park on the day of the screening from 3 pm to 5:30 pm, with a shuttle bus to the theatre for the 6:30 pm screening. After the 9 pm screening, an after-party at the Lions Head Pub features the debut show of Black Sabbath tribute band, ‘Sack Crabba’. Entry to the after-party is free with your movie ticket.

Visit hicksonticketsmovie.com to see the trailer and for more information on the film.