Advocate for terminating Columbia River Treaty speaks in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Sid Parker wants to see the Columbia River Treaty terminated, and shared this message passionately with about 50 people at the Nakusp Seniors Hall on March 27.

“It's been a long journey for me from farm boy to City politics to federal politics. For God's sake, terminate this treaty. It's not worth the paper it's written on,” he said.

Parker is intimately acquainted with the treaty. He was 14 years old and living on a farm in Revelstoke when treaty discussions began. As mayor of Revelstoke (1971-1978) when construction began on the Revelstoke Dam in 1978, and MP of Kootenay East (1980-84 and 1988-93) when construction was completed in 1993, he dealt with hundreds of complaints about the treaty. He has recently self-published a book entitled “Damn it, It's About Water: USA-Canada Columbia River Treaty.”

Parker encouraged the Nakusp audience to make this an election issue, “At the end of the day, this is all about what we are going to do, and ask them why we don’t have a long-range plan for the Columbia River from BC Hydro,” he said.

He read out the introduction to the treaty, which talks about co-operation between Canada and the US “for the greater wealth and happiness of the two nations — and then went on to describe how the treaty is anything but a show of co-operation and fairness between the two countries. While Canada suffered huge losses socially, economically and environmentally with the destruction of farmland, fisheries and recreation, the US has enjoyed many benefits, he said.

Parker listed some of the benefits the US sees because of the Canadian reservoirs. The reservoirs provide enough water to irrigate 0.5 million acres of American land, creating competition for BC farm farmers. Two years after the treaty went into force, the Americans opened up a navigational canal over 1,700 kilometres long from Lewiston, Idaho to the Pacific Ocean and built the port of Lewiston, which sees 12 million tons of products per year. Anzenman plants cropped up, made possible with the extra power created by the treaty. Fifteen million people visit the US Columbia River Basin every year because Canada keeps the lakes level for them, he said.

In exchange for providing six states with flood control for 60 years, Canada received $64 million. “That’s less than $200,000 per year per state,” he said, pointing out that this would cover the cost of one house being flooded out today. Then, Canada sold the first 30 years of the Canadian Entitlement to the US and used the money to build the dams. Parker said that we are finally now receiving our entitlement, but “how do you define profit if you don’t realize what you have lost in order to get the profits?”

Parker is also very concerned that the reservoirs are filling up with sediments brought down by avalanches, and the creeks and rivers flowing into them, and that this is diminishing their ability to hold water. He said he is aware that the US is decommissioning some of its dams on the Columbia because of sedimentation problems.

“Mica holds 12 million acre feet of water. In my opinion, that reservoir can’t hold that water because it’s half full of sediment, so water will be flowing over top. If the situation is as bad as I think it is, there is serious erosion at the top end of Arrow simply because Mica is losing its function as a key storage reservoir. It wouldn’t surprise me if BC Hydro has to decommission the high Arrow reservoir before 2024. If this happens, you’ll be getting a call from BC Hydro telling you to get out of the way,” he said.

Parker also told the story of the treaty. “The treaty was signed twice,” he said. The first treaty would have saved the Arrow Lakes Valley and was signed in 1961 by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. It contained a plan developed by General McNaghten, who had studied the subject for 17 years, that called for dams at Duncan, Mica and Murphy (near Trail). However, Premier Bennett, who was focused on building a dam on the Peace River, asked for changes to McNaghten’s plan that gave the Americans what they wanted. This is the treaty in force today, signed in 1964 by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. Although Pearson had campaigned against the treaty, once he was elected, he signed it. Parker said it was John F. Kennedy who changed his mind.

“Make no mistake about it – the Americans need this water,” he said. “They have been depending on it for 60 years and they will do everything they can to get it. If we notify them now that we want to terminate it, they will start to negotiate and you will have ten years to get some sense into these programs. If you notify them that the treaty will continue, where are you then? If the treaty ends in 2024, we would revert back to the 1998 legislation (Boundary Waters Treaty) and we were able to deal with that. You have nothing to lose if you turn down the treaty,” Parker’s talk was sponsored by the Columbia River Treaty Action Group.

Former Revelstoke Mayor Sid Parker spoke to a crowd of about 50 people at the Nakusp Seniors’ Centre about the Columbia River Treaty.
Concerned Winlaw residents win reprieve on cell tower

by Jan McMurray
Winlaw has been put on hold in Telus’s project to provide cell service along highway corridors throughout BC by 2016.
After hearing significant opposition to the cell tower site proposed for Winlaw, which is on private land and within 900 meters of homes and an elementary school, Telus will defer work on servicing that area until later in the project,” says Jim Johansson.

Grand Opening of Heritage Nursery in Nakusp
(formerly known as Spicer’s Nursery)
April 13, 2013
10 am – 5 pm
250-265-3039

North Slocan Trails Society AGM
Thursday, April 11, 4 pm
Hidden Garden Gallery
New Denver
Meeting Potluck Movie “Reveal the Path” Everyone Welcome!

Animal, Mineral, or Vegetable?
It gives and doesn’t take
It gets warm and gives energy
It is loyal and gives you feelings of joy
They look real cool together on a roof
It uses no oxygen and reduces CO2
You can’t eat it, but it supports you!
Mineral! Silicon, aluminum, copper
Now made in Ontario, Canada
Costs 80% less than 6 yrs ago
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Answer…A Solar PV module!
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NEWS
The Valley Voice April 3, 2013

Selkirk College Community Education Courses: Nakusp
Airbrakres, April 5, 6, 7;
Occupational First Aid level 1, April 8;
OFA Transportation Endorsement, April 11;
Exploring Chalk Pastels, April 7 & 8;
Fermentation workshop, Gregoire Lamoureux, April 14;
Traffic Control, April 19 & 20;
Bear Safety, Bear Smart, May 4;
Design and Create A Hanging Basket or Planter, May 4;
Foodsafe level 1, May 6;
History & Memoir, with Rita Moir, May 4;

You Must Pre-Register for All Classes
For more information call Selkirk College 265-4077 or drop by the centre 311 Broadway St. Tue. - Fri. 11 am-3 pm

To follow up on the request for better public consultation, Popoff plans to introduce a motion in May or June for an RDCK public consultation policy for cell tower sites.
“Industry Canada has its policy and Crown Lands has its policy, but there is no policy for private lands,” says Popoff.
“With this (motion) it will give everyone a chance to put in their comments, and the board can debate and discuss what it would benefit all of the RDCK, not just Area IF. I think it would be a good idea.”
A representative from Slocan Valley Concerned Citizens is scheduled to appear at a delegation meeting for the May RDCK.

Budget doesn’t deliver results for rural BC
submitted
Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko says that with the exception of a small business tax credit, the Conservative budget falls short of delivering results for people here in rural BC. “The government promised to focus on jobs but has not introduced any new measures to create meaningful employment,” said Atamanenko. “It is good that skills training is seen as an important step to get more people into the workforce. However, there is no real new plan.
Currently the federal government provides provinces with $500 million to promote training. Now, the federal government will be taking $500 million of this money and putting it into a Canada Jobs Grant by 2014-15. According to the NDP MP, this could prove to be problematic.
“Some years ago, this government devolved job training to the provinces. Now, without consultation, it is taking back part of the training money for the Canada Job Grant program. This could cause some confusion as to who is responsible for what.
“Our community leaders are telling us they are looking for investments in front line public services, a job creation strategy, a better transit system, improved home care for seniors and a national housing strategy, to name a few,” said Atamanenko.
Instead the government is ploughing ahead with cuts to pensions, healthcare and EI ignoring the serious threats facing our economy.”
Atamanenko introduced another $36 billion reduction in healthcare transfers which will affect all Canadians. “There are 240,000 young people unemployed and a third before the recession, the only thing this budget does for youth job creation is re-announce Interfer to purchase Springer Creek’s wood basket
by Jan McMurray
Interfer announced on March 19 that it has reached agreement to purchase Springer Creek Forest Product’s two timber tenures, subject to regulatory approvals.
“The tenures, which have a combined Allowable Annual Cut of approximately 174,000 cubic metres, will support an increase in production at Interfer’s sawmill at Castlegar and help sustain the communities and businesses associated with that operation,” states the Interfer press release.
Springer Creek’s mill in Slocan has been closed since May 2011, due to poor lumber markets and the loss of the company’s hog fuel market.
The mill’s uninsured workers accepted a settlement package in a vote in early January. The settlement, payable once the timber transfer is complete, was described as “a 75% offer in lieu of severance for all Springer Creek employees who were on the seniority list at the time of lay-off” in a press release issued by the union January 7. The release also states that the deal will enable Interfer to possibly provide 8-10 Springer Creek employees with jobs at Castlegar’s Cage Creek operation.
No information on the fate of the mill has been released, but Springer Creek owner Peter Moxon told the Valley Voice he hopes to be in a position to discuss the situation later this month.
Slocan Valley council is concerned that if the mill goes bankrupt, the Village will be left with taxes owed and a potentially contaminated site.
Interfer has operations across North America and is headquartered in Vancouver, Canada.
BC Arts Council announces funding recipients submitted
Artists and cultural organizations, including community arts councils, will share $8.36 million in the latest round of BC’s Creative BC grants, funded by the BC government.
In this area, Kaslo’s Langham Cultural Centre received $3,300 for operating costs and the visual arts category, Kaslo Jazz got $12,500 for professional projects under professional arts festivals; $4,686 went to the Slocan Valley Arts Council for development of assistance, community arts councils; and the Slocan Lake Galley Society in Silverton received $31,906 operating assistance, also under community arts.
Columbia River Treaty Conference held in Castlegar

by Jan McMurray

The March 22 conference on the Columbia River Treaty in Castlegar, hosted by the provincial CRTC Review Team, was attended by about 125 people.

There was a presentation of the Technical Studies report, a presentation by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the treaty review in the US, a panel discussion and several breakout sessions.

The Technical Studies report evaluates how social and environmental interests could be affected in various ‘treaty continues’ and ‘treaty termite’ scenarios. The long and short of the results in the report is this: there is no perfect scenario. There are trade-offs in every scenario.

The NELHESTI called for consideration of an Environmental Entitlement in the treaty review. They said things that would enter into negotiations today that did not in 1961 include ecosystem-based management, watershed-based management, full environmental cost accounting, natural capital, and fisheries. “We will never recover the knowledge lost in the 1960s,” he said. “Those who benefit from impacts to the environment should be made to endure their consequences.”

Evelyna Mathews of Columbia River Power Corporation spoke CPCR would like to see the maximum operational flexibility, not just for power generation, but also for other interests. “Don’t get it tied into one set of values,” he said.

Valo, change. What looks good in one context is not good in another.

The Columbia River Treaty conference in Castlegar on March 22 included three speakers.

“Thank you to the people who came to the community sessions and said, ‘Hey, what about the salmon?’ I am very grateful because this is near and dear to First Nations – it is the lifeblood of the First Nations,” said Green, pointing out that the CCRFIC logo is a coyote bringing back the salmon.

Green said the treaty review offers an opportunity for Upper Columbia salmon restoration, which would benefit both sides of the border and would require close collaboration and coordination from the two countries.

The Columbia River Treaty conference held in Castlegar.

The recommendation to government will be submitted in September. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty for more information.

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Columbia River Treaty panel discussion

by Jan McMurray

Bill Green of the Canadian Columbia River Intertidal Fisheries Commission (CCRFC) spoke about Upper Columbia salmon restoration at the Columbia River Treaty conference in Castlegar March 22.

“Thank you to the people who came to the community sessions and said, ‘Hey, what about the salmon?’ I am very grateful because this is near and dear to First Nations – it is the lifeblood of the First Nations,” he said, pointing out that the CCRFIC logo is a coyote bringing back the salmon.

Green said the immediate culprit for the loss – roughly 200,000 Chinook per year, 130,000 sockeye per year, and the cultural and ecological importance of salmon to First Nations – is the Grande Colesse Dam. Although Grande Colesse was built pre-treaty, in 1942, Green said it led to the Columbia River Treaty, which maximizes power generation at the dam. “Downstream benefits are realized at Grande Colesse and Chief Joseph and those two have to be traded with rather immediately,” he said.

“Yet, there are huge, profound questions regarding feasibility and but also around what are the impacts? What are the benefits of salmon restoration?”

He gave examples of successful dam projects at the Round Butte Dam on the Deschutes River and the Okanagan Dam.

MEN with BROOMS CHIMNEY SWEEPS

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, April 3
RCSC Director Elections
Your local RCSC Branch
Regular Hours

Thursday, April 4
ERS Director Elections
Your local KSCU branch
Regular Hours

GRT Discussion with Wendy Holm
Nakusp Seniors’ Hall
7:30 pm

Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival
The Royal on Baker, Nelson
5:30 & 6:30 pm

Stoney Sliver Historical Soc. AGM
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Friday, April 5
The SHOW Report
Arm Lakes Theatre
7:00 pm

Jennie Peters Film
Bromont Arts Centre, Nelson
7:30 pm

Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival
The Capitol Theatre, Nelson
6:30 & 8:30 pm

Saturday, April 6
Wine Bottle Drive
WE Graham School
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Family Fun Day
Arrowsmith Rec Centre, Nelson
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival
The Civic Theatre, Nelson
2:30 & 7:30 pm

Youth Night in Nakusp
Saddlesback
7:00 pm

Area H Community Initiatives Meeting
Wintgen Community Hall, Wintgen
1 - 3 pm

Monday, April 8
Nakusp Golf (9-hole Plan)
Council Chambers
8:30 pm

New Denver Community Initiatives Mtg
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Slocan Community Initiatives Mtg
Council Chambers
5:00 pm

Slocan Council
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 9
Area H North TV Society AGM
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Stoney Sliver Community Mtg
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

New Denver Council Mtg
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Kootz Council
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 10
New Denver Youth Centre AGM
The Outlet, New Denver
7:00 pm

Thursday, April 11
N. Slocan Trade Soc. AGM
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Friday, April 12
Dances of Universal Peace
South Slocan Hall
7 - 9 pm

Saturday, April 13
Heritage Nursery Grand Opening
Spencer Farm, Nakusp
10 am - 5 pm

Plant plants with M. Kootenay Gardens Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
1 - 3 pm

Stoney Sliver Coffee Shoppe
Silverton Memorial Hall
7:00 pm

Edgewood Fish Derby
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
10 am

A Whole Door Dance
Winfield Hall
10 am

Sunday, April 14
Nakusp Community Initiatives meeting
Nakusp Community Complex
10:00 pm

Women’s Institute Society AGM
Council Chambers
10:00 pm

Monday, April 15
Nakusp Community Initiatives Mtg
Hidden Garden Gallery, NO
7:00 pm

Faugher Community Initiatives Mtg
Faugher Community Hall
7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 17
Nakusp Lake Historical Society AGM
Nakusp Seniors’ Hall
7:00 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 • 7th Ave
Johnson’s Landing B&Es

This letter is to the thrift(s) who vandalized and stole from Johnson’s Landing liquor which suffered so much in the slide eight months ago.

How despicable to victimize yet again those already victims of a hurricane and slide. How despicable to steal the remaining items left to those victims.

Do you realize what it means to lose your life’s work, your family, the heart and soul of your existence? Do you know how much is lost when you have dealt? Do you realize that the victims have suffered blow after blow, disappointment after disappointment since July? Can you appreciate how hard they are working to rebuild?

Fortunately, most who live at the north end of Kootenay Lake are not like you. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and encouragement in the weeks following the slide, and it continues still.

Why not take a moment—reckon back into J.L. and return the stuff you stole?

Katie O’Ree
Johnson’s Landing

Kasko fire hall—math

As you can see from the March 20 letter, Wake Up Kasko re: new fire hall, not everyone passes the math, for some reason. You should figure out not only the material cost, but the value of a life saved or lost. Yes, it can happen, and has happened in Kasko. We train persons every week to be ready for it. We have saved many houses with broken fire chimneys, fires, as well as stove or TV fires.

We do need a fire hall. A little comfort built in, like showers or toilets, is not a waste of money. The ones who use this comfort are volunteers from our community who spend a lot of time training. They should be able to come back for cleanup in a proper hall, after traffic or other accidents, or after fighting fire and smoke.

We know that every town needs Search and Rescue, ambulance, first responders and firefighters. Therefore, we need you to join us. We need smart people to help, and learn their “math.”

Bernie Zekstein, retired Brennan Kaslo

Not delighted with Pope Francis

Local Catholic Bishop John Cardinal Dewane stated recently that the people of the Kootenays should be delighted by the choice of the new simple, pastoral Pope Francis. Pope Francis has stated that gay marriage is “a scheme to destroy God’s plan.” He called his clergy against abortion and the pro-choice movement as the “culture of death.” He is opposed to contraception except maybe when it comes to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Using contraception to prevent pregnancy is “going against God’s will.” Women are important to the church, but women’s issues are secondary according to the pastoral pope. Buckle down ladies, a new guy is in town—superior pope, same system.

Why does the local bishop think that we should be delighted? Western democracy threw off the noose of power by divine kings and religious leaders. Democracy means that people have power, not invisible beings and “divine laws.” Citizens of secular democracies are better off than those who use “divine laws” as the basis of decision making. Canada would go backwards in history if we had someone like the simple pope in power.

Pope Francis promoting the morality and oppressive behavior of Bronze Age ideology is not something that I am delighted about.

Nina George

Kaslo Hotel

Front page smart meter article

Perhaps misleading

Regarding the deployment of the globally controversial A.M.I. or smart meter, the fact is that it’s not over till it’s over. Although it is true that FortisBC said they would not have an opt out at the hearings, that they would cut off power after three months to those who held out, and more—it is not FortisBC that decides about this new meter, but the B.C.C.U.

And this panel’s decision will not be forthcoming until sometime after the end of April, which is the deadline for final submissions from both the interveners (which included among others Jerry Flynn, Alex Atanaskenzo and Curtis Bennett) and the proponents, i.e. FortisBC, who were cross examined as equals in the court-like hearings in Kelowna March 4-15.

Regarding the contentious issues of security, privacy, economics and health, under cross-examination, FortisBC took the following basic positions.

FortisBC does not see security or privacy to be a problem because what they have is as good as what the best banks have and there were hours of very technical defense concerning this.

FortisBC did not consider doing a cost-benefit analysis of wired versus wireless as intervenor Andy Shadrack insisted upon, as wired is much cheaper and other jurisdictions such as the State of Idaho are doing it. Regarding health, they had for the most part ‘no comment’ and seemingly no interest in looking at the huge volume of studies professed for examination, because currently the law (primarily Safety Code 6) says there are no harmful effects from wireless radiation.

The public and commissioners learned from an amazing array of experts, both technicians and physicians. One such (Australian) expert did his Ph.D. (2010) on “the conflict of interest between health professionals and Industry in the setting of global health standards.” The negative results for the public had much coverage at the hearings and the sum of all that evidence seemed to be—“Smart meters are a potential health hazard especially when combined with other wireless devices in the home and workplace.”

Listening to these hearings, one couldn’t help but think that this sum of evidence ‘got through’ to the Commissioners because at the end of the hearings, there were ‘undertakings’ ordered for both sides.

One was on the issue of costs—FortisBC was ordered to study the cost of a wired smart meter. Another was that a study related to the cumulative effect of electromagnetic in the home from a bank of smart meters be done. Certainly most of the informed public, to my knowledge at any rate, are hoping that the final decisions by the Commission will call for caution. This issue has become a provincial election issue here in BC and Jerry Flynn says that it’s going to become a federal election issue as well. Just as governments everywhere “failed miserably to protect the public from the dangers of tobacco, asbestos and thalidomide, etc.” they are failing in this case too which Mr. Flynn, wireless expert in the military for decades says “is far worse and far more dangerous than all the other products combined.” (escalation mark mine).

The soaring rates of EMF refugees worldwide and the alarm from teachers in schools where Wi-Fi has been installed for some time and kids and teachers are experiencing adverse health effects makes us wonder if he might be right. But we don’t have time yet and it’s not over till it’s over. Till then, this is Canada. Stay Wired.

Daphne Fields

Slocan
Sloan Lake Stewardship Society clarifies error in council report

As reported in the March 20, 2013 issue of the Valley Voice, the Sloan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) recently presented a proposal to the Village of New Denver Council summarizing the "Imagine Sloan Lake" survey results. However, the brief report seems to imply that SLSS representatives said there were no scientific reasons to restrict development around the lake. In fact, as is well known, quite the opposite is true.

For example, it is clear - through both scientific studies and traditional local knowledge - that in order to maintain and enhance fish stocks, there are times and places when specific habitats must not be disturbed. Any development that alters or pollutes the ecosystems of the lake tributaries or elsewhere could have a negative impact on the lake’s water quality and marine life. Scientific evidence also indicates that areas of wildlife terrestrial connectivity must be carefully protected. Thus, from a purely scientific point of view, there are significant findings upon which to base a decision to restrict or permit development.

The discussion with council reported in the Valley Voice was about the difference between a Shoreline Guidance Document and a Lake Management Plan. Guidance Documents take nothing but scientific information. First Nations’ cultural areas and current government agency regulations enter into account in decisions regarding development. Such documents, like the one currently underway at RDCK, are only the first step toward a Lake Management Plan, which takes into consideration community values as well as science. First Nations’ cultural areas and government regulations. In a Lake Management Plan, an area that is not scientifically designated as high sensitivity habitat may still be protected from development because of community values. The ‘Imagine Sloan Lake Survey’ was undertaken to objectively determine those community values. The survey was developed and executed by a qualified independent consultant and in accordance with accepted social science standards. A wide range of community members composed the Advisory Committee whose input was sought at every stage of the survey’s development. As detailed in the survey report, we went to great lengths to ensure the broadest possible community participation in the survey. In fact, the number of surveys completed was double that needed to achieve 95% certainty that the results accurately reflect the position of all Area H1 North people.

The survey results have been previously reported in the Valley Voice and can be found on the SLSS website (sloclass.com). We have also been reporting the results to the RDCK and the various municipal councils at their request. These community values were focus and substance of our presentation to the New Denver Village council.

Theresa DesCamp, President, SLSS
New Denver

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Service animal etiquette

To all my friends and neighbors: I have wanted a guide dog since the day I found I was legally blind; that was 20 years ago. I’ve been on a waiting list for so many years, and I’m grateful to the Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown, NY, which trained my guide dog for other people living in Canada as well, for entrusting me with one registered there, a Standard Poodle. Poodles are trained as service dogs for people with allergies and for people who live with one close to those with allergies. It’s my duty to provide responsibly for my service animal. I write now to the Valley Voice because I have noticed that many people here are unfamiliar with the ‘rules of etiquette’ regarding service animals.

In order to protect all members of our community, including any dog and me, I offer here the rules of etiquette that apply to any and all service animals, virtually everywhere or anywhere in North America. The rules are:

Do not pet or offer food to any service animal wearing a harness. While in harness, the animal is ‘working’ — on the clock, so to speak — so any distraction must be considered an intrusion on the animal’s concentration.

If you happen to know the animal’s name, do not call the animal by name when it is in harness. That too, can only distract the animal, interfering with its work.

Please keep in mind that a service animal is not a pet. With respect to housing, BC law states that no term or condition may be imposed on a person with a disability who is a tenant, that term or condition discriminates because of the disability. This is obviously the case if the person with a disability keeps a guide animal in a rental unit.

Do not use the law to force access to any person with a service animal if that person has access without a service animal. A service animal may accompany its person into any store, restaurant, public building, etc.

Thanks very much for your understanding.

Ruth Claire Weintraub
New Denver

The gigantic, enormous, huge issue for May 14, 2013

Ongoing outside major media, one finds heartening examples of environmentally savvy leadership. Finding wisdom from routes less traveled is a given. Following is a few:

Bhutan, this tiny, mountainous Asian country, first caught the world’s attention in 1984 by rejecting Coca-Cola and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the only way to measure progress. “Instead, it champions Gross National Happiness (GNH) – the spiritual, physical, social and environmental health of its citizens and the natural environment.”

More recently, “Environmental protection became enshrined in their constitution. National policies include: carbon neutrality; retaining 60% of their landmass under forest cover in perpetuity; banning export logging and instituting a monthly subsidised day that keeps all private vehicles from its roads.” (CCPA Monitor, Feb., 2013)

Costa Rica, early in the 1990s, was the forerunner of recognizing the value of eco-tourism. “The models were set by setting aside ecologically diverse wildlife viewing opportunities which have created much employment for locals.” Japan, over 10 years ago, put into permanent preservation more percentage of national lands than any other developed country. Japanese doctors are known to advise patients “to take a forest bath” — to de-stress, be in nature.

Recently a national survey asked citizens what sounds were so near and dear to them that the most often mentioned 100 would be preserved. One of these sounds is “the wind filtering through a bamboo grove on the grounds of Edo castle in Kyoto.” (National Geographic, March 2013)


Greece, Athens people are protecting “green public places and historical sites from development plans of private property interests.”

Urguay’s popular president, José “Pepe” Mujica, addressing the Rot Summit, Brazil, June 2012, said, “Hyper-consumption is harming the planet. When we fight for the environment we must remember that the essential element of the environment is called human happiness.” (SHARE INTERNATIONAL, Jan-Feb, 2013)

Now, picture a candidate in any industrialized country, earnestly addressing a crowd, arm raised, finger pointing at you. “The REAL agenda of these so-called environmentalists is to ROB you of your God-given right to commerce!” (New Internationalist, Jan-Feb, 2013) Norway, the environment is a major part of Norway’s international aid program. “One of the most generous in the world - much effort is put into integrating environmental concerns with its overall aid programs.” (CCPA Monitor, Dec. 2013)

Haunted by all this good news, the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild urges every eligible voter to help make JUMBO WILD FOREVER a major priority in this election. We know what the Liberals have in mind. Thus, it is absolutely necessary that we each press hard on the NDF everywhere, provincially speaking, to state publicly, loud and clear, why the Jumbo Wild looners should vote NDP if they don’t, personally, will vote Green.

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs
Project applicants for Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs are presenting their proposals to the public on the following dates:

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<td>8-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Salmo Salmo Youth and Community Centre, Salmo</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>8-Apr-13</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Wireless Community Hall, Winlaw</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>8-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Terry Hall, Castlegar</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>15-Apr-13</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Castlegar &amp; District Community Complex (Woneshee room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrow Park</td>
<td>24-Apr-13</td>
<td>6:00-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Rock Island Resort, East Arrow Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton (1st meeting)</td>
<td>19-Apr-13</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Baton Community Hall, Baton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baton (2nd meeting)</td>
<td>26-Apr-13</td>
<td>10:00am-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Baton Community Hall, Baton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgewater</td>
<td>15-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Edgewater</td>
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<td>Faquier</td>
<td>15-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Faquier Community Hall, Faquier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castlegar</td>
<td>22-Apr-13</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>CBT Trust Building, Castlegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creston</td>
<td>16-Apr-13</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Creston Town Hall, Council Chambers, Creston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakusp/Rural</td>
<td>16-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Advance Meeting, Nakusp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nakusp/Rural</td>
<td>14-Apr-13</td>
<td>Noon-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Nakusp Community Complex (arena), Nakusp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>15-Apr-13</td>
<td>2:00-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Nelson City Council, Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Denver</td>
<td>8-Apr-13</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Village of New Denver Council Chambers, New Denver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silverton</td>
<td>9-Apr-13</td>
<td>6:00-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Silverton Memorial Hall, Silverton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slocan</td>
<td>8-Apr-13</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Village of Slocan, Municipal Office - Council Chambers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administered and Managed by:
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC V1Y 5R4. Ph: 250.352.6665 Fax 250.352.9900
www.rdck.bc.ca
Oso Solar car gets the best of both worlds
by Art Joyce

Imagine the day when you can plug in your electric vehicle (EV) and go anywhere. While that day is not here yet, Oso Solar’s Kip Dobrich has found a way to get the best of both worlds - conventional and electric.

The Oso Solar car is a 2005 Toyota Prius PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) that Dobrich has customized with special equipment that extends the car’s range on a single charge. The car is fitted with a battery kit that extends the car’s range on a single charge. The kit is manufactured by Power System from San Rafael, California and effectively makes the car a PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle). It takes very little to modify the vehicle; only a processor has to be installed which fits into the diagnostic port normally used for servicing the car.

The processor is designed to interact with the car’s onboard computer. The processor uses a lithium iron phosphate battery, which is becoming the EV industry standard and stores about 10 kilowatt hours of power. It takes about six to eight hours per charge at a regular 120 volt outlet.

A typical PHEV is designed to cycle between the gasoline engine and the electric, depending on battery charge and driving conditions. Our mountain roads place a heavy strain on an HEV. So often during a steep climb the regular motor will kick in. The battery kit will extend the HEV’s range to a maximum of about 50 miles before having to engage the gasoline engine. This can effectively increase Prius gas mileage from 47 to as high as 90 miles per gallon.

Temperatures also affect batteries, so this range will often be shorter during winter months. A heating unit or block heater can help to optimize battery charge in cold temperatures. “The electric vehicle industry is going to have to learn to adapt their cars to colder climates,” says Dobrich. “I can make it from Hills to New Denver and back on a charge now even in winter.”

There are already 200 electric vehicles in BC. The Coquitlam Chevrolet dealer has sold four of the Chevy Volt EV since it came out last summer. The Oso Solar vehicle is the only one in Canada that has been adapted to the kit. Currently there’s a $5,000 incentive in BC for purchasing an EV - talk to your dealer for details. An EV fleet requires a network of charging stations, infestations of which do not exist in BC. However, this could be a marketing tool for retail businesses. Dobrich suggests - drive in and charge up while you shop. The newer EVs will change in about an hour.

“You’ve invested too much money,” says Dobrich. “With an internal combustion engine you’re only getting about 20 percent of the energy going to the wheels. With an EV you’re not losing energy through heat loss.”

He adds that gasoline produced from tar sands oil is also only about a 20 percent return on the energy used to extract it, further reducing the overall efficiency of gasoline powered vehicles. Electrical power lines lose about 10 percent of net energy when transmitted over great distances. This is why home-based energy systems can be highly efficient.

About 40 percent of the cost of the kit is batteries, the rest is hardware, including battery charger. The system is ideal for city driving. The battery for these days are about $25,000 with the $5,000 rebate and another $10,000 to install the kit you can have an EV.

The core of Oso Solar’s business remains solar hot and solar electric systems. Solar electric panels have dropped from about $5 per watt to $1.50 per watt over the past six years, in a

COMMUNITY

Oso Solar car gets the best of both worlds

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Upcoming public events

4 April, Nakusp, Senior Citizens Hall, 7 pm
Unforgettable! Wendy Holm vs. the Columbia River Treaty

June (Date to be announced by BC Min. of Energy)
Fauquier Community Hall

The final public meeting held specifically for Arrow Lakes residents to speak out and be heard by municipal, regional & provincial politicians & representatives on the Columbia River Treaty.

In September 2013, the BC Cabinet will decide whether to continue with or terminate the treaty. If you care about returning sovereignty over BC water back to BC, or about the 300,000 acres of eco-systems lost by the Treaty dams and their reservoirs, or that the US has announced that they are reducing the value ($) of the Canadian Entitlement by 80%, or that until the signing of the treaty that the Okanagan Valley was the third most productive agricultural region in BC after the Fraser & Okanagan valleys, or that we have lived for half a century under a Treaty ruinous for BC and whose benefits go to the US, or that we live adjacent to a country 10 times our size with 10 times the needs for water (we NEED to take back our sovereignty over our water resources), or if you want to speak on behalf of the mute ones (the plant & animal life forms) then please come to Fauquier, speak out and be heard. Time is running out.

P.S. What other country would flood out 2,500 of its own citizens, approximately 300,000 acres of its own valley, 500,000 acres of prime farmland and much of the remainder of the finest southern interior forest, allow the collapse of its fisheries and relinquish its sovereignty because another country knowingly allowed its citizens to settle on the Columbia River flood plain and then demanded flood control from its neighbour to the north? BC provides the US at a cost with water to develop as much power as Grand Coulee Dam. Alberta charges the highest royalties in the world on its oil - BC gives its precious water away and destroys its rivers in the process.

This Notice sponsored by the CRTC Action Group

Ontario is using their solar incentive to avoid building more coal-powered electric plants. Dobrich says if a similar feed in tariff was adopted in BC, we could avoid having to build the massive Site C dam in the Peace River country. And we would end up generating more power sooner.

“If we had a program like that in BC, I’d be scrambling to meet the need here. Even without that, the cost is still 80 percent less than it was five years ago. If there’s an incentive to buy an EV, there should also be an incentive for generating your own energy.”

Tax return help available for low and middle income earners submitted

Now entering its tenth year in Nakusp and surrounding areas, the Community Volunteer Income Tax program continues to provide free and confidential assistance to families and individuals of any age who live on a low to moderate income level. In an accommodation those wishing help in completing and filing their non-complex income tax returns (by the end of April, preferably) a number of drop-off/pickup tax clinics will be set up around the area. For residents of Hills, New Denver, Silverton and environs, a drop-in clinic is open every Tuesday in April from 9:30 am to noon and 1-4 pm at the Community Services building on Main St, New Denver. Veronica Hailewot, 338-2140, will provide assistance.

Although not a registered member of the program this year, Debbie Blokdyk, 269-7570, will offer services to Fauquier/Eddgewood and Trout Lake residents.

For residents of Nakusp and surrounding communities, a clinic is open every Wednesday in April from 10-11 am at the Seniors’ building on 8th Ave NW. Call Heather Davidson 265-3372 or Ray Blackshear 265-4560.

A new clinic is now open at Slocan College, Nakusp campus, during open hours. Drop off your return documents at the administration office. Call Nathanael Howard, 265-4877.

Those requiring in-home or facility-based special needs services should call Dianne Zech at 265-4298 for an appointment.

Note that Canada Revenue no longer offers the Telefile service; it has been replaced by E-File, which the CVTP volunteers have been trained to use.

Remember to take your income tax documents when you visit a clinic; including forms and tax slips such as T4 or T5. Once your return has been processed, all documentation will be returned to you, and is always treated as private and confidential.

For further information, contact volunteer general co-ordinator Marilyn Boxwell at 265-6075. You can also contact Canada Revenue directly, at 1-800-959-8281 or cra.gc.ca/ volunteer, to determine if you are eligible for the free service.

The Valley Voice April 3, 2013

Elsie Zwick and Heather Davidson are helping low income people do their income tax returns out of the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services office in New Denver, by appointment or drop in. They are volunteers for the Community Income Tax Volunteer Program.
New Denver council, March 26: Carbon Neutral Kootenays presentation by Katrine Campbell

The next Council Cafe will be held at Nors coffee shop on April 27 from 10 am to noon, with Councillors Hendrie, Armstrong and Hatcher Fox. The next Council Communique will be published in early May.

- Patricia Deehs from Carbon Neutral Kootenays has agreed to speak to council, explaining what CNK does and reviewing New Deaver’s results.

The Village started measuring its emissions in 2008 and is well on track to being carbon neutral. In order to achieve carbon neutrality for 2012, the Village must purchase carbon offsets to make up for 33 tons of carbon offsets. This will be covered by the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program rebate of $868.

- Councillor Nadine Raymonds noted the BC Healthy Communities Society, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has a capacity building fund and is accepting grant applications up to $5,000 per community. Councillor David Hoddell said he has asked around but there is nothing shelf-ready and the Village staff are currently looking at this time period.

Deputy Administrator Catherine Allaway said the application deadline is June 30, suggesting anyone in the community had an idea they should “feel free to share.”

- Mayor Ana Brunia reported she met with Richard Johnson of the Stoney Nakoda Solutions Society about the boat washing station. The society will look into funding to install the facility on the new site, and the mechanical aspect will be done.

The Village will estimate water usage and the associated costs. The work may not be done this year because of lack of funding.

Brunia met with RCMP Cpl. Ryan Fehlauer to discuss policing initiatives for the coming year. The Village’s concerns are speeding, impaired driving and police presence in the community as a deterrent. The detachment now has a hand-held radar unit and will be getting vehicle units as well.

- Councillor approved the recommendation of Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre manager Momoko Ito to appoint Hiro Okazawa of Japonica Landscaping as the garden consultant for the Howe Tain, or Peace Garden, at the Centre. The Village is applying for an historical site grant to help pay for the work.

- Mayor Brunia reported on the March 21 RDCK board meeting. The budget was given three readings and was to be adopted March 28. The biggest increase was to the Parks budget.

The board also discussed the regulations on Marijuana for Medical Purposes and the federal government is expected to make a decision on the CORRECTION

In the New Denver council report in the March 20 issue, it was inaccurately reported that SLGS president Thureen DesCamp said there is no scientific reason not to develop around the lake. In fact, scientific studies show many instances where development around the lake should be restricted.

Dark Water Dragons Presents (Another Fund Raiser)
"Variety Coffee House"
Entertainment, Silent & Blind Auction
Sweets & Savories for Sale
Silverton Gallery: April 13, 2013
Door Open: 7:00 P.M.
Admission: Donation

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Sec. 123(3) of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of Silverton is giving notice that it intends to amend its Procedure bylaw No. 478.

The major change will be the order of Council business on the agenda. Copies are available at the Village office for public viewing and will be presented for adoption at the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2013.

Bob Lafleur, CAO

CREATE A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WITH NATIVE PLANTS!

GROW WILD!
NATIVE PLANTS FOR WEST KOOTENAY GARDENS
1-3 pm on April 13th at the Hidden Garden Gallery
Native plant gardening is a wonderful way to connect with Slocan Lake’s natural ecosystems. Join SLGS and the Kootenay Native Plant Society, in a practical, hands-on workshop featuring West Kootenay shrubs, grasses and flowers. This workshop is for you who are interested in growing plants that will use less water, creating wildlife habitat, or enhancing your garden with truly local species. You will go home with knowledge to start propagating your own plants.

The workshop instructor, Eva Johannson is a graduate of the restoration of Natural Systems program, University of Victoria. She managed a native plant nursery in the Slocan Valley for several years and is a founding member of the Kootenay Native Plant Society.

Admission: $5
Refreshments will be served

Employment Opportunity

The Village of New Denver is accepting applications for: Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre: Visitors Centre Attendant 1 & 2

The Visitor Centre Attendant will be responsible for opening and closing the site, admission ticketing, gift shop sales, and visitor and customer service related issues on site. Other areas of responsibility will include: working in the museum gift shop, working with the museum manager to assist with collecting visitor data, tracking admissions, and providing basic exhibition information as requested by visitors, daily communications and office duties, and providing a high level of overall customer service and hospitality to all visitors.

Visitor’s Centre Attendant 1:
Salary: $12.00 per hour
Hours of employment: May 1 – May 30, 2013

Visitor’s Centre Attendant 2:
Salary: $12.00 per hour
Hours: 35 hrs/wk
Period of employment: May 1 – Aug 31, 2013 (start date negotiable)

Please contact NIMC Manager for more information.

Applications will be accepted until April 10, 2013 or until position is filled.

Please forward resume and cover letter to: Momoko Ito, NIMC Manager
nimc@netidea.com or by mail to:
Village of New Denver
115 Slocan Avenue PO Box 40
New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Kaslo council, March 26: Grant opportunity for Youth Centre upgrades discussed

by Ian McMurray

Kaslo Sourdough Bakery turns 20 years old this month, and is celebrating with its new line of sourdough pastas as well as the implementation of its succession plan.

Owners Silvio and Gaia Lattuca are mentoring their children, Stefan and Heidi, to take over the business someday.

“My parents aren’t quite ready to retire yet, so this will be a two-generational family business for the next few years while my brother and I are leaning the ins and outs,” said Heidi, who has recently graduated from UVic with a minor in business. Stefan has been training with Silvio for the past few years and has also completed an apprenticeship in Germany.

Silvio says many people who eat Kaslo Sourdough Bakery bread cannot eat regular bread because they cannot digest it properly. He has posted information about gluten and the benefits of sourdough on the KSB website, including a series of four articles he wrote himself, and studies done at universities proving that gluten is digested in the sourdough fermentation process, making sourdough products much easier to digest.

“The secret is hard work, devotion, believing in your product and having a partner who supports you all the way,” said Silvio.

next Development Services Committee meeting to discuss a detailed proposal with her. The application deadline date is April 12.

Council approved a proposal for horse-drawn carriage rides during May Days. The company has provided proof of insurance, and will be asked to observe all road closures and street cleanup.

At the Municipal Services Committee meeting of March 18, the council discussed a fire service referendum strategy, including a storefront display on Front Street or at the Seniors Hall. Council, the RCMP and the fire department will meet to further discuss the strategy for the May 11 referendum.

Council agreed to extend the reservation on the Pine Street property to the Kaslo Housing Society for another five years.

Grant applications for streetlight upgrade, City Hall upgrade and boat launch ramp construction under the federal Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund were rejected. Mayor Lay commented that he would raise the topic of lack of funding at the upcoming Mayors’ Caucus meeting in Prince George.

A grant from consultant Barry McLean on the boundary extension to bring the property into the Village that the proposal would be sent to the ministry on March 14. The minister will advise the Village when an Alternative Approval Process to gain voter assent can be conducted. McLean says he hopes the boundary extension process will be completed well before August.

The operational fuel treatment project, for which the Village received a $90,000 grant in February 2012, has a deadline for completion of February 2014. This information was received by the Union of BC Municipalities, which administers the funding program.

The 2009-2011 Water Smart data review and actions summary was referred to the Development Services Committee. The report highlights the need for water loss management in Kaslo. The Village has been working on this; Mayor Lay commented that this leads to the leak detection program, four worn-out connections were discovered last year. The Development Services Committee will work on an action plan and budget for water loss management.

Two Public Works employees were authorized to register for the Columbia Basin WaterSmart Acoustic Leak Detection field course being held in Creston on Monday, May 27, with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy.

The Shuswap Indian Band sent an invoice for $24,000 to conduct a preliminary review of the impact on its traditional territory of the proposed Trailblazers 5th Street pedestrian bridge. Council directed staff to pay the invoice.

Councillor Holland provided a written report on Columbia River Treaty discussions extended on March 13 in Nelson. The report states that Kootenay Lake levels are forecasted to be higher in future at fresher, because of climate change data predicting more precipitation and shorter fresher periods. Holland feels a lake level monitoring station in Kaslo would greatly help residents understand what the implications are when lake levels are announced.” Council directed staff to research the feasibility of installing a lake level monitoring station in Kaslo.

Mayor Lay attended a joint meeting with the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the City of Cranbrook to provide council with a copy of her statement in the legislature on February 21 regarding the tragic Johnson’s Landing helicopter crash in Kaslo. In her comments, the mayor pays tribute to the Village of Kaslo and all the heroes involved in the emergency response.

Information on the Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund grants was received. North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society will be invited to partner with the municipality to pursue funding under the program.

The Clubhouse Restaurant was granted a variance in the Noise Abatement Bylaw to midnight on August 17. The restaurant is hosting a grad reunion on that date, and there may be DJs.

Peter Bryce was permitted to remove the section 219 covenant limiting his residence at 504 Centre Street to a single family dwelling, provided all conditions regarding building permits and utilities are met.

Councillor Holland brought to council’s attention the RDCK staff report on Regulating Medical Marijuana Grow Operations in the RDCK in light of the upcoming changes to the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations. This was referred to the Municipal Services Committee for consideration of possible impacts on the Kaslo land use policies.

Councillor Hewat reported Alas Beddow is a new member of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society’s board of directors, which otherwise includes Bill Yeo, Councillor Leatherwood, Gillian Troese, Geoff Bee, Heidi Gunn, Mary Johnson and Kay Pegg.

Mayor Lay reported on his attendance at a Selkirk Rural Development Institute conference, commenting on the Province’s current no-growth model, with the only growth areas being mining and energy.

Mayor Lay reported on his attendance at a Chamber of Mines meeting on March 24, noting an Australian firm has purchased the concentrator in Ainsworth and is working on acquiring claims, and there is active drilling in the Sicamous watershed.

Mayor Lay will be presenting the following topics at the Economic Development Leadership Workshop scheduled for March 27: waste wood tracks, small scale value added solid wood products, experiential tourism and micro hydroturbine development.

Mayor Lay was authorized to attend the LGLA’s 5th Ch Kid Chattered Officials Forum in Vancouver June 13-14, with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy.

Council agreed to amend the lease with Astral Media, as requested, to accommodate the potential purchase of the company by Bell.

Kaslo Sourdough Pasta

We created a fantastic new product that incorporates all of the beneficial aspects of naturally fermented food, namely our sourdough technology.

Together with our newly acquired ‘Finest Italian Pasta Making Equipment’ we achieved a fabulous unique product, which we have aptly named ‘Pasta Fermentata’.

The world’s very first Sourdough Pasta. Our aromatic sourdough flavour combined with 12 specialty flours creates 12 unique new pasta experiences.

Available in stores that sell our sourdough bread

www.microsour.com or www.pastafermentata.com

Kaslo & District

It’s our 20th anniversary

Kaslo Sourdough Bakery

and the launch of our new product

KSB

KASLO SOURDOUGH PASTA

Stefan and Heidi Lattuca with a display of the new Kaslo Sourdough Pasta.
Nakusp council, March 25: Water treatment plant contract to be awarded soon

by Jan McMurray

• CAO Linda Tyman reported that Aquadiversion/900 is the preferred proponent for the design build contract for the water treatment plant. The Village was in the final stages of negotiations on the contract with the company. This is the same contractor engaged for the sewer treatment plant project.

• Council adopted the minutes of a budget meeting held March 18, where council directed staff to complete the budget plan for public presentation with a 1% tax increase overall. The budget will be presented at the public meeting on April 8 at 6:30 pm in council chambers.

• Mayor Hanlling reported she has been working with Rosemarie Parent on the Nakusp Heritage Walk. They will talk to the owners of the historical buildings and have plaques made for those who want them. They may also be able to produce a brochure. Herlling said they have about $2,000 in total for this project, all from Columbia Power Corporation (CPC). Council received a letter confirming an $800 sponsorship for the project. The total amount there is still $1,200 left over from the CPC Canada Day sponsorship.

BC Hydro will provide $100,000 to replace Nakusp's breakwater

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro is putting up $100,000 to replace the wharf breakwater in Nakusp.

Council accepted Hydro’s offer at the March 25 council meeting, but not without some discussion. Mayor Hanlling explained that even though the breakwater needs its funds for repairs at the marina, they were planning to pay for the new breakwater. On this, she contacted BC Hydro to discuss the project. BC Hydro was of the opinion that the corporation was not responsible for the breakwater because it was not in the plans for the new wharf and because the marina acts as a breakwater. She said “it took them a while” to understand that the marina is “taking a beating.” She said Mary Anne Cookes of BC Hydro “got on the case” for them and the result was the offer of the $100,000.

The problem is that $100,000 — the figure used in a proposal sent to BC Hydro by Ken France of the launch club — may not be enough to cover the cost of the project. France has indicated that engineering would need to be done to determine the true cost. BC Hydro wanted the contribution signed by March 29 (this fiscal year), so there was no time for council to get further in the discussion. CAO Tyman said that there would be no risk to the Village in signing the agreement, as it includes no obligation to complete the project. So, if the cost comes out too high in the initial study, there would be no requirement to go any further. She also explained that the Village would enter into an agreement with the launch club, placing responsibility for the project and any extra costs with the club.

The other option, Tyman said, would be to not execute the agreement and ask the Water Controller if the breakwater project was something he would order BC Hydro to do. She cautioned that she did not see anything about the breakwater in the Water Controller’s original order. Councillor Hughes pointed out that new breakwaters were installed as part of the boat ramp projects at Burton, Finlayson and McDonald Creek. “If it costs more [than $100,000], I think BC Hydro should be on the hook for it. It’s their responsibility,” Hughes said.

Mayor Hanlling said she and the CAO would make an appointment to discuss this with the Water Controller. In the meantime, the CAO will sign the agreement with BC Hydro for $100,000.

• Council endorsed the establishment of a National Day of the Honey Bee by the federal government, and directed staff to write a letter of support to the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This was requested by Clinton Shane Elders, founder of “Day of the Honey Bee,” which has been proclaimed as May 29 in three provinces and 179 municipalities. Elders states in his letter “Honey Bees are responsible for 70 percent of our food crop pollination. They are a keystone species, the very cornerstone to the sustainability of our agriculture and the primary basis of stability for our fragile environment. This issue is ever more severe because Honey Bees continue to die at alarming and catastrophic rates in Canada and in every country where they are raised.” Elders also mentions that MP Alex Atamanenko has submitted a motion to recognize a ‘National Day of the Honey Bee” in the House.

• At the request of the Canadian Cancer Society, Southern Interior Regional, council proclaimed April as Daffodil Month and April 27 as Daffodil Day.
Register now for Columbia Basin Culture Tour

Call for entry: registrations are being accepted for artists/venues in the Columbia Basin to participate in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour (CBCCT), a two-day celebration of culture taking place August 10-11 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The CBCCT is a self-guided tour showcasing local art, culture and heritage offered at no charge to the general public. Full colour tour directories will be available free of charge to the public as a guide to visit your studio, exhibition, museum, art gallery, cultural center or heritage site throughout the Columbia Basin during this special weekend event.

And yes, ‘artists’ includes visual, written, performing, media and other arts.

Participating as a venue allows you to easily connect with locals, develop a broader audience, educate the public about what you do, market your activities, and attract visitors to your community.

The CBCCT allows visitors to meet the participants behind the scenes and allows them to visit artists studies that may not regularly be open to the public.

For information or to register visit: www.cbccttour.com. The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust.

The Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver hosts a special night of film

As an independent filmmaker Barbara has directed and produced award-winning films that include ‘Beyond the Chair’ (2007), ‘Love It and Leave It’ (2008) funded by NFB, and ‘Conserving Family’ (2011). ‘Love It and Leave It’ attempts to make sense of her experience as an expatriate living in Canada. The filmmaker connects with eleven other women of different ages and backgrounds and explores their shifting sense of identity.

March 30 marked the inaugural flight at the Rosebery Airport. John Lyver (left) holds the controls while his son, Ray, prepares for lift off.

Rosebery Airport inaugurated March 30

submitted by Marion Lesnik

Rosebery’s newly opened airport saw its first airplane launch on March 30. Rosebery resident John Lyver, the mover and shaker behind this endeavour, took his latest handmade plane to the skies.

This has long been a hobby of his, and he officially opened the landing strip on Saturday with a small crowd in attendance. The plane took off and landed safely, somewhat of a feat in his long years of hobby flying.

A commemorative bench for onlookers and those looking for a rest, engraved with the Rosebery Airport inscription, has been installed at the site.

Spring is definitely here—get an early start to landscaping projects. Georama is the Kootenay’s largest supplier of all things gardening—no project is too large or small.

Get down TO Earth

Just a short, scenic drive 5 min West of Nelson on Granite Road
www.georamagrowers.com
250-352-3468
Mon to Sat 8-5:30 • Open Sundays 9-4

The Valley Voice, April 3, 2013
Award-winning Kaslo author Holley Rubinsky launches new book

We’ve all become adrift at one time or another. In Holley Rubinsky’s new book of short stories, South of Effrida, characters adrift for new moorings in surprising ways and places. The Nelson Public Library presents Holley Rubinsky and South of Effrida in a special launch and reading on Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm.

Winner of the Journey Prize for fiction as well as a gold medal for fiction at the National Magazine Awards, Rubinsky’s roots in the Canadian literary scene go deep. Her previous, well-received books include Rapid Transits and Other Stories (Polestar), If at First I Hope for Rescue (Racqef), and Beyond This Point (McClelland & Stewart), and her stories have appeared in a number of anthologies including the Penguin Anthology of Stories by Canadian Women. South of Effrida was released by Brandle and Glass in March.

Rubinsky is well known on the local front as well, as host of The Writer’s Show on Kootenay Co-op Radio from 2006 to 2008, and by the many writers who have benefited from the writing retreats she runs from her home in Kaslo.

The stories in South of Effrida take the reader on the road of journeys both personal and physical, and “lead us through the latitudes of loss and desire, in the company of characters brave, gritty, witty, and very real—sparking insights that keep glowing long after the book is closed,” according to Whirling Girl author Barbara Lambert.

Award-winning author Caroline Addison writes: “In these tender and surprising stories, Rubinsky is the voice of a true original. Quirky, moving, and laugh-out-loud funny.”

The library is delighted to have the opportunity to launch Rubinsky’s newest book. Rubinsky’s reading is supported through the National Public Reading program funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Afternoon tea and Kazuri jewellery with Grassroots Grammas

You are invited to join the Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas for ‘Out of Africa – an Afternoon Tea’ on Sunday, May 5 from 2 to 4 pm at a home on Indian Point Road in Vallecito. Tickets for the tea are being sold in advance by Grassroots Grammas members for $5, and limited numbers will be available at the door.

This social event will feature the sale of Kazuri jewellery, produced under excellent working conditions in a suburb of Nairobi, Kenya. The company employs about 300 Kenyan women, mostly single mothers and grandmothers who are often the sole breadwinners of their extended families. Each bead is hand formed from local clay, then painstakingly polished, fired, painted and fired again. All proceeds and donations from the event will go towards the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in support of grassroots projects run by and for African grandmothers who are raising children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Kazuri jewellery items, priced between $15 and $50, will be available for cash or cheque.

Two Canadian women, Margaret Thompson and Peggy Edwards, formed a company – Kazuri Jewellery: The Grandmother Connection – as a fair trade company that meets exciting inspection standards. The company supplies Grandmothers’ groups across the country, including Nelson’s Grains to Granis, which have collectively raised over $100,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation by hosting Kazuri events. If the idea of sipping tea or coffee beside the Little Slocan River in the company of friendly people, working in solidarity with women in Africa and possibly finding a perfect gift for yourself or someone else appeals to you, mark your calendar one week before Mother’s Day and join the fun. For tickets or information you can contact any member of the Grassroots Grammas or phone Lisa at 226-7304.

Should you miss this event, Nelson Grains to Granis will host a Kazuri Jewellery sale with buffet lunch and fashion show at the Hume Hotel on Saturday, May 25 from 11 to 2 p.m. Tickets are $20 each and available at Cottons and Sensations Dress Shoppe in Nelson.

Kaslo Jazz fest set for August 2-4

The 2013 Kaslo Jazz Etc Summer Music Festival is gearing up for its 22nd annual event on Kootenay Lake. As always, the stage floats on the edge of Kaslo Bay, the Purcell mountains form a stunning backdrop and world class musicians entertain the festival goers.

Confirmed acts to date include Dan Brubeck quartet, Paul Peress Quartet, Nelson’s Melody and Daichim, Vancouver native Brandi Disterheft (now from New York City) and The Stretch orchestra, from Toronto, featuring Kevin Breit, Jesse Stewart and Matt Debrecz.

The winner of the 2013 art contest is Aiko Jackson of New Denver. Jackson’s image will soon be appearing on ads, websites and posters around the West Kootenays and beyond. Thanks to everyone who submitted their creative efforts.

Tickets are on sale now and can be reserved by phoning 250-353-7548. Festival dates are August 2-4.
Silverton council, March 19: Report on Silverton Gallery priorities

by Jan McMurray

• Mayor Provan gave an update on the Silverton Gallery. At a Silverton Gallery Task Force meeting on February 23, the group decided to look for grants to address safety, structural and functionality issues identified in the study completed by Ken Butler and Bob Turner last fall, and to hold off on making any decisions regarding substantial renovations or additions to the building for now.

Priorities from the study are: enhanced/repair/watersproof the building envelope; roof snow stops; heating system upgrade; electrical upgrades; fire suppression; plumbing upgrades; environmental assessments; wheelchair accessibility.

The Village is undertaking an environmental study to determine whether there is any asbestos or lead-based paint in the building, and a structural assessment of the roof for the snow stops. The task force agreed to give priority to the building envelope and plumbing. The group also agreed to ask CBT if the $20,000 in funding secured for the floor renovations can be used for another gallery upgrade.

The Silverton Gallery Task Force is made up of representatives from the Silverton Lake Society, Village council, Christmas by the Lake and the Silverton Historical Society.

• Councillor Main reported on the Business Revitalization and Expansion project of the Silverton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) in partnership with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. They are aiming to interview 80 businesses in total – 40 from the north and 40 from the south valley. The goal of the project is to develop a targeted approach to supporting businesses over the next seven years.

• Chief Financial Officer Elaine Rogers presented the 2012 financial statements. Mayor Provan commented that the auditors were “very pleased with our books” and that the Village is “in very good financial shape.” Total revenue in 2012 was $496,423 and expenditures were $778,531, for a surplus of $282,792. At the end of 2012, the General Capital Reserve Fund balance was $94,980 and the Water Capital Reserve Fund balance was $5,010.

• Council received a copy of an inventory of Memorial Hall kitchen items from Sue Minette, hall manager, and a request for a bailiff be called to clear outside the hall to advertise hall events.

• The Villages of New Denver and Slocan provided letters confirming their contributions of $315 each this year for the electronic recycling service provided by Silverton. Councillor Main said that in 2012 they will be contributing $315. This means that the service will be covered equally by the four Slocan Valley local governments.

• A letter from the Valhalla Fine Arts Society requests a waiver of rental fees for the Memorial Hall for its two annual community concerts. Mayor Provan noted that the non-profit rental fee is substantially discounted. She said he did not want to set a precedent for waiving rental fees and suggested the society request a grant in aid from council instead. Councillor agreed. Staff will work with the society with this suggestion, and will draft a grant-in-aid policy for council’s consideration.

Councillor Prendergast-Blyer was given three readings. A copy of the bylaw will be available at the Village office. Final adoption will likely take place at the April 23 council meeting.

Council was pleased to receive a letter from the Village of Kaslo expressing interest in collaborating with neighboring communities through tourism economic development, regional planning and regional branding. CAO Bob Ladur was asked to get more information from Kaslo’s CAO, and to suggest that Slocan be included in the initiative.

A memo from Terry Swan, General Manager of Fire & Emergency Services at the RDCK, explains that emergency teams are not 911, police, fire and ambulance emergencies should be reported to the Emergency Coordination Centre at 1-800-663-3456. This number is in the front of the phone book.

Slocan Valley Eco Tour: see how green your home could be

The event is free for the public but donations are appreciated. A map will be distributed at local stores. The Eco Tour is initiated by Malin Christianson and the Slocan Shuswap Beekeepers Society, Healthy Communities of the North Slocan Valley and local businesses. For more information, contact Malin Christianson 250-355-0035, malin@christianson@hotmail.com

Natural Beekeeping field days in the Slocan Valley

In these times of growing concern about global bee decline and the use of chemical approaches to bee management, Slocan Valley Bee is excited to offer a full season of hands-on Natural Beekeeping Workshops and Field Days. From the spring through the fall each month we will lead participants successively through the seasonal choices and alternatives that create healthy vibrant hives. Instructed by Christina Yahn, a conventionally trained beekeeper who now uses a natural or instinctive approach, the program offers a unique view into the reality of honey bees, and will be of value to beekeepers of all levels and styles.

The series kicks off with the workshop Alternative Backyard Bee Keeping on Saturday, April 27. This introductory course offers an overview of how to support bees using non-invasive techniques, alternative techniques to smoking, allowing natural comb formation, using plant essences to support immune systems and much more.

Field days will begin in May and run once a month until October, alternating between top bar hive and Langstroth hive locations.

Participants will be exploring how to get started, equipment, hive styles and locations and will continue building their knowledge each month as seasonally specific topics and skills are presented, discussed and practiced.

From bee etiquette and basic spring management to behaviour cycles, colony assessment, disease detection and the north valley and 40 from the south valley.

For more information, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008. Early registration is recommended. More programs and events can be found in the new Spring 2013 Leisure Guide – available now and viewable online at www.rdck.bc.ca.
Slocan Lake Stewardship Society presents community values survey results to councils

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society President Therese DesCamp and Vice President Mike Lesnik made their presentations on the results of the ‘Imagine Slocan Lake’ community values study to Silverton council on March 19. They have already made the presentation to the EDC and the New Denver council, and will be presenting at Slocan council on April 8.

DesCamp explained that the survey completed several scientific studies as well as the community values study in its work towards a Slocan Lake management plan.

“We think we have a plan because the survey shows we want it,” she said. This community has invested years of volunteer work toward a lake management plan. The financial well being of our area is tied to the lake’s health and well being. Our OCP is five years old and has no bylaws, so there is no way of holding with what the community wants. Development is happening and setting precedents. She explained that a lake management plan involves provincial and federal commitments, not simply local zoning.

DesCamp said that for the community values study, the society “invited members from under us,” so they had an independent consultant to lead the project. They also put together an advisory committee of 14 people – a mix of permanent and seasonal residents, representing divergent interest groups. Further, a group of 28 people attended a full-day session to do a stress run of the survey and make suggestions on how to improve it. There were 665 qualified surveys received, reported DesCamp. More than 100 were disqualified because they were incomplete or were filled out by people from outside Area H North. There was good participation from both full-time and part-time residents – 33% of permanent Area H North residents responded, and 30% of Area H North part-time residents responded. The response rate was double what is needed for 95 percent statistical accuracy, “so the survey results reflect the community accurately,” said DesCamp.

She stressed that these opinions came from the community, and not from SLS.

DesCamp summarized the results as follows. Most respondents placed high value on clean water and healthy ecosystems. Most were happy with the current level of recreation on the lake except 64% believe houseboating, seadiving, and jet skiing should be reduced or not permitted. There was substantial support for the maintenance of existing public beaches, wharves, docks and boat ramps. Respondents were evenly split on whether or not to develop additional public structures, but most would want these in the areas designated by the OCP (the five lake settlements). The vast majority do not want private docking facilities.

In response to a question from Councillor Main, DesCamp confirmed that a delegation came to the February SLSL board meeting with concerns. Lesnik said their main concerns were about motorboats, tax revenue and the validity of the survey.

DesCamp indicated that the board tried to clear up their concerns, which were based on misinformation. ‘People say we want to ban motorboats on the lake, but Mike and I both have motorboats,” she said. Lesnik reiterated that the survey had a 30 percent response rate, which is twice the rate that makes it valid.

The Valley Voice contacted Lane Haywood, SLSL treasurer, who reported that the society has received a total of $109,914 in grants. Most of this funding has come from corporations, with only $1,050 coming from tax dollars. The Recreational Commission No. 6. Most of the society’s grants have been provided by Columbia Basin Trust. Other corporate funders include BCHydro Power Corp., Columbia Power Corporation, Shell Environmental Fund, and Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership.

On April 14th the community of Nakusp will be coming out to vote for those organizations who are funding the support of the CBT funds available this year. The voting will be held in the auditorium of the Sports Centre in Nakusp from noon to 4pm. The year the Legion is to be chosen for and the only one that can be successful is the public as well as the Legion members to vote for the Legion. This year the Legion, if successful, will be funding our roof repair as well as some major equipment replacement (ice machine, glass washer, etc.) The improvements we need to make cannot happen without this grant money.

Market Services to Promote the Nakusp Hot Springs

The Village of Nakusp is inviting proposals from qualified consultants to provide marketing services for the Nakusp Hot Springs, and to develop and implement a forward-looking Marketing Strategy.

The objective of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to provide increased traffic to the Nakusp Hot Springs, through the planning, development and implementation of an effective marketing program. The marketing services contract will be for a nine-month period and is expected to require approximately 15-20 hours per week.

Full RFP documents are available online on the Village of Nakusp website at www.nakusp.com or from the Village of Nakusp office during regular office hours.

Submissions clearly marked “Request for Proposals – Nakusp Hot Springs Marketing” will be accepted until 2 PM local time on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the office of the Village of Nakusp located at 91 – 1st Street NW, Nakusp BC. For further information, contact Linda Tynan, CAO at 250-265-3689 or via email at ltynan@nakusp.com

THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Marketing Services to Promote the Nakusp Hot Springs

The Village of Nakusp will be presenting the proposed 2013-2017 Financial Plan (Budget)

Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:30 pm
Council Chambers, 91 1st Street NW
Public Encouraged to attend

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Some Johnson’s Landing stolen property recovered
submitted
Some of the property stolen from one of the residents of Johnson’s Landing area has been recovered. Kaslo RCMP are treating the case as a break and enter,

COMMUNITY
Perhaps it was a case of a guilty conscience at work,” said Corporal Begg, referring to the criminals disposing of the stolen goods. “In any event, it is nice to be able to return at least some of the property to the victimized property owners.

“It is often said that the local community is the eyes and ears for the police. This is certainly true in this case. Special thanks to the citizens for coming forward.”

The break-ins were at four unoccupied buildings on properties affected by last year’s massive landslide at Johnson’s Landing, which killed four people. The offences are believed to have occurred some time between March 11-16. The unknown suspect(s) broke into one residence and a garage, and then navigated their way through sheer debris to access two more unoccupied residences on the south side of Johnson’s Landing.

The Kaslo RCMP attended the site to speak with local residents and to conduct neighborhood enquiries. However, due to persistent slope instability, officers did not personally attend two vacant residences on the South side of the slide. Warning signs remain in place and the public is cautioned not to go into the area due to the slide risk.

One residence on Helenwood Road, situated in the slide area, has an outbuilding/garage near the property. The outbuilding was broken into and an older Toro riding mower, a table saw, and an air compressor were stolen. This was the property where three people were killed.

The property owner of a second residence located on McNeil Road, on the other side of the slide, reports that he is missing a yellow mower, snow blower and a forklift. Among the items are 100 LPs and 100-45 rpm records, and also an Apple laptop and desktop computer.

The owner of the third property on Helenwood Road, also on the other side of the slide, is assessing what property was stolen.

Kaslo RCMP are reviewing the overview of information that the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the property owners.

It is extremely unfortunate that not only were the homeowners victimized by the original slide but eight months later are victimized again by criminals stealing their property, said Begg.

No arrests have been made to date and the investigation continues. Kaslo RCMP seek the public’s assistance.

Kaslo community consultation sessions on health care well attended
submitted by Maggie Winans

The Kaslo Health Care Group in conjunction with Interior Health hosted a series of community consultation sessions over three days the week of March 24. Sessions were held in Meadow Creek, Kaslo and at the Victorian Community Health Centre. Close to 250 people spoke two hours sharing their views on health care services in a highly constructive, forward thinking manner. Events with young children to the very elderly showed up to participate.

Throughout the sessions, there was a sense of energy and enthusiasm with area residents making it very clear that they valued their health care services but understood the need for collaboration and commitment in order to solve rural health care service issues that are not unique to Kaslo.

During the sessions, participants were asked a series of questions that focused on key expectations for health services, staffing challenges at the health centre, their concerns about changes to future health services and suggestions for improving both primary care and emergency services. Participants broke into small focus groups to answer the questions then came back together to share their thoughts and ideas.

All of the answers to the questions are now being examined so that key themes can be pulled out and explored further. Upon leaving a session, one elderly lady summed up the feeling of many participants by exclaiming, “I am pumped!”

The next stop in this ongoing process is a day-long Future State Workshop planned for late April. At that workshop, the summary of what was based on the consultation sessions will be presented. Options for sustainable services will be explored, and strategies for moving forward will be discussed.

Physician services temporarily limited at Kaslo’s Emergency Department
submitted
Interior Health advises Kaslo and area residents that physician services at Victorian Community Health Centre Emergency Department will be limited from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. April 1-8.

The Emergency Department will remain open during these days. However, the on-call physician will only be available for the most urgent cases.

All patients arriving to the emergency department will be assessed as usual by trained nurses.

Patients with less urgent needs may be offered other appropriate options. In some cases, patients may be redirected or transferred by ambulance to another facility for appropriate care.

In recognition of these vacancies, we are asking the public to use the emergency department wisely and be aware of steps they can take to avoid unnecessary visits to the hospital.

If you need non-emergency care, first contact your family doctor.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BASIN BUSINESS ADVISORS PROGRAM

CET is seeking a qualified agency/organization to administer and deliver the Basin Business Advisors (BBA) program in the Columbia Basin. Visit www.crt.org/opportunities for more information of older CET phone number.

Deadline is noon PDT, April 29, 2013.

www.crt.org • 1-800-505-8998

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Some tools and equipment, stolen in a series of Johnson’s Landing break and enters, has been recovered when it was discovered on a road about 1 km away from the scene of the crime.

STOPPERS at 1-800-222-8477.

Callers to CRIME STOPPERS remain Anonymous and may be eligible for a reward.
Local food means business: West Kootenay EcoSociety hosts café

Following on the heels of the Reconstructing Dinner Film Festival, West Kootenay EcoSociety is hosting a Conversation Café titled ‘Local Food Means Business’. The event is the fifth in the series of sustainability-related events.

Wild Voices for Kids program growing

The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) is growing, and thanks to community-minded organizations, approximately 4,700 students across the Columbia Basin in six school districts have enjoyed environmental or heritage programs already this school year.

Wild Voices for Kids allows children the opportunity for hands-on learning. Through these programs they have discovered local archeology, explored wildlife habitats on snowshoes, learned about avalanche safety, and studied bats and local fossils. CBEEN’s website offers 133 different programs by 79 community educators across the Columbia Basin. Wild Voices for Kids also supports getting children out of the classroom and into the field by covering the cost of busing for field trips.

This program, which is unique in Canada, offers students ‘education about global issues, and was named best environmental journalist in the world in 2000. With a maximum of 25 participants, we encourage everyone to submit their registration as early as possible. Four scholarships for youth and young adults are available for information, visit http://www.heartrest.com/conference/convergence-writers-retreat/. The program, which is unique in Canada, offers students ‘education about global issues, and was named best environmental journalist in the world in 2000. With a maximum of 25 participants, we encourage everyone to submit their registration as early as possible. Four scholarships for youth and young adults are available for information, visit http://www.heartrest.com/conference/convergence-writers-retreat/.

Heart’s Rest hosts writers’ convergence

A Writers’ Convergence Weekend with the theme ‘Writing a New World’ will be held June 14 – 16 at Heart’s Rest Retreat Centre in New Denver. Registration is now open and it is filling up quickly.

Just like a series of smaller streams that feed into one great river, convergence brings together writers who care about the state of the world and believe writing is a tool to envision and articulate a new future.

This weekend’s convergence offers presentations, workshops, and dialogue, with Alanna Mitchell as a presenter and moderator. The author of the internationally bestselling Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis, Mitchell is a Canadian who writes about global issues, and was named best environmental journalist in the world in 2000. With a maximum of 25 participants, we encourage everyone to submit their registration as early as possible. Four scholarships for youth and young adults are available for information, visit http://www.heartrest.com/conference/convergence-writers-retreat/.

Kasllo council sets tax rate increase at 2.5 percent

At the March 20 budget meeting, council agreed to establish the tax rate increase at 2.5 percent. Other decisions made at the meeting were as follows:
- The Seniors Hall roof replacement project was given approval to proceed. The quote of $11,482 from Heritage Roofing was accepted.
- The $13,318 tender from Arrow Lakes Ready Mix to deliver pre-cast concrete sections for the boat launch was accepted.
- Council decided against budgeting funds to support the Chamber’s proposed year-round Visitor Services and Economic Development Centre, but referred the proposal to the Sustainable Economic Development Committee for further discussion.
- Council decided to apply to the RDCK Community Development Fund for $30,000 instead of the Centennial Building addition wants votes for CBT funding submitted

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society is asking for your assistance to complete the archive addition to the Centennial Building this year. The society had finished to lockdown last fall and during the winter the electrical system and the furnace were being installed. There aren’t sufficient funds to complete this addition without your vote in the upcoming CBT Initiatives funding on April 14 from noon to 4 pm. Visit the society’s display before voting; all three groups who are involved with this project – the Historical Society, Museum Society and the Nakusp Public Library – will be on hand to answer any questions. The library and the museum are each requesting $30,000 to help complete this project.

Smokey Creek Salvage

New & Used Auto Parts, Back Home Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Renewal

WANTED TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.

The Outlet on Main Street, doors open at 6:30. Memberships can be purchased or renewed until 7PM. Membership Prices (Youth-$2, Parent-$3, Committee/Board-$3, Community-$5) All members can vote on new board members! Refreshments available. Thanks for your support. See you there!

Tales from the Fisherman’s Market: We Know Where Our Fish Comes From

I truly believe the salvation of our oceans is one of the most important global topics we are facing in our generation. Having worked so closely all my life with the ideals of a drumer, more sustainable oceans, and having witnessed firsthand the changes in commercial fishing and environmental consciousness on the West Coast I can honestly say it is within our grasp to alter the way things are done.

By supporting the idea of buying seafood that is harvested in the wild using proper fishing techniques we are on the right path. The West Coast is an absolute treasure, a final bastion of what our oceans have to offer the world.

TALES FROM THE FISHERMAN’S MARKET: WE KNOW WHERE OUR FISH COMES FROM

Next time you buy something at Fisherman’s market feel free to ask these important questions, “How was it caught”, “where is it from”, and “is this the right product for my family and my identity?”. It is the knowledge of this industry passed from fisherman to the consumer that will make the difference.

I know that farmed fish has gotten a bad reputation over the years. So many companies have tried to make a quick buck feeding the masses without asking themselves the effect they will have on the environment or for the products that the farmed fish is. At the Fisherman’s Market we are proud members of the Ocean Wise program and we are doing our best to make properly farmed fish known and accepted as a healthy and responsible choice. With a wealth of local and wild products still at your disposal, farmed fish may not make your dinner plate quite yet, but find comfort in the fact that at Fisherman’s Market supply healthy and environmentally healthy options for all of our seafood needs.

This month is sustainability month at the Fisherman’s Market. Come on down and see what the future has in store.

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The Outlet on Main Street, doors open at 6:30. Memberships can be purchased or renewed until 7PM. Membership Prices (Youth-$2, Parent-$3, Committee/Board-$3, Community-$5) All members can vote on new board members! Refreshments available. Thanks for your support. See you there!
submitted

They came, they deliberated—and they deliberated some more.

The panel of learned librarians tasked with choosing the 2013 One Book, One Kootenay (OBOK) shortlist had a tough time, considering the wealth of talent throughout the Kootenays. But chose they did, and the Kootenay Library Federation (KLF), host of the annual OBOK reader’s choice celebration, is ready to announce the selected books.

On this year’s shortlist: Confined Space by Deryn Collier, The Dolphin’s Tooth in Search of Adventure by Bruce Kirkby, and Never Going Back by Antonia Bunyard.

“It’s a great shortlist,” says KLF director Joanne Richards. “As always, I feel incredibly proud of the level of literary talent we enjoy in our region.”

Confined Space introduces small-town born Beren Fortin as he investigates a murder in a brewery. Author Deryn Collier grew up in Montreal and lived in Creston—where she worked for a time at Columbia Brewery—before settling in Nelson.

The Dolphin’s Tooth: A Decade in Search of Adventure (McLelland & Stewart) follows Kimberley author Bruce Kirkby through 15 years of high adventure in some of the world’s edgiest places. From smoldering attacks while running Africa’s Blue Nile Gorge to rescuing a fallen Sherpa on Mount Everest, Kirkby, a Globe and Mail columnist and photographer, has travelled to 80 countries and embraced 18 grueling seasons with an uncommon passion for the wild.

Never Going Back (Thaddeus P. Press) brings together a group of high school friends after 10 years of separation as they converge for a friend’s memorial, each of them with their own memories—and secrets—about a decade-old tragedy, and each having found their own ways to cope. Author Antonia Bunyard has lived in South Africa, Zambia, Australia, and Nelson—where she now lives with her family.

The reading public is asked to vote for their favourite shortlisted book between April 15 and August 2. The 2013 selected OBOK author is celebrated in a tour of select Kootenay Libraries in the fall. The KLF makes sure that all libraries in the Federation have copies of the shortlisted titles—so the reading can begin, and feisty conversations ensue.

CBT provides $19.4 million in funding for new initiatives

submitted

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) will provide $19.4 million in new funding in the 2013/14 fiscal year to support a broad range of social, economic and environmental initiatives throughout the region.

“A key approach in how CBT delivers benefits is to support Basin communities and residents in identifying their priorities, and to provide funding where they can be supported based on those priorities,” said Greg Deck, chair of the Board of Directors. “CBT will deliver a substantial portion of this budget by involving communities in directly allocating funds based on community-identified priorities.”

The board approved the following budget allocation for 2013/14:

$3.5 million for Social Initiatives, including literacy, affordable housing, non-profit initiatives and $1 million for the Social Grants Program;

$3.2 million for Economic Initiatives to strengthen the labour force, foster entrepreneurial ventures and encourage regional economic development partnerships within the Basin, including $1.3 million for wage subsidy programs; and

$3.3 million for Environment and Water Initiatives, including support for environmental restoration, conservation and clean energy projects.

Deconstructing Dinner announces 2013 film festival

submitted

After last year’s highly-successful Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival, it was an easy decision for director Jon Steinman to bring it back to Nelson. The festival will be spread out at three venues and features 11 films.

The April 4 launch party at The Royal will feature Nelson’s Brent The Oysterman offering his two back-to-back oyster shacks, or more accurately, and other oyster bars, fresh from Cortes Island.

Adding to the fun, Arich Daulites of Arich’s Eddie Creations will be on hand with a festival-inspired oyster bar, fresh from Cortes Island.

The food choices are in line with the film selections for the evening which include the festival short on South Carolina oyster farmers, The Mud and the Blood, PEROGY celebrating Winnipeg’s Ukrainian perogy culture, and the humorous and teaching Smokin’ Fish follows Tlaastán Cory Mann who gets hungry for smoked salmon, nostalgic for his childhood, and decides to spend a summer cooking fish at his family’s traditional fish camp. Music from Clinton +1 will tie the evening together.

Headlining on April 5 at the Capitol Theatre will be the world premieres of episode one of the OrthoMax Nutrition Docuseries, Reconstructing Our Food System television and web series, set to launch on iChumash in September. This first episode is all about wheat and features a long line-up of Kootenay locals, who for more than five years, have cultivated a local wheat economy here in the region. Also featured will be a selection of shorts including Artisan Baker, Hungry for Change which shows how many of the “health foods” we eat are keeping us locked in the fast food and fast health cycle.

Day three of the festival, April 6, will be the Civic Theatre’s first film festival since re-opening its doors. Four feature-length films have been selected: Squish: The Global Catch, Bitter Seeds, Big Boys Gone Banana$ and the festival finale, IAmLoki, The Movie of the Future. Raw Dragon Chocolate, Delicious and Ambrosia Chocolate will have tables with samples and products on offer.

More information on the festival and the follow-up Conversation Cafe being hosted by the EcoSociety can be found online at www. deconstructingdinner.com. Tickets are available at Oster Books in Nelson.
Tipi Camp holds yoghatha fundraiser

Submitted

Tipi Camp hosts its fourth annual Yoga-thon Fundraiser in Nelson April 21 at the Anglican Church Hall. The event starts at 9 a.m. and 30 classes with 21 instructors. The first class begins at 9 a.m. and the last class ends at 4:30, to be followed by a closing ceremony led by Donna Grady and Paul Erickson.

Participants can stay for one class, all day or anywhere in between. To register, drop-in on the day or we welcome everyone to find a yoga class they like or be our guest.
Silverton Gallery gets boost with new sound equipment

by Art Joyce

The Silverton Gallery, a popular venue for music and arts events in the north valley, is getting a boost with new sound equipment. While never isn’t always better, much of the existing equipment dates to the 1970s and has long been in need of replacement.

Thanks to grants from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), Recreation Commission #6, Kootenay Savings Credit Union and Chie Konagaya, musicians will now have a greatly expanded audio setup to work with. The 24-channel soundboard will open up the number of instruments and voices that can be managed. Two new self-powered PA speakers will feature both ample power and clarity. The soundboard will have an Apogee Symphony radio interface for computer recording, offering professional-quality sound transfer.

“What’s special about this unit is that it allows all the individual instruments feeding the sound board to be recorded simultaneously and individually,” says gallery board member and sound technician Jay Butte. “The artist can take away the recordings and mix the way they like it if they want to change anything from how the room sounded when they actually did the performance. And they can fix a mistake made by one instrument without re-recording the entire group.”

Butte says that the decision to upgrade the system was made for several reasons. While the old equipment could be made to work, it was reaching the point where it no longer met the expectations of a modern performance space. It was simply unable to integrate with modern equipment and lacked the flexibility to meet the needs of diverse users. Butte - a bass player who performs with local bands such as Lord & Husband - was behind the initiative to add recording capacity to the system.

“A performer who wants to record himself, it seemed like a service that would be very appealing to receive. So our thought was that developing this capacity will open the opportunity to attract more diverse and possibly bigger name acts,” he says. He sees the recording capacity as a boon to both artists and the gallery. With permission from the artists, recordings could be sold on compilations to raise funds for the gallery. Live recordings are another potential subsidy to attract artists to the venue, since they can use these recordings to benefit their own careers. So far the response from artists has been very positive.

“They view it as an extraordinary opportunity to get high-quality recordings at no profit rates, which is virtually unheard of. Most live recordings at other venues are limited to the house mix — what is heard by the audience. To walk away with fully separated recordings is a big deal.”

Butte says the older equipment often required problem solving on the fly, which can be a nightmare in the middle of a gig. While there’s a steep learning curve associated with the new equipment, there’s no limit to the expanded capacity it is worth it.

The new sound system took shape between July and November 2012 and is now essentially complete. Butte says there are still a few minor additions that would make the system function better, but it is fully capable of doing the job. Artists wanting access to the new equipment can do so by booking the gallery space for an event. Please specify what services are required when booking, for example, just soundboard services or soundboard plus live recordings. The gallery will require that the equipment be supervised by one of its own sound tech team members. Anyone interested in being trained to become part of the gallery’s sound engineering team can contact Butte through the gallery at soundtech@silverton.ca.

Police investigating three fires in Castlegar

submitted

The RCMP and the Castlegar Fire Department are investigating two arson fires which occurred March 25, less than two hours apart. The first fire occurred at a vehicle found engulfed in flames in the parking lot of the Kinnaird Community Centre in the 1200 block of 26th Street. The van belonged to the Red Cross.

As a preventive measure, 1324 Queen St. Rita’s Catholic church located on 7th Avenue. The rectory and church hall were undamaged in the incident. No one was injured as a result of either of the fires.

Three days later, on March 28, Castlegar fire department received a call reporting a garage fire in the 300 block of 7th Ave. in Castlegar. Firefighters and police responded to the scene and found a detached garage fully engulfed in flames. The owner was located and did not receive any injuries and no one was displaced as a result of the fire.

Until the cause can be examined, the investigation is ongoing.

New Denver author to speak on Home Children in Winlaw

submitted

Are you a descendant of a British child immigrant? With approximately one in eight Canadians descended from the 90,000 children who emigrated out of Britain, how would you know? Join historian and author Art Joyce April 13 at 5 p.m. at Winlaw Elementary School library, for his presentation Locating the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: Honouring Canada’s Child Immigrants.

Between 1869 and 1899, 100,000 poor children were emigrated from Britain to Canada as means of providing unindentured labourers for newly developing farms or in the case of girls - domestic servants for households. It was seen as an expendable solution to the growing poverty problem caused by the Industrial Revolution in Britain. While at the same time helping to develop Britain’s colonies. Only a minority were actually adopted by families, but it was discovered that he was the godson of just such a ‘home child’ about five years ago while doing genealogical research into his Joyce ancestors. Since then he has been expanding his interest to include research on the history of Canada’s child immigrants, and in particular, its impact on families in the Columbia Basin. He has completed the writing of his book based on his family’s experience and the experiences of other British families who have ‘home children’ in their background.

This project has been supported by both Community and School District 27, the Columbia Basin Trust and the Nippon Foundation. The book, ‘The Children’s Ghosts to Rest’, will be published in 2014.

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RDCK adopts five-year financial plan

submitted

The board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay adopted its 2013-2017 Financial Plan on March 26. The 2017 budget is $38,660,000, which is a 1.4% increase over last year’s budget of $38,022,994.

This plan is the result of the board’s ongoing commitment to work collaboratively in the most cost effective manner while delivering a multitude of services throughout a large and diverse region,” said Chair Kettle. “We are a complex organization with growing demands to deliver more services and this poses a challenge as we propose our budget.”

Some of the budget increases are the result of a corporate review, conducted in 2012. The board commissioned the review to critically examine governance and service delivery in the RDCK. The consultant made numerous recommendations to improve overall effectiveness of the organization. Recommendations include the addition of staff to address growth and demand for services such as parks, bylaw enforcement and planning and the addition of positions for new associated services. The RDCK continues to work towards implementation of these recommendations and has a commitment to maintain services for existing programs.

Break-ins at Anderson’s Automotive and Summit Lake Ski Area

by Jan McInroy

Valuables and lost items entered occurred in the wee hours of March 19 in the Nakusp area.

At approximately 4 a.m., police received a report of a break and enter at Anderson’s Automotive Services on Nelson Avenue in Nakusp. The culprit(s) forced open a door to the business and removed some of the cash and products. The intrusion alarm was triggered and a property representative and police attended. Nobody was located in the area, but a number of items were left behind which might be useful for forensic examination.

The Summit Lake Ski Area was also broken into sometime between the night of Monday, March 18 and early morning on Tuesday, March 19. Culprit(entricted through the door to the brick building, which is still under construction, by prying it open. They went through the kitchen area and took miscellaneous food items and some rolled coins. They also entered two other storage areas and took two hand held radios and a ski caliber report numbers.

Slocan Lake Detachment RCMP report

submitted

On March 25 Slocan Lake RCMP received a complaint of mischief from third party concerns. The Canada Post building at 804 Harold St in Slocan was ‘tagged’ on the rear door with black marker and black paint. The tags ‘SDIC’ and ‘GRAVE’ were left, along with other letters and work $1000.

Police are continuing to investigate both break and enter and are seeking assistance from the community. Anyone with information on either incident is asked to contact the Slocan RCMP (250 265-3677) or Crimestoppers at 1-800 222-TIPS. Owners of property and businesses are encouraged to conduct routine security checks and report any suspicious activity to the police or Crimestoppers at 1-800 222-3477.