Telus wants simplified public process for cell towers in the Slocan Valley

by Art Joyce

Telus Mobility representative Doug Anastos attended the RDCK board meeting of February 28 to present plans to extend cell service along the Highway 6 and Highway 3 corridors, and to encourage the RDCK board to adopt a policy that would speed up the approval process for erecting cell towers in the regional district.

Anastos explained the Connecting British Columbia Agreement between Telus and the BC government seeks to have cell service along all highway corridors in the province. A total of 1,700 kilometers will be covered by 2016 in this 10-year, $650 million agreement.

He said Telus estimates that nearly 60 percent of 911 calls from highways in BC are made from cell phones and that a side benefit of the service will be community coverage.

Anastos’ role is to acquire cell tower sites and complete the approval process for each one. He said the majority of cell tower sites will be on Crown land, although some private landowners are being approached by Telus.

All of the proposed cell towers will be over 30 meters tall, triggering Industry Canada’s requirement for consultation with the public and local land use authorities – the RDCK, in this case. (Towers under 15 meters require no consultation.) Telus must also abide by the Provincial Crown Land Use Operational Policy for Communication Sites, which Anastos said allows more “discretion” than the Industry Canada consultation process. He explained that there is duplication in the two processes, and Telus is asking regional districts to adopt a policy acknowledging that the provincial process is sufficient and that the federal process is not necessary. “It adds a lot of time to the installation process, and we have a narrow seasonal window when we can build,” he explained.

Anastos said that all 10 of the other regional districts Telus has dealt with so far have adopted the provincial policy in place of the Industry Canada consultation process.

RDCK Board Chair John Kettle cautioned Anastos, “We consider ourselves to not be like other regional districts. We are on the side of the public having full and unfiltered reaction to anything that affects our constituents.”

And, indeed, when Area H Director Walter Popoff spoke, he was backed up by the presence of 16 Slocan Valley residents in the boardroom. Winlaw residents are upset that a private landowner has been approached by Telus to erect a cell tower on his property, with no public consultation. Popoff asked if Telus would consider relocating the tower on Crown land, as well as locating towers away from populated areas. He also wanted to know how many towers were proposed for the valley and whether Telus would arrange a meeting with the community.

Anastos answered that compared with other regional districts where there’s plenty of Crown land available, in the RDCK there’s proportionally more private land. Telus is aware of the CBC and Columbia Wireless towers and is actually in favour of e-locating on existing infrastructure – it saves them money. However, Telus RF engineers say mountaintop towers are not as effective at providing service as towers sited closer to the highway.

Citizens grill Telus representative

Chair Kettle offered residents a meeting room to ask more questions of Anastos during a brief recess in the board meeting. Speakerperson Craig Stowell, an engineer who consults with the oil industry, cited several classes from Industry Canada regulations that Telus did not seem to be meeting, notably Section 1.3.1, the requirement to “investigate sharing or using existing infrastructure” before proposing new antenna-supporting structures. Winlaw resident Allison Lang presented over 100 letters of concern about Telus negotiating deals with private landowners in the valley. Anastos said it makes no difference to the consultation process whether a site is on private or Crown land. Lang pointed out that these private negotiations are “completely unacceptable” and divisive to the community. When asked if Telus has signed contracts with other valley landowners besides the one in Winlaw, Anastos said yes but was not willing to provide details. Stowell said he wants to see a sample contract.

Stowell also cited Industry Canada Section 1.3.3, requiring “public notifications and addressing relevant concerns,” and demanded to know how many towers are being proposed from Crescent Valley to Slocan City. Anastos said 10 towers are planned. In the regulation citing the need to consider “an area being a community sensitive location,” Stowell noted that the proposed Winlaw tower is “within 600 meters of at least 20 households and an elementary school,” and demanded to know what other options have been investigated by Telus. Anastos said Telus engineers have been surveying sites throughout the valley but was noncommittal about identifying specific sites other than noting CBC infrastructure at Pedro Creek and Passmore as possible locations.

Stowell’s group also wanted to know what steps are being taken by Telus to meet the Industry Canada requirement to comply with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and local environmental assessment requirements. Anastos referred Stowell to the Telus media department.

“We think Telus as a good corporate citizen should be going beyond the regulations in the Industry Canada document,” said Stowell. “I want you not to allow issues of property development and health?”

Director Popoff asked Anastos if Telus would be willing to port to a public meeting in Winlaw, preferably within 30 days. Anastos said yes but couldn’t commit to the time frame. Stowell said that he wants to see Telus bring its complete RF engineering studies for the valley to the meeting.

During a phone interview later, Popoff said he is planning to propose a cell tower siting policy for the regional district and agrees with Stowell that Telus needs to go beyond regulations. He also stated that although a retired Telus employee, when he was elected Area H Director he divested himself of his Telus shares.
Kaslo Health Care Work Group making headway
Physician recruitment and strategic planning process underway

by Jan McMurray

About 30 people came out to Kaslo’s United Church hall on February 25 for an update on the emergency room situation at the Victorian Community Health Centre (VCHC). All members of the committee working on the issue — Mayor Lay, Director Shadrack, Maggie Winters, Tom Humphries, Mary Ballon and Maggie Crowe — attended the meeting.

The committee relayed two pieces of good news — a physician recruitment process is underway, with the goal of finding doctors who are willing to keep the ER open 24/7; and a strategic planning process is in the works that will help the VCHC develop a sustainable plan for service delivery.

Winters announced that she and Maggie Crowe had participated in the interview process for two new physicians that very morning. “We were very pleased, and happy to be included,” she said.

Winters explained that one of the agreements the committee and IH came to early on was the importance of attracting physicians who would be committed to the health centre and to the community, and who recognized and respected the importance that ER services play in maintaining the viability and vitality of rural communities such as Kaslo. They discussed the need for the community to play a more active role in the health centre, including physician recruitment.

The committee also learned about the challenges facing IH to recruit physicians to work in small, rural communities and to be on call for 24/7 emergency room. Winters explained that the health centre can support two full-time physicians or four part-time physicians. Two full-time physicians would have to be on call every other day. “This is neither practical nor feasible in this day and age where physicians need and deserve a certain quality of life,” she said. And although four part-time physicians reduces the call to one in four days, this is twice the norm for a part-time physician in a larger location.

Winters said physician recruitment is a struggle throughout rural BC for many reasons, one being finding employment for the doctor’s spouse. However, she said even though larger centres can offer things to physicians that Kaslo can’t, “the one thing we do have is a holistic approach, so services they would normally have to pick up a phone for are right there in the health centre.”

Illegal dumping is a problem in the district

by Art Joyce

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations representative Harry Biallas attended the February 28 RDCK meeting to ask for help cleaning up illegal dumping on Crown land.

Biallas told RDCK directors that illegal dumping on Crown land is proving a serious problem in the regional district. During the past four years, the ministry has spent $70,000 a year, just in the Kootenay-Boundary forest region, for Crown land clean-ups, with costs often in excess of budgets. Some clean-ups have had to be left unfinished for lack of funds. One project clean-up was reported in the Vancouver Sun as being large enough to be seen from Google Earth. Illegal dumping creates problems of safety, storm runoff, soil contamination, and other issues. Biallas is seeking funding partnerships with regional directors to help cover clean-up costs. He suggested creating an account that directors could contribute to that would cover tipping fees.

Anna G. Director Hans Cunningham said the site visible from Google Earth was the one at Ymir, where illegal dumping was being done near the Oscar Creek forest service road. He provided a $10,000 grant-in-aid to pay for regrading this waste at the landfill in Salmo. He is in favour of establishing a clean-up fund. “We need to ensure those dumping illegally are being nailed,” Cunningham said. “Once word goes out, that we’re on to them, those things will stop.” He added that this has been the case in Ymir.

Anna D. Director Walter Popoff said the process to date has been to have individual directors deal with the issue, and wondered if it should be coordinated across the RDCK by the chair. Anna D. Director Andy Shadrack said his concern was hazardous materials leaching from storage tanks into Kootenay Lake. Anna J. Director Gordon Zaitsoff said he would be willing to provide grants to set up monitoring cameras in areas near Castlegar known for illegal dumping by “commercial entities.”

Chair John Kettle explained that the regional district policy is to offer grants to communities to do clean-ups rather than waiving tipping fees. He urged Biallas to meet with the east and west resource recovery committee members.
Next step for Slocan Lake Plan – Shoreline Management Guidelines

by Jan McMurray

Now that the RDCK has agreed to put the Slocan Lake Management Plan on its 2013 project list, many constituents are wondering what happens next. We contacted Sangita Sudan, General Manager of Development Services at the RDCK, to outline the next steps.

First, to address a community concern about boating, Sudan was clear that the plan will guide shoreline development, but will not restrict boating activity on the lake. She explained that the group working on planning for both Slocan Lake and Kootenay Lake is called the Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP). The partnership includes representation from First Nations (Okanagan and Ktunaxa), the Province, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the RDCK.

Sudan said the KLP’s goal is to complete four Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMGs) for both lakes this year. SMGs are the first step in the development of a lake management plan, she said, adding that some areas, such as the Shawnup and the East Kootenay, have decided to complete this first step only and not go any further towards a lake management plan.

Shoreline Management Guidelines are developed from the scientific information in the Foreshore Inventory Mapping and Aquatic Habitat Inventory. Lake Management Plans go one step further to incorporate community input.

SMGs are intended to conserve fish and wildlife habitat, explained Sudan. They will be used by provincial and federal agencies to help with decision making over Crown land and foreshore when applications for such things as docks and marinas come before them. The RDCK may use the Shoreline Management Guidelines to guide development on the private land adjacent to the Crown foreshore.

The scientific data collected by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society in partnership with the Province, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and private consultants is now being put into GIS mapping format. This mapping will colour-code shoreline segments to show zones of sensitivity based on fish and wildlife habitat.

In the Shawnup Shoreline Guidance Document, which is being used as an example for Slocan’s, red shoreline segments represent the highest value fish habitat areas, so receive the highest level of protection, whereas green shoreline segments represent areas of lower habitat value or areas that have already been significantly impacted by development.

The Shoreline Guidance Document may in the future include an archaeological overview of Slocan Lake, which will be done by the First Nations. An archaeological overview has already been done for Kootenay Lake.

The information from the community values survey conducted by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society will not be included in the Shoreline Guidance Document, said Sudan. “I feel the visioning was a good assessment of the community’s social, cultural and economic links to Slocan Lake and that’s not going to be lost if we never do anything beyond the Shoreline Guidance Document, and the survey will have its own timeline and strategy associated with it in future.”

Once the Shoreline Guidance Document is written up, the KLP will hold a public information session. Sudan said it is important to hold the session in the summer, when seasonal residents are here. Depending on timelines and availability of KLP members, the session may have to wait until next summer, she said.

RDCK staff will look at the Shoreline Guidance Document and bring it forward to the RDCK board with recommendations, giving them options on “what we can do as a Regional District.”

“We’ll be using the existing tools we have, like the floodplain bylaw and Development Permits Areas in the Area G North OCP, to do as much as possible,” she said, indicating that these bylaws might be amended to better reflect what’s in the Shoreline Guidance Document. She added that the Villages want to review their zoning bylaws once the Shoreline Guidance Document is completed, as well.

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Take part in provincial consultations on the Columbia River Treaty

submitted

The Province is hosting two free conferences that will engage the future of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) and secure input on alternative future scenarios and how Basin interests might be affected. The CRT Local Governments’ Committee encourages Basin residents to attend one of these consultation conferences in Golden on March 20 or Castlegar on March 22.

These are the last consultations planned by the Province as it fulfills its commitment to consult with residents of the Columbia Basin to ensure their comments are included in the provincial review of the CRT. The CRT is an international agreement signed in 1964 by Canada and the United States to regulate water control and optimize hydroelectric power generation on both sides of the border.

“The Province has compiled a number of important studies, including analyses of the potential impacts of CRT scenarios on Basin interests. It is important that Basin residents attend these consultation conferences to express their views on the Treaty options and on local issues related to the CRT,” says Deb Kozak, CRT Local Governments’ Committee Chair and Councillor, City of Nelson.

Decisions about the future of the CRT could influence how Canada operates dams and reservoirs for power, water control and other values, including the environment. Those changes could impact, among other things, water levels, annual snowmelt, the US to BC, and the amount of hydroelectricity generated in the Columbia Basin.

The Castlegar conference takes place at the Golden Civic Centre, 898 Hwy 95, Wednesday, March 20 from 9 am to 5 pm. The session in Castlegar takes place at the Sandman Inn, 194 Columbia Ave., Friday, March 22 from 9 am to 5 pm. The Castlegar session will also be live streamed.

To view the agenda, see the latest studies and register for these free conferences or the live streaming option, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/columbiatreaty or call (250) 952-0777. The registration links are on the right side of the webpage.

As an alternative, join the Provincial CRT Review Task Force from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on the scheduled dates and locations below for an overview of the Treaty options. The regional committee is open to the public and is interested in receiving feedback for these information sessions. Golden Columbia River Centre on Wednesday, March 20 and the Prestige Lakeside Resort in Nelson on March 21.

The CRT Local Governments’ Committee includes representatives of regional districts from across the Canadian Columbia Basin as well as the Village of Valemount and the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments. With the support of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), the Committee is working to help Basin residents and local governments engage in discussions about the future of the CRT.

Other ways to learn more and stay informed: Subscribe to the Provincial CRT Review e-letter at www.newsworld.gov.bc.ca/ e-sew-subscribe.html; join the Regional Committee on Twitter; and follow the Facebook at www.facebook.com/ pages/Columbia-River-Treaty- Review/4710834650503 &#039;he?ref=ts; take a tutorial on your own school at www.crt.org/crt/tutorial; learn more at www.crt.org/crt/hta.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES: NKUSAP

Occupational First Aid level 1, Mar 11; Literacy Eating on a Budget, Mar 12; Literary Groceries with Tom Waysman, Mar 18; Abstract Painting with Acrylics, Barbara Maye, Mar 16 & 17; Preserving, Mar 24; Career Counselling, Mar 18; Foodsafe level 1, Mar 19; Pruning & Tree Care, Mar 23; Trees & Shrubs for Beds & Borders, Mar 24; Xen cruising, Mar 24; History & Memoir, with Rita Moir, Mar 23; Airbrakes, Apr 5, 6, 7; Traffic Control, Apr 19 & 20;

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Community Calendar

Thursday, March 7

Facebook Workshop

M. Sentinel Secondary School

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Friday, March 8

Plants and Pollinators

Slocan Park Hall

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Friday against FortESC smart meters

Friday Inn Express, Keremeos

noon

Savoirs of Universal Peace

South Slocan Hall

7 - 9 pm

Saturday, March 9

North Valley Mountain Film Fest

Branen Hall, New Denver

6 pm

Nakusp Freemen vs. Nakusp PeeWee

Kokanee, Nakusp

6 pm

Needly Sat. workshop & seed swap

Kokanee, Nakusp

10 am - 4 pm

Spaghetti Night

Bartfn Hall, Kaslo

5 - 7 pm

Monday, March 11

Nakusp Council

Nakusp Council Chambers

9:30 pm

Tuesday, March 12

New Councillor Budget Meeting

Nakusp Council Chambers

9:30 pm

Wednesday, March 13

RDCK Budget Meeting

Nakusp Council Chambers

1 pm

Nakusp Trains Steady AUM

Kokuskie Lodge

7 pm

Tuesday, March 19

Counselling June

Nakusp Council Chambers

7 pm

Wednesday, March 20

Kokanee Community Rendezvous

Kokanee Community Centre

7:30 - 9 pm

Kokanee Community Rendezvous

Kokanee Community Centre

9 am - 5 pm

Community Rendezvous

Kokanee Community Centre

7 - 9 pm

Welcome Spring pancake Jam

Kokanee Community Centre

7 - 9 pm

Thursday, March 21

Overseas Columbia Treaty Options

Prestige Rosen, Nelson

7:30 - 9 pm

Acrylic Painting Workshop

Shelton Gallery

1 - 4 pm

Friday, March 22

Columbia River Treaty Review Conf.

Castlegar Sandman Inn

9 am - 5 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club

Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

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Putting together the Valley Voice

I love my job. I like the late nights. I like the variety of creative problems that I have to solve in order to bring you the Valley Voice every two weeks. I like the meetings that I cover, and I love the people that show up for those meetings. I love taking photos, writing stories and opinion pieces. I love putting together the paper – making the compromises between space and news copy. We almost always have too much news, and not enough space. Space is determined by advertising. For every page of advertising, we can publish a page of news.

I like the act of balancing our coverage between the three valleys that we serve. There’s always more stuff going on than Jan and I can cover, so we pick and choose the events that we think are the most important. Thankfully we have excellent reporters and lots of community-minded individuals who help us gather the news. The problem is always finding room to fit it in.

So we shrink the photos, tighten up the layout and the horizontal scaling on the type. Sometimes we even reduce the font size. Until this edition.

I guess that it was the number of ads that messed us up. We don’t usually have enough advertising to print a 24-page paper in March. So production this edition was different. I found myself enlarging photos, and putting more of them in. There’s stories that wouldn’t normally be in the paper. It was fun. I hope that you enjoy reading this edition as much as I enjoyed producing it.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Because of the person’s reaction, I got upset and cursed at them. I was going to apologize for cursing the next time I saw them, but subsequent events preclude that now. The person who had their paws all over me without my permission will be happy to know that their malicious one-sided gossip about this incident has come back to bite me. Someone took your words at face value without being privy to my side of the story was abusive towards me.

Please respect people’s personal boundaries and in the future keep your hands to yourself.

Andy Higgins
New Denver

Respect people’s personal boundaries

This letter is to remind people to please be mindful of the sensitivities of handicapped people. Recently I stopped to talk to someone on the main street of New Denver. The person with them, barely known to me, started to put and rub me as they would do to a dog or small child. I am sure the person was well meaning, but their reaction to gentle criticism dismayed me. They were unwilling to admit their mistake and made half-hearted excuses for their actions instead of apologizing.

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

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

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

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

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Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40021191
Dear Minister Steven Fletcher re: Canada Post

I am writing to follow up with you in regard to the question I posed to you during Question Period on February 14th.

In your reply you stated the following: "Mr. Speaker, I reject everything that member just said. It is this government that brought in the rural postmen on post office closures."

"It is known that there has been a decline by up to 20% in mail volume since 2007. There have been losses in the past year of $253 million between Canada Post and its subsidiaries."

"However, our government will work with Canada Post to ensure that it will be able to continue to provide services to Canadians in a way that is sustainable in the long term."

"I would like to provide you with information from my riding about the first point you raised - the rural postmen. I was elected as Member of Parliament for BC Southern Interior, two communities on the list that are in this riding, Beaverdell and Westbridge, have lost post offices. Although I was provided with the rationale for these decisions, I am not convinced that maintaining postal services in these communities was the objective when their circumstances necessitated change nor was the outcome optimal for the residents of these communities."  

"To add insult to injury, Beaverdell, a close neighbour of Westbridge, has had their office lose service completely eliminated. Thus, people living in that area are having a difficult time obtaining postal services and many other government services that depend upon the mail."

"This is particularly acute now when many departments are converting to providing forms and information over the internet because internet access is not available in many rural areas."

"There is also a considerable number of rural people who do not own a computer and do not know how to operate one. Senior living in remote areas where postal service has been lost are being forced to drive long distances, often in difficult circumstances, to obtain documents such as passport applications and income tax forms."

"As the rural post point – profit – there is conflicting evidence about the financial viability of Canada Post. As I understand it, for many years, Canada Post Corporation (CPC) has operated at a significant profit and has funnelled the proceeds into general revenue. Because it is a public service, its aim must be to provide service, first and foremost. Thus, the mandate needs to be service, rather than profit-driven."

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers obviously wants to maintain the viability of Canada Post and, to that end, has done considerable research into this matter. I have been provided with several models that could increase the corporation’s financial viability have been presented to the leadership of CPC. I can assure the Australian post office has moved into postal banking services, which has been a positive development for both their organization and the public."

"Coming to your last point – on the sustainability of Canada Post – I feel the need to question your use of this term in this context. To be sustainable means that it can be maintained – which is exactly the opposite of what is happening. I doubt that residents of the previously mentioned communities where post offices have been closed would agree that their postal service has been sustained. Service locations have been consolidated or closed. Everywhere converted to less reliable private sector outlets, wages and working conditions are being forcibly rolled back, with no consideration of how those people or those communities are being affected disproportionately.

"It is not too late to return Canada Post to its raison d’etre: to provide postal and related services to the people of Canada. Let us not be deterred here."

Sloanc Lake survey

The old saying: ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’ seems to apply after answering the community value survey about Sloanc Lake. I drove from Trail when I heard of the survey and had to get at it the village office in Sloanc it was the closest writing code. The Internet is not well acquainted.

My family has enjoyed Sloanc Lake since the early ‘60s and as a youngster enjoyed the lake in my teens. In those days, there was commercial traffic as well as recreational traffic on the lake.

Surely we can all still get along and enjoy the lake without a whole new set of dos and don’ts. Exactly who is going to enforce these new regulations? The BCP or the Parks officials are busy enough and are not well enough funded. Common sense should be applied and instead of having a bunch of hitches of boaters, good manners and safety should be the ‘rule’. Sailboats, motorboats, canoes and kayaks, water skiers and seadons can all enjoy the lake without a lot of hassle if operators use their common sense.

Societies are lobby groups, i.e. the Valhalla Wilderness Society. It promises lush forests, a lake, a mountain, a national park. Sloanc Lake is now governed by BC Provincial Parks. Caution be in dealing with lobby groups, The Sloanc Lake Stewardship Society wants to control the lake according to their recommendations, as was done to Valhalla Park. Has the park brought the financial gains that promised in the early ‘80s? Must we set a 27-mile-long lake side for paddlers?

The Stewardship Society’s work has been presented to the RDCK. If it is not needed, it will mean more taxation from the RDCK as the responsibility must be paid for. The study has already cost tax payers. Is there an accounting of these funds anywhere? The science gathered may be valuable, but not the critique of the type of boat or type of user of Sloanc Lake. Leopold, some societies are just lobby groups pushing their own agendas.

Crowd land and the forest in Sloanc Lake belong to the Province of BC. The lake is the responsibility of the federal government and private land use the responsibility of the Regional District through planning bylaws. That is enough regulation and the rest is up to all of us who use the lake sensibly.

Don’t race your motorboat too close to the shore, causing a wave. Do not hit a seadon in a seadon too close to other boats. Don’t drink and operate your boat. Don’t overload your canoe with gear. Don’t dive from your life jackets. These are just common sense things we do so we can all have fun on the lake the way we want to.

Robert Banks
Trail

Open letter to MP David Wilks re: Telus

We are a retired elderly couple living in the rural area known as Meadow Creek in the Lordeau Valley. Our phone is a vital safety service for us. In the case of an emergency, it is a long distance to our neighbours. We need to be able to use the phone.

At Christmas time, our phone quit working. My daughter and wife went by car to our local store. They phoned from there for repair service. Telus told them repairs would be made on January 15 – almost a month without service. We were contacted by Telus in January to put off the date for repair another month to February 13.

Note, we have no cell service in this area.

My question to you: Does the CRTC sanction this type of behaviour from the monopoly for safety service when it’s their equipment that failed?

When I operated a cablevision service, equipment failure required an immediate response. Are the rules different for Telus?

Is this poor service designed to have us up to the bitter end so the government can have more control over them?

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

Advertisement

Advertise your community event in the Valley Voice and get a FREE listing in the Men With Broms Community Calendar.
Silvertown council, February 19: Seniors’ drop-in program going well

by Jan McMurtry

Gary Willman attended to speak about the seniors drop-in program, held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to noon at the Memorial Hall. He said there are about 12 people at each session. A total of 45 seniors have attended, from Hilltop to Slocan. Sessions are usually unstructured. There is a Wii electronic game, board games, cribbage boards and cards available, and some seniors enjoy walking around the perimeter of the hall for exercise. There is also a low-impact aerobics DVD available. Willman has organized some workshops and speakers to come in on Thursdays, when there is also a free lunch at 11:30, catered by the Cup and Saucer Café. Workshop topics were chosen based on input from the seniors and include wellness, senior housing, naprapathic medicine, introduction to yoga and introduction to Tai Chi. Tuesday and Thursday drop-in seniors’ sessions will continue until the end of March and resume in November.

With respect to possible renovations at the Silvertown Gallery, Mayor Prevena reported that the Slocan Lake Gallery Society is in favour of ‘Option 4: Silvertown Gallery & Fine Hall Connection’ as presented in the Conservation Brief and Feasibility Study prepared by Ken Butler and Bob Turner. This renovation would see an addition connecting the gallery building to the fine hall building, and is estimated to cost $103,000, not including the two lifts/elevators proposed. This was the option recommended in the study and favoured by the people who attended a public presentation of the study on October 9.

Mayor Prevan said it was worthwhile getting as much public input on this as possible and suggested there be an open house, perhaps after council finalizes about the grants the Village has applied for to address safety issues at the gallery.

Bob Laffere was sworn in as the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Village. Elaine Rogers remains as Chief Financial Officer.

Council agreed to apply for funding to continue the wildfire protection program for Silvertown. Stephan Martineau of the Slocan Intergovernment Cooperative (SIFCO) attended council’s Committee of the Whole meeting February 5 to present a plan to create a buffer around the north end of Silvertown. Council supports this plan, and will submit a grant application for the enforcement (planning) for the project by the April 26 deadline. Once the prescription is done, the Village can apply for funding for the treatment work. Martineau estimated the cost of the prescription process to be about $13,000-$15,000. The grant will cover 75 percent of this, so council will include about $3,000 in the budget to make up the remaining 25 percent.

Councillor Clarke reported on the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber’s AGM was very successful, with a lot of positive feedback on the new website at www.slocanlake.com. He also reported that representatives from the Chamber attended a Tourism 360° workshop in Nakusp. People from Nakusp, Kaslo, New Denver, Slocan, Revelstoke were at the workshop and were enthusiastic about working together on tourism. A regional working group has formed.

Letters will go out asking for a contribution of about $315 to the electronic recycling service from the Villages of New Denver and Slocan and Area H. With those contributions, the cost of the service, estimated at about $1,300 this year, will be shared equally among the four local governments.

Last year, the four Slocan Valley Local Governments shared the cost of the service, as well. However, last year, the service cost only $500 - the cost of two pick-ups by Waste Management. This year, the cost has shot up to $1,300 because the company instituted a bin rental fee of $65 per month, without notice to the Village. This rental fee was reduced by 20 percent after Silvertown contacted Waste Management to object.

Council will no longer have regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings. Instead, COW meetings will take place as needed. CAO Laffere explained that councils usually refer items from the regular meeting agendas to COW when they feel those items require discussion in the more informal setting of the COW meetings. He said Silvertown’s COW meetings have been being run more like council meetings, with staff setting the agenda. To have council refer regular agenda items to COW and to hold COW meetings as needed in more appropriate, he said. Council will give at least 48 hours notice of COW meetings.

Council discussed the tax increase proposed by the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBHRD) board for the purpose of building up reserves to address the problem of aging hospitals in the region. The board recognizes that in the coming years, major renovations will be needed at existing health facilities or a new regional hospital will have to be built. Currently, $1 million is collected from taxpayers of the region for the reserve fund, with Silvertown residents paying $2,065 of this ($22.30 per $100,000 of assessed value). Council agreed to support an increase so that $2 million could be set aside in reserves. Silvertown’s share of the $2 million would be $2,777, or $34.93 per $100,000 of assessed value.

A the WKBHRD board meeting on February 27, the board decided to increase the amount for reserves to $5 million.

Council agreed to provide $500 for July 1st celebrations.

Idaho Peak Summit Race new addition to Kaslo Sufferfest submitted

Running has risen in popularity in the area over the past few years, with running clinics in Kaslo, Nakusp and New Denver, the Mother’s Day 10 km race in Nakusp, and the Kaslo Sufferfest – an established event in the sporting world. Sufferfest is slowly spreading its wings across from Kootenay Lake to Slocan Lake. Last year saw the 100 km Galena Ghost Ride start from New Denver, and the three-day Loonie Tourie running event between Kaslo and New Denver.

This year sees the first ever Idaho Peak Summit Race, starting and finishing from Centennial Park in New Denver on September 28. This 45 km foot race will start immediately after the 100 km Galena Ghost Ride, which finishes in Kaslo, to include once again a 30 km loop around Idaho Peak and New Denver. The running race will utilize these magnificent local mountain bike trails, maintained by countless hours of volunteer work over the years, allowing runners to access the north peak and finally the jewel – Idaho Peak itself. The height gain is staggering one mile.

Competitors, volunteers and spectators – please mark September 28 in your diaries and contact the organizers if you are interested in entering, volunteering or require further information. Tim Sander, organizer of the Idaho Peak Summit Race, can be contacted at 353-2721 or timsander@ columbiawireless.ca. Janis Neufeld, Sufferfest Event Director, can be contacted at 353-8025 or janis@ kalsosufferfest.com.

BUDGET 2013
Investing in our future.

The New BC Training and Education Savings Grant

This gives parents $1,200 for every child born after January 1st, 2007, to invest in an RESP for post-secondary education.

Start saving today for your child’s education:

Budget2013.ca
New Denver council, February 26: Village receives grant for Drinking Water Week

by Katrine Campbell

The Village received a $1,000 grant from the BC Water and Waste Association for Drinking Water Week, May 20-26. The money will be used to teach residents about the Village’s water system.

Council member Henning von Krogh reported the Sokoln Lake Stewardship Society will attend the next council meeting as a delegation to make a presentation on its activities. He also summarized a report on bear-human conflict in the Kootenays, noting that garbage was the major attractant for bears, followed by fruit trees, livestock and pets, and compost. The Village has made changes in its garbage handling, and is working on reducing fruit trees as an attractant.

Mayor Ann Banka attended the LACE AGM and noted the Village was unsuccessful at getting a grant to fix the Bosun Hall roof; LACE will be interested in buying in bulk as dog and chicken food, baking chocolate, tea, jams, coffee and milk powder.

Sixty-one percent of respondents said they would purchase bulk whole grains at a local gridding service were available. Most (60%) were not interested in purchasing in a Community Supported Agriculture veggie box purchase.

Most important for people were non-GMO and non-sprayed foods. Minimal and recyclable packaging, local and organic products were also deemed important.

A large percentage of respondents indicated they want to support local businesses as much as possible, and many suggested that local merchants take a bigger role in bulk food distribution. 42% of respondents said they would be willing to part of a cooperative group that would help transport and distribute bulk foods. Most people indicated that they felt both models were viable for a healthy community, while others felt that bulk buying should only be undertaken by local merchants if they are to remain successful and open.

For more information, email healthycommunity@sv@yahoo.ca

Bulk food buying survey results

Help needed for burned-out family

On Valentine’s Day, Michelle Benson and her son Max suffered a devastating blow when they lost their rented home and all their possessions in a house fire in Ebley. Max, who has special needs, had been admitted to Children’s Hospital in Vancouver only the previous day for a four-to-six week treatment. Michelle was with him when the fire occurred. They have urgent need of a long-term rental, a three-bedroom house, preferably within reach of Renal Kennedy Elementary School, for themselves and a housemate. Anyone with a spare bedroom with separate one-bedroom suite or cabin on the same property is also welcome. For everyone whose heart goes out to these two, money may be donated to Michelle’s bank account at CIBC or through PayPal.

For a list of their needs, as well as the PayPal link, is on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/461122267752961/. This includes a list of books and toys for Max, who celebrates his 10th birthday at Children’s Hospital on March 5. If you can help with accommodation or any other way, contact Nicole at 250-551-6400 or at albichelwood@gmail.com.

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan
P.O. Box 59, Slocan B.C. V0G 2C0
250-305-2777
info@villageofslocan.ca

NOTICE
FOR SALE BY BID

The Village of Slocan has the following equipment available for bid:

#1. J&J Taylor SAFE
Circa 1900 – 1920 • Three-code combination safe with internal lock box • 30” x 31” x 45”

#2. J&J Taylor SAFE
Circa 1900 – 1920 • Three-code combination safe • 29” x 41” x 46”

BIDDING CLOSURES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

The above listed equipment is sold “AS IS, WHERE IS”, no warranty expressed or implied. Terms of sale will be cash or certified cheque. The successful bidder will be responsible for payment of taxes and insurance, and must pay for the sale within five (5) days of agreed bid. The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted. Equipment may be viewed at the Village Works Yard by appointment 250-305-2500.

Regional District of Central Kootenay

PUBLIC MEETING

Residents of the Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton and Electoral Area H are invited to attend a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the Regional District of Central Kootenay 2013 BUDGET

On

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

At 1:00 PM

At the

New Denver Council Chambers

115 Slocan Ave., New Denver, BC

There are 4 train wreck sites on Slocan Lake. Four boxcars fell from a railway transfer targe into 8 to 27m of water at Silverton. One car was reported to be carrying silver ingots which were later recovered by hard hat divers.

Smokey Creek Salvage

24 Hr Towing

New & Used Auto Parts, Bulk New, Certified Welding & Repairs, Which Service WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS

359-7815: 1-877-376-6539

4433 Yeatman Rd, South Slocan

Smokey Creek Salvage

www.smokeycreeksalvage.com

March 6, 2013. The Valley Voice
Kaslo council, February 26: Chamber pitches idea for year-round centre

by Jan McMuray

The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce would like to open a year-round Kaslo and Area Visitors Information Centre and Economic Development Centre.

A delegation from the Chamber — Steve and Agi Hoffart and Daphne Hunter — attended the council meeting to present the concept for the centre and to request financial support. The request will be considered at the March 6 budget meeting.

According to an executive summary of the project, the centre would provide information and services to visitors, investors, relocators, local businesses and the general public. It would focus on both community and regional economic development.

The executive summary states that the centre would not necessarily replace the existing Visitor Information Centre at the Mayfly, but rather the two could complement each other. Steve Hoffart said he was meeting with Bill Yeo of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society soon to discuss this further.

The delegation indicated that the Chamber is aiming for the centre to be self-sufficient within a few years, but in the meantime, they would like some financial support from the Village. They asked for $20,000 for the first year, and the executive summary talks about asking for $15,000 per year for five years from Kaslo’s Community Development grant. The annual Community Development grant flows through the RDCK, with the funds coming from BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation (grants in lieu of taxation). Steve Hoffart said they would be looking at other sources to support the centre as well.

Councillor Leathwood pointed out that council can make Community Development funding commitments on an annual basis only.

This issue was referred to the budget committee, and council agreed that the Chamber submit a detailed business plan for the March 6 budget meeting.

A strategy to encourage a positive vote on the fire services referendum was referred to the Municipal Services Committee. Council discussed the possibility of having an informational display about the referendum at an empty storefront on Front Street, and directed staff to investigate available space.

Councillor Leathwood also indicated that council can make Community Development funding commitments on an annual basis only.

Councillor Leathwood pointed out that council can make Community Development funding commitments on an annual basis only.

KASLO OUTDOOR RECREATION SOCIETY & KASLO NORDIC SKI CLUB
JACKRABBITS Learn to Ski Program & BUCKY SKI AREA
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTORS!

We would like to thank the following:
Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, Ministry of Natural Resources & BC Forests Service, Village of Kaslo, Kootenay Mountains Sports, Rail to Trails, Kootenay Savings Community Fund, Hatnail Creek Tennis Homes, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Basin Trust, Jim Pratt GP Garage Doors, Bill Koenig MP Garage Doors, Woodstock Doors, Victoria Hospital Kaslo Auxiliary Society VIKAS, Pat Koons, Yvonne and Sarah Mayfield, Tom Durandall, Andy LeCoultre, Marion Gagnon, Jason and Jen Stivera, Gerald Garnett, Stu and Anne Heinz, Sarah Heintz, Ken Britt, Learne Friesen, Didi Trainer

ALSO THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US BY BUYING A MEMBERSHIP TO KORS (for more info: www.korsbc.ca or email info@kors.bc.ca)

Our apologies and thanks for anyone we’ve have forgotten

PAS SING THE BATON – ON SKIS

subtitled

"Jackrabbit" Johannessen received the Order of Canada for encouraging generations of skiers in Canada. Tom Dustrude remembers how Johannessen taught his grandmother and his mother, and later on, in January 1968 on the slopes of above Montreal, he inspired Tom himself, even though Jackrabbit was 39 years old at the time.

"To have a competitive team sport," says Tom, "but cross-country skiing is the ultimate individual sport. I would like today’s kids to develop a passion for skiing and the outdoors.

When Jim Neufeld, a fitness coach in Kaslo, suggested starting a youth program, Tom harnessed the legendary volunteer spirit in the community. Hamill Creek Timbersports donated lumber and a legion of local enthusiasts donated labour. The result is a machinery shop, a warming hut, a tracker and roller.

This facility lies on the historic multi-use Wagon Road with access from Highway 31a, seven kilometres west of Kaslo. The trail is 6.6 kilometres out and back from the ploughed parking lot. Tom, Ken Butt, Stu Heintz, and Geoff Delves have kept the course groomed throughout the winter.

This January/February Andy LeCouffe and his crew ran a highly successful instructional program for 23 children, aged 5 - 11, with great support from parent assistants Sarah Heintz, Learne Blanchar, Osa Thatcher, Marion Gagnon, Jean and Jim Stivera, and the ubiquitous Tom. The program was a huge success and had fun too; their seniors culminated in team events and an awards ceremony.

On February 9, more than 30 skiers held a skiathon from Bear Fork to South Fork to raise money for a new and fabulous instructional program next year. Its future will depend on our support. Can we pray our children’s electronic toys into their own electronic toys?

Kindly Indy Moden, Vintage Andrea Superstein sings a range of songs spanning almost a century: from old-time 1920s piano joints to 50s doo wop, to contemporary pop tunes, plus some swingin’ originals all wrapped up with a big sassy ribbon (and some ukulele). Using elements of jazz and contemporary vibe, she blends a multitude of styles to craft a sound all her own. She’s Annette Haisman meets Sarah Vaughan meets Zooey Deschanel.

Galaxy Rising Star Award nominee Super entertains with her impressive vocals and adorable song choices but is also sure to charm the pants (and skirts) off audience members with her witty banter and magical ability to relate to audience members young and old. Recent appearances include Canadian Music Week, CTV news, Pender Harbour Jazz Fest and Vancouver International Jazz Fest. It’s no wonder they call her Super! Join us as Kaslo at the Langham Theatre for an up close and personal performance by this talented swing songstress and her band on Saturday March 23 at 7:30 pm. Tickets available at Willow Home Gallery and Sunnyside Naturals in Kaslo.

Andrea Superstein sings a range of songs spanning almost a century. At the Langham Theatre on Saturday March 23 at 7:30 pm.
Summit Lake club races full of community spirit

submitted

Sunday was a great day to be out at Summit Lake Ski Hill for the annual club races. It was a day full of friendly competition, cheering crowds and surprise finishes.

Everyone was excited over the much-needed snow that arrived in time for race day. The snow and wind continued all through the day causing low visibility at times, but had no effect on the high spirits of the competitors.

There were categories for all ages in both skiing and snowboarding, including a fun bunny hill course for the little ones to try their skills out and be rewarded with a treat for their efforts. Back up on the big hill, the skiers got to race two courses, a slalom and super G, while the boarders ran the same slalom course twice. Times were combined to determine the results. Here are the proud podium winners!

Skiers:
- 6-8 yr old females: Maia Zielsmeyer, Calista Mackintosh, Madison Clark
- 6-8 yr old males: Foster Ketchen, Jake Flannemond, Steven Sapiets
- 9-11 yr old females: Kylie Waterfield, Zoe Zielsmeyer, Cheyanne Tournard
- 9-11 yr old males: Jordan Ketchen, Garrett Waterfield, Cameron Mackintosh
- 12-14 yr old females: Ivy Tournard, Kennedy Peterek, Sydney Bone
- 12-14 yr old males: Angus Jackson, Jesse Katselas, Rylin McLeod

Snowboarders:
- 6-8 yr old males: Evan Matthews
- 9-11 yr old females: Kylie Waterfield, Mikayla Lewis-Morrison
- 12-14 yr old females: Emma Ott, Sydney Bone
- 12-14 yr old males: Colton Peterson, Qasde Nicholson-Chodur

KSCL hires employment co-ordinator

The Kootenay Society for Community Living (KSCL) has hired an employment co-ordinator to establish a customized employment program in the Nakusp area. Tim Sander will work with adults who have disabilities and with local businesses to help identify employment skills, business needs and workplace employment opportunities.

Kootenay Society for Community Living believes that businesses are always looking to find ways of creating inclusive workplaces where everyone has a productive role to play, and this includes people with disabilities. It is vital to match individual skills to the needs of the employer and to provide appropriate support to both parties. Hiring a successful and motivated individual is not only great for business, but is life-changing for the individual.

Customized employment is based on an “interest-based negotiation” between the employer and the job seeker.

Sander runs Smiling Hills Farm in Hills, keeping honey bees and operating a bed & breakfast. He has worked in schools for the past 20 years, as a classroom teacher and with special needs students. He will work alongside a Community Support Worker, who will provide one-on-one support for individuals in Nakusp as well as running a group program once a week.

Sander is looking forward to getting to know the employers and businesses in Nakusp as well as the job seekers who are referred for employment service from Community Living BC.

Sander and KSCL, Nakusp can be contacted at 619 Broadway, Nakusp, V0G 1R0 (behind the former music festival offices); telephone 250-265-1471, or at KSCL@columbiawireless.ca www.ksclostype.net

Saturday March 9, 2013
Nakusp and District Sports Complex

Nakusp & District Fire Brigade-hosted PeeWee hockey game.

Admission by donation

Spaghetti Dinner by Figure Skating Club at 5:00 pm

Puck drops at 7:00 PM

Win a chance to participate in a centre ice SHOOT OUT competition for a $300 Overwaitea gift certificate

All funds raised are for the Nakusp July 1st Fireworks display

THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

CASUAL ACCOUNTING CLERK

JOB POSTING

The Village of Nakusp has an employment opportunity for a Casual Accounting Clerk. Reporting to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the Accounting Clerk assists with the coordination and maintenance of the Village’s accounting records and completes other administrative functions as required.

This casual accounting position encompasses administrative work and front counter duties of moderate complexity including:

- Cash receipting and bank deposits
- AP and AR support
- Business Licence administration
- Account reconciliations
- Property tax/property billing record keeping
- Maintenance of related files and records
- Handling customers inquires
- Telephone reception and office filing
- Data entry

Based on the successful applicant’s background other duties including payroll responsibilities may be included in the role. The position assists the Chief Financial Officer with financial management responsibilities and office administration.

This position requires maintaining and maintaining effective working relationships with a variety of internal and external contacts and working within established guidelines and policies. Since this position also performs front counter and reception duties, exceptional customer service is required.

Desirable skills for the position include:

- Self-starter
- Organized and able to manage several tasks simultaneously
- Demonstrate flexibility and employ a positive “Can Do” attitude
- Ability to follow oral and written instruction and work with minimum supervision

The successful applicant must be comfortable interacting with the public, using technology, being a team player and have keen administrative and interpersonal skills. Ideal applicants will have experience in an office environment and post-secondary education in book keeping and/or administration.

We have a casual on-call position which for the right candidate may include temporary full-time hours during seasonal busy periods at the office. This is a casual position with a rate of pay of $12.60 per hour as per the collective bargaining agreement.

A complete resume of experience, qualifications and references will be accepted until 4:00 pm, March 15, 2013, to the CFO, Village of Nakusp, Box 280, 91 – 1st Street NW, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0, Fax: 250-265-3578, or email cfo@nakusp.com, with “Casual Accounting Clerk” in the subject line.

We thank all applicants for their interest. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Lindsay C. and Taylor Aichele helping tear down after races
Nakusp council, February 25: Sewer treatment plant project may be delayed

by Katrine Campbell

• CAO Linda Tyman’s report to council included updates on the boundary expansion to take in the hot springs; a posting for a casual accounting clerk; a meeting with the province’s new Auditor General for Local Governments; projects staff are working on; grant applications; problems (sewer odor, ambulance bay doors) at the Emergency Services building; economic developments involving hot springs marketing; land use; and finance – the CAO and CFO are reviewing 2012 in preparation for 2013 budget and financial planning.

Tyman also noted the sewer treatment plant project is scheduled for completion March 31, although it may be delayed due to outstanding issues, including:

- management of sludge: representatives of the Ministry of Environment say they were not aware of the change from sand filtration to DAF technology, as an updated operational plan was not submitted when the change was made;
- building ventilation/insulation: it is expected the humidity in the plant will saturate the insulation and render it useless. Staff is investigating and reviewing with the engineers.

There may also be a fire issue with the thin layer of plastic which covers the insulation.

Tyman said the steel building was not designed to be a treatment plant; the contractor brought it to the engineer’s attention, but was told it was not a problem. Rocky Point Engineering will redesign at no cost, but remediation (i.e. removing insulation damaged by humidity) must be done.

• The contract with Earthworm Yard Care to operate the municipal campground was extended for the 2013 season.

• Council discussed buying carbon offset credits under the Carbon Neutral Kootenays program. Mayor Karen Hardung said she had a huge problem with this, as buying carbon offsets is not the same as being carbon neutral. She said she’d rather see

council take the $5,000 and put it towards reaching the Village’s target of carbon neutrality in the community.

Council agreed; the Village will not buy carbon offsets.

• The Village will continue to participate in the five-year Water Smart program. Urban Systems is working on a water meter assessment. Nakusp has reduced its water use, by 11 percent in 2010, 14 percent in 2011, and 20 percent in 2012, achieving its goal of a 15 percent reduction two years earlier than anticipated.

Queen’s Medals

Slocan residents Bernie Czaklinski and Madeleine Parsons were honored with Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals at a ceremony at the Silvery Slocan Hall in Slocan on February 22.

Jean Patterson made the presentation to Bernie, arriving in Slocan in 1972 with his son, Benny.

• The application for Gas Tax Program funds for the water reservoir leak sealing project was not approved.

The Village will pay for the project, as it will recover its costs by reducing the amount of treated water lost through leaks.

Bernie built and operated the garage that is now Mountain Valley Station. He was “the driving force of all the fishing club’s endeavours,” said Jean, and was also the key organizer of softball tournaments and fishing derbies. He served as mayor of Slocan and was a regular volunteer at Slocan events and fundraisers. “Whenever a helping hand was needed, Bernie was there,” said Jean.

Joanne Ellis presented Madeleine with the medal. Madeleine arrived in Slocan in 1974, and Joanne has known her since 1980. The two were mothers together, and are now both grandmothers – they even share two grandchildren. Madeleine was on the board of the WE Graham Community Service Society, where Joanne is executive director, so they also worked together. Madeleine has been on council for the last four years, the last two years as mayor. “She always thinks of the community first,” said Joanne.

Former MLA Corky Evans also spoke at the ceremony. “Canada is glorious and free because people do what you folks do,” he said. Of Madeleine, he said, “I think we’re celebrating someone who can represent us and be of us at the same time.”

Madeleine and Bernie thanked everyone for coming and received a standing ovation.
Elder abuse and scams discussed at seniors drop-in session

by Jan McMurray

Elder abuse and scams were discussed at the seniors drop-in session at the Silverton on Memorial Hall on Thursday, February 21, with Constable Alan van Hussen from the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment as the guest speaker.

Van Hussen explained that elder abuse can be financial, physical or psychological and can happen to mentally competent, independent people. The perpetrator is often a family member or someone in a position of power or authority. Elder abuse comes in many forms: violence, rough treatment, inappropriate use of medications, name calling, intimidation, threats, social isolation, improper use of credit cards or money. “If this happens to you, you need to speak up and tell someone,” said the constable. “You have to ask for help no matter how scared you are. There are lot of organizations that will help, and you can call the police.”

Constable Van Hussen also spoke about scams, most commonly attempted by telephone, fax or email. “There’s no end to the creative ways people will try to get your money,” he said.

He advised people never to give personal information by phone, fax or email. Common scams involve “hacks” asking you to confirm your account information, or asking for your personal information so that money held in trust for you in another country can be sent to you. Real banks will never ask for personal information by phone, fax or email, said Van Hussen. Scammers try to get your personal information so that they can steal your identity and use your credit cards or even gain access to your bank accounts.

Van Hussen also advised people to ask charities to mail a donation envelope rather than making a donation over the phone. This way, you will know that the charity is legitimate.

Although Constable Van Hussen said the Slocan Lake detachment rarely receives reports of anyone getting scammed, the people at the drop-in session had some stories to tell.

A Silverton couple received a call two years ago from someone pretending to be their granddaughter. She told them she had been in a car accident and was in court, and she needed $2,000 wired to Western Union. She said her lawyer was going to call in a little while. The ‘lawyer’ called, and convinced the couple to go to Nelson to wire the money. However, they were suspicious, so when they got to Nelson, they called their granddaughter at work, and there she was, safe and sound. They reported the scam to the police, but the police said they could not help.

Van Hussen acknowledged that the police cannot help in all cases, but encouraged people to call them at least as much as they know about the scams and can warn the public.

Van Hussen also said that the phone call from the ‘relative’ in need of $2,000 or thereabouts to be wired to Western Union is a common scam. He said scammers ask for $200 or a little less because if they are caught stealing up to $2,000, they can easily be released.

One local woman said she and her family members were targeted when they included their names in an obituary. Another woman advertised a truck for sale, and a buyer from Toronto sent her a cheque with no address on it. She took the cheque to her local credit union and told them she was suspicious. KSCU found out the cheque had been stolen from a research company.

More information and helpful tips can be found in a booklet produced by the RCMP entitled Seniors’ Guidebook to Safety and Security, available through the Slocan Lake detachment and the Silverton Village office.

Share
Nothin’ Fancy
is back OPEN for business! Drop in today, for yummy delicious treats!
10:30 am to 7 pm
Nothin’ Fancy Restaurant
2970 Hwy 6 + Slocan Park, BC 250-226-0065

Continued success and increased member support is what will allow for future contributions.
A complete financial report, as well as reports from the Board President and General Manager will be presented at the annual general meeting of members. Copies of the financial statement and meeting agenda will soon be available at the Administration Office in Slocan Park.

EQUITY ALLOCATION
For the fiscal year ended October 31st, 2012, the Slocan Valley Co-op produced sales of over $11.1 million; and after receiving the patronage rebate from Federated Cooperatives Limited, the Board of Directors approved the 2012 allocation of 9.5% of member patronage back to the members in equity, with 40% of the allocation to be paid to members in cash. The 2012 allocation came to $186,000 with cash back $59,144.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
This year’s patronage allocation represents another successful year of consistent results for all members to benefit from. The investments being made to provide for all of the current operational improvements will enable future success that will directly benefit the communities which we serve.

Slocan Valley Co-operative
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY
MARCH 24th
1:00 PM
PASSMORE HALL

In 2012, the Slocan Valley Co-op provided in-kind support and a variety of groups and organizations with $3,385 in donations and support.
The Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary has been a part of the community since 1908. Many changes have taken place over the years, and 2012 saw one of the biggest with the name change to Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary.

"We felt this name would better reflect our role in the community, providing donations not only to our hospital but also to other health care facilities and organizations in our area," said Kathleen Graham of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary continues with the Infant Car Seat Program and now provides three $1,000 bursaries to graduating high school students entering the health care field and three $1,000 bursaries to mature students in the area who are entering a health care field or upgrading their current status in their field.

"It was a sad day in June when we closed our gift shop at the Arrow Lakes Hospital," said Graham. "We made every effort to keep it open, but with sales dwindling and lack of volunteer staff, it made it impossible to keep it open. We still have some new knitted items for sale at the Thrift Shop."

Graham reported that the Auxiliary made donations totalling $238,239 last year. "One of the most exciting donations was forming a partnership with the Hospital Foundation and purchasing a house for a doctor," she said. Other donations included equipment for the Arrow Lakes Hospital, Minto Home, Hospice, Ambulance and Seniors' Health Fair.

"Of course none of this would be possible without our Thrift Shop," said Graham. "We are very grateful to the community for all the donations and purchases from our shop to make all this possible. We spend approximately 500 hours per month sorting, pricing and selling these items."

For more information, or to join the Auxiliary, contact any of the volunteers. "You'll find it's a lot of fun, a great place to meet people and maybe learn a new skill," said Graham.
Local opera wins international recognition

On February 8, the Amy Ferguson Institute, which commissioned KHAOS, learned that its nominations for inclusion in OPERA America’s showcase of new works had been accepted. Opera Conference 2013 will take place this year in Vancouver from May 7-11. Selections from KHAOS will be performed as part of the New Works Sampler at Vancouver’s Playhouse Theatre on the evening of May 10, one of only four to be showcased.

On February 12, Macdonald learned that the Boston Metro Opera’s 2013 international composer’s competition had selected KHAOS for a special ‘Director’s Choice Award’. Works that win the award will be performed as part of Boston Metro Opera’s regular 2013/2014 or 2014/2015 opera season.

“I am especially grateful and humbled by these awards,” said Macdonald. “Nicola and I are thrilled as it now seems our hope for wider exposure and an extended life for KHAOS is no longer just a dream.”

“I am very humbled to feel that our hard work is gaining recognition,” said librettist Nicola Harwood said. “I know that Nelson and West Kootenay audiences responded very strongly to KHAOS and it gave us great hope that the work had legs, but still, it’s tough to gauge the work based on the hometown crowd alone. These two nods are significant.”

KHAOS is a re-imagining of the ancient Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone set in a contemporary world of climate change and looming global catastrophe. This re-telling of the Greek legend asks the question: “What if civilization’s greed and unremitting drive for progress prevented Persephone from returning to Earth to console her grieving mother? Would Demeter’s grief and rage and life on earth as we know it?”
Kootenay youth invited to cancer prevention forum

The Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon, is calling on youth between the ages of 19 and 25 to apply to attend a Youth Forum taking place in Vancouver on May 11.

Re-Awakening Health Centre
320 BROADWAY ST. NAKusp 250-265-3188
25% OFF ALL REGULAR PRICED VITAMINS ONE DAY ONLY – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake taking grant applications

The Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society (CFNLKLS) is entering its eighth year of making grants to registered charities in Kaslo and Area D. CFNLKLS, operating under the wing of the Osprey Community Foundation, now has assets of $450,000 which, along with a $3,649 grant from the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, will generate $17,500 in grants for 2013.

Included in these figures are four “field of interest” funds (Seniors’ Fund; Child, Youth, and Family Fund; Environment Fund; Arts & Culture Fund) which now hold sufficient assets to make grants on their own.

The deadline for all applications is March 15; applications are available through cancergameplan.ca. Successful applicants will be notified by April 1.

RBCM Sloan Lake Detachment report

A Nelson man has been arrested after a break and enter in Widalon. On February 25, Sloan Lake RCMP received a report that sometime during the day a residence on Winalow Bridge Road had been broken into. Police were advised that numerous items were stolen from the residence, with an estimated value of over $30,000. A Forensic Identification Investigator processed the scene, locating several pieces of evidence suitable for forensic examination.

During the ensuing investigations on the following day, a Sloan Lake officer identified a person of interest in the area. The officer found the 38-year-old Nelson resident in possession of the property stolen the previous day.

The man was arrested and the property was recovered. Police later determined that the man had an outstanding warrant for failing to comply with court imposed conditions stemming from a previous break and enter.

The suspect has been remanded in custody and will appear in court at a future date.

On February 27 a traffic complaint led to an arrest on drug trafficking charges. Sloan Lake RCMP responded to the complaint, which was on Hwy 31A just east of New Denver, and located the suspect vehicle parked at a pullout on Sandon Road.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the officer observed a lone male in the driver’s seat and drug paraphernalia on the passenger seat. The man was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and searched incidentally to arrest. The male was found to be in possession of approximately 26 grams of crystal meth, over $3,000 in cash, and paraphernalia consistent with drug trafficking.

The 40-year-old man, who resides in Kaslo and Nakusp, was held in custody and appeared in Nakusp Provincial Court on February 28. He has been remanded in custody until his next appearance at the Nelson Provincial Courthouse on March 5. Police are recommending charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking.

Sloan Lake and Nakusp RCMP are requesting that anyone with information on the distribution of drugs in the area to report it to the local RCMP or to Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is updating parcel tax rolls for the following service areas:

South Slocan Water Service Parcel Tax
Duhamel Water Service Parcel Tax
Ymir Water Service Frontage Tax
Lucas Road Water Service Parcel Tax
Voykin Street Lighting Service Parcel Tax
Sanca Park Water Service Parcel Tax
Riondel Water Service Frontage Tax
McDonald Creek Water Service Parcel Tax
Balfour Water Service Parcel Tax
Woodland Water Service Parcel Tax
West Robson Water Service Parcel Tax
Burton Water Service Parcel Tax
Edgewood Water Service Parcel Tax
Fauquier Water Service Parcel Tax
Grandview Properties Water Service Parcel Tax
Woodbury Water Service Parcel Tax

New commencing for taxation year 2013:

Rosebery Highlands Water Service Area

Owners of property located in these parcel tax areas may request that the roll be amended, in relation to their own property, on one or more of the following grounds:

• there is an error or omission respecting a name or address on the assessment roll;
• there is an error or omission respecting the inclusion of a parcel;
• there is an error or omission respecting the taxable frontage of a parcel (for water or sewer service areas that use frontage for taxation); and
• an exemption has been improperly allowed or disallowed.

The parcel tax rolls are available for inspection, at the Regional District of Central Kootenay office in Nelson during regular office hours.

Requests for amendments must be made in writing to the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 on or before March 11, 2013 at 4:00 pm. If requests are received, a Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will meet at 10:00 am on March 12, 2013 in the RDCK Board Room in Nelson.
**The FALSE Controversy: Evolution vs. Creationism**

submitted

Have you ever wondered about the controversy surrounding the debate over evolution and creationism? Many people find the debate confusing as both sides claim a "scientific" conclusion. It is very difficult to decide which side is correct. Is there a correct side? Is there evidence for both sides of the debate? Is the truth somewhere in the middle? The Centre for Inquiry is sponsoring the presentation of an informational talk titled "The FALSE Controversy: Evolution vs. Creationism" by Dr. David Eberth. Senior paleontologist and geologist at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, he has studied ancient environments of fossil-bearing rocks around the world. His specialties include stratigraphy and sedimentology, chronostratigraphy (the age of the rocks), and taphonomy (influence on preservation and fossilization)."

**Emergency Social Service volunteers get response vests for Slocan Valley**

submitted

"Anna, Emergency Services (ESS) volunteers arrive at a scene to assist with evacuations and people are often left on their own; says Terry Swan, General Manager of RDCK Fire and Emergency Services. With the vests they won’t be mistaken as someone out for a stroll. ESS is a province-wide community based emergency response program."

**Sport stacking takes Slocan boy to Florida**

submitted

Ten-year-old Sasha MacMillan of Slocan has been chosen to compete for Team Canada at the World Sport Stacking competition in Orlando, Florida in April. Sasha is currently working hard at fundraising for the trip. On March 16, there will be a bottle drive at the Nelson Junior A Leafs Bottle Depot, 120 Silica St. If you wish to donate but can’t attend the bottle drive, you can make donations to the Bottle Depot at any time in March and ask them to designate the funds to Sasha Macmillan. Mountain Valley Station in Slocan will also accept donations in Sasha’s name. Also on March 16, Liz Babcock and Rebecca Hunter of Cloud Nine Clinic will offer 20 minute sessions of Thai foot massage, and also Flower Essence consultations by donation and will donate the proceeds to Sasha’s trip. Please contact Heather MacMillan (Sasha’s mom) at 250-355-2488 or email macmillanfamily6@gmail.com. LiveWireless.ca for more information about booking your session. You can read about sport stacking at http://www.speedstacks.com/."

**Village of Silvertown Municipal Campground Attendant**

submitted

The Corporation of the Village of Silvertown PO Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue Silvertown, British Columbia V0G 2S0 Phone: 250-355-2472 Fax: 250-355-3231 Email: co@silvertown.ca

**NOTICE:**

**FOR SALE BY BID**

The Village of Slocan has the following lot of modular trailers available for bid:

- **#1 1993 WASCHAC TRAILER**
  - 10’ x 24’ Shelter Industries Inc. modular relocatable building
  - 3 showers, 4 toilets, laundry (Shower/laundry), no wheels or hitch

- **KITCHEN / WASCHAC TRAILER**
  - 10’ x 44 ATCO Structures Ltd. modular relocatable building
  - Range, triple sink, fire suppression system, toilet, shower, Laundry (Shower/dryer), no wheels

- **OFFICE / BUNK TRAILER**
  - 10’ x 36 ATCO Structures Ltd. modular relocatable building
  - 3 room, office, bunk, no wheels or hitch

- **DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILER**
  - 26’ x 42’ ATCO Structures Ltd. double wide modular relocatable building with washroom

**BIDDING CLOSES:**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 4:00 pm.**

Interested parties may view the trailers on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 10:00 am.
  - Please arrive at the Village Works yard promptly at 10:00 am.

**TERMS:**

1. All four trailers must be sold as a single lot.
2. All trailers will be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS" with no warranty expressed or implied.
3. The site and all supporting structures, including docks and porches, are to be removed by the purchaser and the site left in a clean and sawn manner.
4. Site cleanup and removal must be completed within sixty (60) days of the Village’s acceptance of bid.
5. Terms of sale will be cash or certified cheque to the successful bidder.
6. The successful bidder will be responsible for payment of fees and taxes and must pay for the sale within five (5) days of acceptance.
7. The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.

Please forward bids under confidential cover to:

**Village of Slocan**

RE: For Sale by Bid - Trailers

PO Box 50, 503 Slocan Street, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0

Email: info@villageofslocan.ca Fax: (250) 355-2669

Please mark envelope, fax or email clearly: RE: For Sale by Bid - Trailers

Pictures available online at www.slocancity.com, Slocan News page.
Atamanenko disturbed by Conservative Employment Insurance quotas

submitted

NDP MP Alex Atamanenko says he was disturbed to hear that Employment Insurance recipients are being treated as if they are guilty of fraud.

“We have seen so many dirty tricks from the Conservative government that I thought there were no surprises left,” said the MP for BC Southern Interior.

“When I heard that there are new quotas being set to reduce eligibility by $485,000, I realized that they will stop at nothing to punish workers, especially those whose employment is seasonal.”

Atamanenko said the government is “demonizing ordinary Canadians who are struggling to get by,” and the Conservative economic policy has done nothing to generate jobs in sectors that provide a decent livelihood and keep people in their communities.

He added that his community offices have received a number of calls from EI applicants who are frustrated at not being able to navigate the system, who cannot talk directly to a living person and who have limited access to computers.

Reports in the media about some EI applicants receiving in-person visits from representatives of EI have increased his concern. The MP called it “absolutely degrading” and an invasion of privacy which served no purpose. He called making it harder to receive EI benefits an injustice to those who have contributed to the system.

Atamanenko concluded, “This is not the way to treat those who have contributed to the system.”

Pesticide regulations to reflect public input

submitted

Taking into account more than 8,000 comments from a public consultation as well as recommendations from the bi-partisan Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides, the proposed amendments to the provincial Integrated Pest Management Act will address public concerns over the use of cosmetic pesticides on private landscaped areas.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure cosmetic pesticides are being used safely and responsibly.

Over 5,000 of the public responses called for at least a restriction on the scope of pesticides used on private landscaped areas. Additionally, crack-downs is part of the strategy to divide and conquer the growing opposition to this government and its policies. Instead of taking the

make sure the public is consulted,” said principal Nathalia Miles. She encourages community consultation to begin early this fall.

Miles explained that statutory holidays tend to fall on Mondays, and non-instructional (ND) days tend to fall on Fridays. Classes could occur from Monday to Thursday when there is an ND day scheduled on Friday, and from Tuesday to Friday when there is a holiday on the Monday.

“The first step is to meet as a staff early after spring break to look at some of the logistical planning behind it,” said Miles. She said they may come up with two alternatives—a four-day week with longer days or a four-day week with classes only one month. Once the logistics have been discussed at the staff level, there would be a meeting with parents.

The importance of seed saving in the Slocan

submitted

The genetic diversity of the world’s food system is steadily decreasing. Scientists estimate about 15 plant species go extinct every day, including plants that people once ate. An industrial model of monoculture is replacing biodiversity and thousands of years of work by farmers. Modern seed companies are offering fewer options for farmers because of the demands by big companies for one type of a very limited number of crops.

Furthermore, genetic engineering giants are patenting genetically modified (GM) seeds, particularly of such crop staples as corn, soybeans, and cotton, making it illegal for farmers to save GM seeds from one year’s harvest for the next year’s crop.

Saving and replanting seeds from year to year encourages plant diversity, combats the trend toward monoculture seed, plant and food supply, and helps select plants better suited to local conditions.

Patrick Steiner of Stellar Seeds in Johnson’s Landing will share his experience with seed saving at a half-

day workshop in New Denver. He will cover topics such as: which seeds to start with, understanding isolation distances for transmirs-to-type, ‘selfers’ and ‘crossers’ require different seed saving practices, selection criteria, how to tell when a seed is mature, harvesting techniques for wet-seeded and dry-seeded crops and low tech seed saving tools.

Resources that can help seed savers of any level will be made available.

The workshop will be held at the Knox Hall this Saturday, March 9 from 10 am until 1 pm. It will be followed by a potluck lunch from 1-2 pm and a seed swap and sale from 2-4 pm. This is an opportunity to start saving more local seed and exchange some local varieties of seed. Local seeds will also be available for sale.

Participants are encouraged to bring relatively fresh, viable seeds and envelopes for taking samples.

The workshop is sponsored by the Healthy Community Society but donations of $5-15 for the workshop will be gratefully accepted to help cover costs.
Edgewood boat ramp improvements underway
by Jan McMurray

Work on the Edgewood boat ramp project started this week, marking the last boat ramp project that BC Hydro was ordered to complete on the Arrow Reservoir by the Water Comptroller.

BC Hydro was ordered to improve six ramps altogether, and had completed three (McDonald Creek Park, Fancourt and Burton) by summer 2011. In February 2012, Columbia Power Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Hydro to take over project management for the remaining three – Anderson Point near Castlegar, Nakusp and Edgewood.

Audrey Repin of Columbia Power Corporation reported that at a public meeting on February 27 in Edgewood, the community met the contractor – Caretakers of the Land, affiliated with the Splatun Nation, based out of Enderby. Subcontractors that will help with the project include Landmark, which is the contractor for the Nakusp boat ramp project, and Galena Contractors out of Nakusp. Repin said Caretakers of the Land are planning to hire some local people, as well.

Caretakers of the Land have a forest licence, and will be using logs from their licence in the project.

Repin reported that the contractors plan to do site preparation during the first week of March, and will start taking apart the old timber piles on March 11. “We’re very happy and the community is very happy to see this project get underway,” she said.

The ramp will be closed during construction, but the contractors told the community they will try to accommodate boaters as best they can. They expect to complete the project in May, but Repin says there is a good chance they will have to come back next year to finish up due to water levels. “We didn’t expect water levels to come back this quickly so they had to change their plans,” she said.

Since the boat ramp construction is completed, ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of BC Hydro and Columbia Power.

Tourism plan initiated by Slocan District Chamber of Commerce
by Jan McMurray

A full-day tourism planning workshop took place at Heart’s Rest Retreat Centre in New Denver on February 25. Initiated by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, the tourism planning process is part of TourismBC’s Community Tourism Foundations (CTF) program.

The session was facilitated by Suzanne Denbak, who has done many tourism plans for the CTF program. She expects to have a draft plan for the Slocan Valley in four to six weeks. The draft plan will be reviewed by the workshop participants and shared with residents before the plan is finalized.

Laura Plante from TourismBC and Emilie Cayer-Huard from Kootenay Rockies Tourism were also at the workshop, and there were 19 local participants, representing the tourism industry, the Chamber, the Villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, and Area H. To gather participants, the Chamber put out a call to its members and the public in a newspaper ad.

Denbak assured the group that this would not be a “cookie cutter” plan, but would be driven by the community’s priorities. She also stressed the importance of “keeping it real” so that implementation of the plan is doable.

The group described the valley’s target tourism market as people who are interested in place-based experiences that are true to local values, and people who would want to live here longer. Stays in the peak season and more visitors during the shoulder seasons and winter were identified as objectives.

To determine the area’s distinctive competitive advantage, each participant was asked to describe the area in one word. The physical beauty of the area and the area’s eclectic culture were the themes that came out of that exercise.

Tourism products and experiences that could be developed included multi-day, multi-mode travel experiences, a lake and river pilgrimage from Summit Lake to the bottom of the Slocan River, an artists’ tour, conferences, weddings, anniversaries, reunions, a garden tour, a historical tour.

At the end of the day, the group came up with a list of priorities and individual participants volunteered to work on one or more of them. Some of these included developing a ‘leave no trace’ program, gateway signage, events calendar, regional collaborations, and promotion of gatherings such as conferences, retreats, and weddings.

Tales from the Fisherman’s Market: Drove the Chevy to the Levy

When I started my sablefish (black cod) fishing career, the individual vessel quota (IVQ) system had recently taken effect. It didn’t really matter to us how long we fished; we knew we would catch the fish and in turn, make our money.

We were all time fishermen then. And I mean full time. We would work on gear in the winter, prep the boat in the spring, and in between and on either side, we would fish. That’s what we did. We were fishermen. And fishermen fish. ’Back when we were men and fish were scared’.

Herring, halibut, sablefish and prawns. With all the prep work and post fishing clean up, it was nine months a year. Sure we could do what we wanted in our down time, and we all had fairly deep pockets for the times but hell, we earned it.

One season however, we scoured the coastline searching for fish and found nothing. It’s so demoralizing to go through the motions of getting up before dawn, doing dangerous, laborious work till dusk and not getting paid to do it all. Whilst flipping up and down in the middle of the Pacific. This went on for weeks. Weeks! We finally did catch all our fish that year, but it was very trying for all. We rarely spoke. Allegiances were formed. And when we did speak, it was to fight, and fight fiercely we did, on that 53’ vessel we called home. One of our longtime crew members quit and another lost his wife to a scoundrel. Real life can be painful. It was awful for all. Six grown, grizzled men were never more homesick I’m sure.

This never ending season taught me many lessons that I have used later in life, and fishing is like that. But the wisdom I gained from that season, I would gladly learn. It does however, make me respect the fishermen out there right now catching our sablefish, that much more. March is sablefish month at the Fisherman’s Market.

-Adrian P, Fisherman’s Market
Quality you deserve

March Special: SABLEFISH (BLACK COD)

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WANTED TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES
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250-547-9296
The Change Agents film production provides true experiential learning for LV Rogers students

by Jan McMurray

LV Rogers Secondary School teacher Robyn Sheppard was inspired to write the script for the film ‘The Change Agents’ when a tarry student came to her and said, “If everything being said about the environmental crisis is true, then why aren’t we doing more to change things? It’s an emergency. We need to do more.”

Sheppard got the students and community involved in creating ‘The Change Agents,’ the first feature-length film to be produced by a high school. Since it premiered in November 2012, there have been numerous requests for screenings around the Kootenays, BC, Alberta, other parts of Canada, Europe, China, Indonesia and the US. On February 16, it was shown at the Brilliant Cultural Centre to a full house.
The film is about a 17-year-old Dobudob girl who is so passionate about the environment that she alienates herself from her peers, but ends up organizing a peaceful protest at her school that brings students and community members together to stand up for the earth.

“I don’t think anyone can watch this film without being moved,” said executive producer JoAnn Lowell during a discussion with the audience after the film. Audience members proved this statement correct when sharing their responses to the film.

Sheppard explained in an interview that she started writing the script after her encounter with the upset student, and then realized as she stood in front of her classes every day that she should be getting the students involved.

“As a parent, teacher and a person living in these times, I felt very concerned about what’s happening on the planet. The more I read, the more the consensus plagued me, and I asked myself why I was not addressing these issues with the students.”

So, she started an out-of-the-ordinary film club, arranging for mentors from the community to work with the students. “It was an amazing experience for the kids – lots of hard work, but education at its best, I think – true experiential learning,” said Sheppard. “The whole model was visionary and very generous of the community.”

Students worked with community mentors on filming, lighting, make-up, costumes, set design, producing, casting and acting. An audition call went out in the paper, and 180 people turned out. “It was a huge job to cast it,” recalled Sheppard.

There was a core group of about 20 students, she said, and about half the people on each shoot were students.

Production of the film started in 2010 and ended in 2012. Most of the students who were involved will graduate this year, and some are pursuing careers in film. Josh Treijts, who plays one of the main characters, was filming the discussion with the audience at the Brilliant screening and is studying Digital Arts at Selkirk College.

Atmosphere of people is now working on distribution of the film, including 18-year-old Alecia Maslochko, associate producer; JoAnn Lowell, executive producer; and Sarah Hayward, producer from Los Angeles who heard about the project while in the Kootenays and offered their expertise.

“Hopefully it will get out there and people will see it and it will provoke conversation. That’s the goal,” said Sheppard.

Spring break brings art camp for kids

Oxygen Art Centre has pulled out all the stops this year to bring you Spring Break Art Camp 2013. Oxygen’s instructors have developed brand new camps this year that will develop skills and exercises over each week, culminating in a performance or screening at the end of the week for family and friends.

Week 1 (March 11-15) is Puppet Show for ages 5-8 in the morning; children will be introduced to the process of creating a five-minute puppet show.

In the afternoon, it’s Theatre & Music Making for ages 10-14; join Bessie Wagg and Fiona Brown for an exciting week of mask-making, costume design, theatre games, character development and collaborative play creation.

Week 2 (March 18-22) is Stop Motion Animation with Suez Holland, ages 9-11 in the morning and 12-15 in the afternoon. With seven years experience working with students at The Gulf Island Film and TV School, Suez offers quick handy-on creativity. Learn how to magically move paper cut-outs frame by frame and turn your sequence into a movie clip.

Register online at www.oxygenartcentre.org or contact us at 250-352-6322 or info@oxygenartcentre.org.

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.

- Visit www.gov.bc.ca/PST to register online
- Visit a Service BC location
- Mail or fax your application

Not sure if you need to register? Call, email, or find us online.

Questions? Call 1 877 388-4440 or email us at CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca

The Valley Voice

Check it out!
The website is a great place to book your ads, too!
Email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
Phone: 250-358-7218
Public consultation launched on School District #8 catchment areas

by Jan McMurray

The Boundary/Catchment Ad-Hoc Committee of School District #8 has recently held four meetings to gather public input on school catchment areas. A meeting was held at Mt. Sentinel Secondary on February 28.

“We’re committed to doing extensive public consultation,” said Sheri Walsh, Sicamous Valley trustee and member of the ad-hoc committee, in a telephone interview. The PowerPoint presentation shown at the meetings bills this round of meetings as “round one,” and says the committee will take “as long as it takes to do it right.”

The committee is reviewing boundaries and catchments for relevancy, the ability to serve educational needs for students, and the ability to serve transportation needs for students.

Walsh said the need for the review was triggered by the 2009 transportation review, and the fees for out of catchment bus transportation implemented this year. She added that she feels catchments should be reviewed at regular intervals because population and demographics change over the years. For example, she said Shuswapacres and the Boundary subdivision are relatively new communities.

Walsh reported that most of the questions at the Mt. Sentinel meeting were about the boundary with School District 20, the catchment area for Boundary residents, and the Valhalla Wilderness Program at W.E. Graham.

Several students from School District 20, specifically Shuswapacres and Pass Creek, attend Brent Kennedy and Mt. Sentinel – these are the closest schools to those communities. Walsh said their boundary would have to be changed by ministerial order, but the first step would be to meet with School District 20 and this is in the works.

The committee also heard from Boundary residents who would prefer to be in the catchment area for Blewett School rather than Brent Kennedy. Many Boundary parents want in Nelson, so they can take their children to Blewett School or Hanna School.

Walsh also reported that there was no confusion about W.E. Graham’s outdoor programs. Although the Valhalla Wilderness Program at W.E. Graham is for grades 9 and 10 students, it is a special program with an application process and any grade 9 or 10 student from anywhere may apply. Once students have completed grade 8 at W.E. Graham, their in-catchment secondary school is Mt. Sentinel.

They may choose, however, to apply for the Valhalla Wilderness Program for grades 9 and 10 and then attend Mt. Sentinel for grades 11 and 12. W.E. also has the “Outdoor Education Leadership Program” for grades 7 and 8 students, but this is not a special program. So, W.E. is the in-catchment school for K-8 and Mt. Sentinel is the in-catchment school for grades 9-12.

The PowerPoint presentations shown at the meetings are available at www.sd8.bc.ca and are encouraged to email catchment@sd8.bc.ca with their input.

“We have to look at impacts on school communities and communities,” said Walsh. “We have to consider the unintended impacts of moving boundaries. That’s why we need to hear from people,” she said.

The New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society is seeking two staff for the following positions:

Youth Centre Supervisor: This is a part time, shared position with hours in the evenings and weekends. The successful applicant will maintain a clean, safe and fun environment for youth. Responsibilities include youth supervision and operational duties.

Youth Centre Coordinator: This is a part time administrative position with flexible hours and the option of working from home. The successful applicant should be experienced in staff supervision and program management and proficient with computers.

Job descriptions and applications can be obtained via email at newdenveryouthcentre@gmail.com or picked up at Home Hardware or Silverton Building Supplies. Applications and resumes can be submitted via email or postal service to PO Box 151, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. Positions are open until filled.
Local Economy Summit report

New Denver Councillor Heather Fox attended the Local Economy Summit February 13 and 14, and provided the following report at the February 26 council meeting.

The Local Economy Summit was a day and a half symposium to bring local governments, business leaders, and community organizations together to explore ideas and possibilities related to building a strong local economy. The conference was a CUPE BC project that was a natural extension of the Ten Percent Shift (tempercentshift.ca), a movement focused on encouraging each of us to shift 10 percent of our consumer dollars to locally owned businesses.

Michael Shuman, the author of many books, including Local Dollars, Local Sense: How to Shift your Money from Wall Street to Main Street, talked about the impact local business has on the economy and on jobs. Civic Economies (civiceconomies.com), an economic analysis and strategic planning consultancy, shared real-life economic improvements found in communities that have implemented change toward local business, including one US study that found the business district prospered when it had a strong small business presence and nearby home values increased. A discussion panel shared ideas and answered questions from the attendees on challenges and opportunities facing communities who have started the shift.

Three ideas put forward at the conference as ways to implement the shift were:
1) more people learning how to be entrepreneurs;
2) business and government learning how to lead change;
3) all of us learning how to do things differently.

Zingermans Deli is an example of a local business that tried something different and succeeded. Rather than replicating their deli through the franchise model, the owners chose to develop new, independent businesses, all rooted in the local community that would work together as one organization. Each business is operated by one or more managing partners who share ownership and put their particular expertise to work in the day to day running of their business. (http://www.zingermanscommunity.com/about-us/a-bit-of-zingermans-history/)

The Ten Percent Shift is about making 'shop local' part of the culture and bringing about this change through education, promotion, government procurement, inter-business support, and personal connection. Moving toward more local business is about planning (identifying what is leaking out of the local economy and identifying ways to keep that money in town a little bit longer), people (finding local entrepreneurs), partners (collaboration amongst the local business community), and policy making.

One statement was made during the conference which sums up the challenge for all communities: “We must be bold enough to allow local business to succeed.”

Castlegar workshop for non-profits to offer grants

submitted
Local non-profit groups could benefit from a substantial grant after attending a workshop that is being held in Castlegar on April 22. Enteprising Non-Profits (enp) Michele Cherot, a grant facilitator, will offer the workshop.

“The workshop is an introduction to social enterprise, a valuable learning and grant opportunity for non-profits that are either exploring or have existing business models. As an example of how we support local projects, in the fall of 2012, enp gave a grant to the Trail and District Arts Council to develop a business plan to expand the operation of the Charles Bailey Theatre,” said David LePage, the Program Manager at Enteprising Non-Profits.

Just by attending the workshop, these organizations qualify for one of many grants handed out by the group. Grant applications are available at the workshop; grants up to $10,000 in business development funding may be available to each applicant.

After receiving the applications, Enteprising Non-Profits collaborates with funders — including the Vancouver Foundation, the VanCity Community Foundation, Vancity, the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the Southern Interior Trust, Columbia Basin Trust and Capital One — to decide who qualifies for the grants.

Approximately 60 grants are handed out each year, representing nearly $350,000.

The workshop is geared towards non-profits that are looking to generate additional revenue or develop employment for targeted individuals such as youth at risk or people with disabilities.

“The basic goal is to introduce and support non-profits that are looking at using a business model to further their success or their sustainability,” LePage said.

Stakeholders will learn about building a social enterprise, which is a business operated by a non-profit organization. The goal is to be a successful business, but to also create a social environmental or cultural purpose.

Entreprising Non-Profits travels to more than 25 communities throughout the province each year, visiting different municipalities each time.

Two application reviews and funding announcements are made during any given year. The local workshop is being held in Castlegar. People can register for the workshop at www.enteprisingnonprofits.ca.
CLASSIFIED ADS

DROPOFF CLASSES
Every Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Art Three Studios, New Denver. Everyone welcome. 250-358-2869.

MUGSY BALONE — a play put on by grade 8/9 Silverton Gallery March 14 and 15, 7 p.m. Donation at the door. A heart-warming story, choice price, and hot coffee. Silverton Gallery.

SILVERTON GALLERY UPGRADE EVENTS: March 15 and 16, 7 p.m. Events at Silverton Gallery. Each ticket for $15.00. The show is called "Silverton Gallery." Silverton Gallery.

NAKUSP AND AREA SOCIETY is seeking a part-time fun, energetic, passionate Youth Coordinator for April 1, 2013. Nominations are due by March 22, 2013. More information available at www.nakuspandareasociety.net. Send nominations to Info@nakuspandareasociety.net.
COMMUNITY

RDCK board, February 28: by Jan McMurray

- The RDCK will apply for $10,000 in matching funding from the Columbia Basin Trust to develop and implement a hazard management strategy in known flood areas. The RDCK will contribute $10,000 from the sustainability fund.

- This comes out of a Climate Adaptation Scanning and Planning Workshop hosted by the CBT in January. Priority future climate risks identified were flooding, wildfire, and water supply.

- The Sewage Agreement will be signed with Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to provide internet services and network connectivity at the RDCK office building in Nelson for five years at a cost of $50,000.

- The board received a letter from Interior Health, asking for feedback on its Large Water System Strategic Plan. Large water systems provide service to more than 500 customers. District Shadwick will prepare a draft response for the March board meeting.

- Mayor Hamling and Director Fust were appointed to a committee that will examine the governance relationship between the CBT and local governments.

- IRI Engineering and Land Services was awarded the Fausquelle Water Treatment Plant Design and Project Management contract for $189,560. BC Hydro is footing the bill for this as part of the 2011 agreement that saw the RDCK acquire the system from BC Hydro. Adding the treatment plant will require more visits by the operator, and that the operator get Level 2 certification. A staff report explains that the plant will use an "economically feasible, well proven, reliable, low maintenance treatment technology such as slow sand filtration or rapid sand filtration."

- Staff would like to install a central SCADA system, so the system can be monitored remotely.

- A three-year Dog Control contract was signed with Jackie Jablonski for the Village of Nakusp and a portion of Arno K.

- School District 8 Trustee Sheil Walsh and Susan McCurry were appointed to the Slocan and Valley Regional Parks and Recreation Commission. Rayn Butt was appointed to the Rosebery Parks and Trails Commission.

- The contract for the Mosquito Control Program for the period from March 1, 2013, to December 31, 2017, was awarded to Morrow BioScience.

Dona Rea Dixie passed away peacefully on March 2, 2013, at Arrow Lakes Hospital, where she was born on the late Herman and Velma Detta, May 8, 1944 at Skoana Lake. She married her high school sweetheart, Alan Oda, in 1962 and settled in Vancouver, B.C. They celebrated the birth of their only son, Curtis Oda, in 1966. Dona enjoyed an exciting career in office management. She was known for her "top typing" and could do the job of three. Dona retired in 2005, when she took up residence at the dorsas Lodge in New Denver, which tranquility was her place of birth before the hospital was converted into apartments. She always referred to her move as "the full circle." Dona was a fastidious person, a lover and a golfer. Despite the arthritis and walk, she was a neat lady. Her golfing skills were in the presence of friends and family. She was always playing with Bingo. Dona crossed the life of all she met. She was of a sweetly painterly being the sort of a bypath and the challenge of an "all rounder." More than that was not the way she was. Dona is survived by her son Curtis Oda, Sister Carol Pangely, Brothers-in-Law (Doreen), Robert (Burt) and Jerry Detta, several beautiful and caring Asunts, nieces, nephews, Cousins, nieces, nephews, and other beloved Friends. At last year is the year her long. Dona had a contagious "dessert first" approach to life which brought a smile to all our faces. In her honour we will strive to enjoy the sweet things in life. Heartfelt thanks to the caring staff at Nakusp Community Health Centre, Trail Regional Hospital and Arrow Lakes Hospital during Dona’s last days. Thanks to family and friends for your genuine support and thoughtfulness.

March 6, 2013, The Valley Voice
North Valley Mountain Film Festival teams up with Shades of Loud

Submitted

This Saturday, March 9, the North Valley Mountain Film Festival presents the seventh annual evening of mountain films. And to help us celebrate, New Denver’s very own Shades of Loud will rock the Bosun Hall immediately following the film presentations.

This year’s film festival once again showcases an intriguing and exciting lineup of mountain films and photo presentations. A biographic documentary on the life and photos of Argentina wildlife photographer extraordinaria Jim Lawrence will be sure to inspire the budding photographer. Jesse Schlapakowski, who debated at last year’s festival, presents a wide range of nature photos including bears and a particularly mystical black wolf that will leave the audience feeling closer to these intensely personal beings. And student film-maker Yon S G has local ski footage that will make everyone want to wax the skis and head up the mountain for some of the best powder skiing in the world. All this and much more!

Our feature presentation is an inspirational, visually stunning production by paraglider extraordinaire Benjamin Jordan, an ex-fashion and advertising photographer from Toronto, who fortunately for us, now calls a school bus in Slocan his home.

The Boy Who Flies’ won an award as Best Canadian Film at this year’s Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, and involves Jordan as he travels to Africa to attempt to be a positive presence while seeking an ancestor with whom to paraglide. He finds not only such a young protagonist, but also finds within himself “unsettling truths about his own racial and cultural identity.” More than just a film about paragliding in Africa, this touching film helps us all get a bird’s-eye view of the truths of humanity.

Following the films, at approximately 9:30 pm, Shades of Loud will bring down the Bosun with their unbelievably energetic, totally danceable, ska-rock-alternative magic. Playing from their latest, self-titled album as well as an entire lineup of new, musically creative songs, everyone will be stoked to celebrate mountain culture into the night. With Jeremy Down on lead vocals/guitar, Chris Warren ripping on the drums, and J Battle working his brilliance on the bass, everyone is in for an inspirational, awe-inspiring evening. Refreshments will be served while the band is rocking.

As a fundraiser for the North Slocan Trails Society, popcorn, spritzers, and tea will be served. Also, raffle prizes, including outdoor gear from Ambler, IMBA, Kootenay Mountain Sports, and others, will be drawn at intermission. Sappho’s Bakery will serve pizza and yummy baked goods starting at 6 pm, so you can enjoy dinner with your films.

Doors open at 6 pm and films start promptly at 6:30 pm. Tickets are available at Rutabaga’s and Silverton Building Supplies, $10 adults, $5 for students, and children 10 and under are free (includes film fest and band!).

For more information, visit northvalleyfilmfestival.com.