New Denver Survivors Collective complaint dismissed by Human Rights Tribunal

by Jan McMurray

The Human Rights Tribunal has dismissed the complaint made by the New Denver Survivors Collective against the provincial government. The decision was issued April 26, more than a year after hearings took place in January and February 2012.

The New Denver Survivors Collective is made up of some of the people who were apprehended and confined in a residential school in New Denver in the 1950s because they were children of Sons of Freedom Doukhobors. They filed the human rights complaint because they felt discriminated against in the way the provincial government responded to the 1999 Ombudsman’s report, Righting the Wrong – the confinement of Sons of Freedom Doukhobour children.

The Ombudsman’s report recommended that the government make an unconditional apology in the legislature, and consult with the group about the appropriate forms of compensation. Instead, the Attorney General issued a statement of regret in the legislature, and the government initiated construction of a historic memorial site at the pulpit on the highway in New Denver’s Orchard even though there was lack of consensus among the survivors about the project.

The Human Rights Tribunal (HRT) ‘Reasons for Decision’ document explains that the government initiated a discussion with some of the survivors about implementation of some of the Ombudsman’s recommendations, and several meetings occurred between 2006 and 2004. During these meetings, the HRT report states that the survivors “consistently requested a formal apology as a first and necessary healing step, and full implementation of the Report’s recommendations. The Ministry, on the other hand, was consistent in its position that individual financial compensation was not on the table, and that it was not prepared to implement all of the Report’s recommendations.”

The Tribunal Member who presided over the case states in the HRT document that throughout the discussions, there was “miscommunication” and “a lack of attentive listening that occurred on both sides.”

On October 4, 2004, the Attorney General at the time, Geoff Plant, made the statement of regret in the legislature, with 11 of the survivors in attendance. When Plant met with them afterwards, most expressed deep disappointment that there had been no apology, and wanted work stopped on the historic site because of this. The Attorney General had the work halted. After canvassing more of the survivors, it became clear that there was no general support for completing the site, and it remains today as a picnic area in New Denver.

One survivor testified that at the meeting following the statement of regret, Plant told the survivors that an apology would cost the government too much money. Indeed, Plant testified at the HRT hearings that one of the reasons he did not make an apology was because of the risk of legal liability. At the time, some survivors were seeking individual compensation through the courts, and there was no Apology Act in place.

Although the tribunal member presiding over the case found no discrimination against the New Denver Survivors Collective by the government in its response to the Ombudsman’s Report, she states, “I acknowledge that the Survivors sincerely believe that their human rights as children were violated in the 1950s... I also appreciate that the Survivors felt deeply hurt and offended by the Ministry’s refusal to formally apologize to them, despite their consistent expression of need for a real and sincere apology in order to truly heal. The value of an apology cannot be underestimated.”

She points out that the government is now protected from legal liability based on the issuance of an apology through the Apology Act.

Call for assistance in search for missing person from Slocan submitted by RCMP

A Slocan family is searching for their son after he left his home Tuesday, April 23 and vanished.

Eighteen-year-old Daniel Crosley has not contacted any family or friends since leaving, and his plans and destination are unknown. Crosley is described as a Caucasian male with oriental features, 5'6” tall, 140 lbs, medium length black hair, wearing a green jacket, purple shirt, black jeans, and black shoes.

Police have interviewed a number of people in Slocan in an attempt to find Daniel, and it appears he was last seen near the skatepark between 7 and 7:45 pm on April 23, headed in the general direction of the Rail to Trail pathway. This area was searched the day after he disappeared, a group of community members conducted a door-to-door search on April 27, and a number of abandoned mines and cabins in the area have been searched, all to no avail.

Daniel left home with no wallet or identification. It is believed he may be hitchhiking along British Columbia highways and police are asking for public assistance from anyone that may have seen him in the last few days. Anyone with information about Daniel Crosley’s disappearance or knowledge of his current location are asked to contact their local RCMP detachment, the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment at 250-358-2222, or 911. Please quote file number 2013-1854 when providing information.

The candidates in Kootenay West met for the first all-candidates meeting in advance of the provincial election, April 23 at the Slocan Memorial Hall. From the left, Joseph Hughes, independent; Katrine Conroy, NDP; Dale Bylsa, independent. See story, page 17. Nelson: Closen all candidates meeting story or page 18.

100% Independently and Locally Owned
Nakusp honours Citizen of the Year and lifetime achievement

by Art Joyce

The Nakusp Rotary Club hosted Nakusp’s annual Citizen of the Year banquet and awards the evening of April 27, with MC Dan Nicholson.

Laurie Page was chosen Citizen of the Year while Dan Wiebe was given a lifetime achievement award.

Councillor Tom Zeleznik represented Mayor Hamling who is attending a BC mayors’ conference in Prince George. “Both Dan and Laurie turn a negative situation into a positive one,” he said. Dorothy Dredett appeared on behalf of MP David Wilks.

“When David comes in I get him to go at least once through Dan’s mill,” she said. “There’s a single wasted piece of material there.” Although MLA Katrine Conroy was present, Nicholson explained that due to BC election campaign laws she would not be speaking. A select committee of non-Rotarians made recommendations for citizen of the year, he said. The awards have been given since the early 1970s.

Trudy Lillies spoke of Page’s many years as director and chairperson of many boards in Nakusp. “Laurie has a passion for this community and its people. We’re proud of all the hard work you’ve done to make the village and surrounding area a great place to live.”

In her acceptance speech, Page first acknowledged “my supportive husband and daughter; they don’t normally like to be in a room with more than four people.” She then directed her comments to Wiebe, whom she called “this hero in our midst.” Page cautioned him however that, “winning the lifetime achievement award doesn’t let you off the hook; we still have great expectations of you.” She spoke of being “in shock” when she learned of being given the award for citizen of the year. “We live in a blaming culture sometimes but thanks to the people of Nakusp I’ve learned to go easy on people. We need to be supportive and figure out solutions for the good of the community.” Page spoke of community members who “take the risk of running for office and then spend a great deal of their time fulfilling that office. We are truly celebrating that thriving spirit of contribution. I don’t know what the technical name for Nakusp residents is—Nakupsans, Nakupsites, or what—but I call them awesome.” Her speech was met with a standing ovation.

Councillor Zeleznik next presented the lifetime achievement award to Dan Wiebe, who was born in Nakusp in 1968 and raised in Burton. Wiebe’s Box Lake Lumber mill produced cedar shakes and dimension lumber prior to being destroyed by fires that put 34 employees out of work. The mill was rebuilt in 1998 but due to supply problems the decision was made to diversify, to produce cedar products from material that would otherwise be burned as slash. The result has been the creation of many spinoff jobs from value-added manufacturing, with products shipped to clients worldwide. The mill operates year-round, unlike many mills in BC that are currently struggling to remain open. Its employees are all from the Nakusp area, said Zeleznik, and all are committed to making the mill a success. He commended Wiebe for choosing to keep his mill operating here despite the challenges of the ferry system that would have persuaded most business owners to relocate. Wiebe is also an elder of the Arrow Lakes Alliance Church, a volunteer for junior league hockey and a soccer coach. “He sees positive aspects in every situation and every person no matter how terrible the situation may be.”

In his acceptance speech Wiebe said, “I was a little bit surprised when they told me I was getting the award; I didn’t know if that meant I was getting close to death or something.” He commended Page for her work, saying that the community wouldn’t be what it is without people like Laurie. Wiebe said his wife’s support has been vital to his success. “I’ve only become what I have with assistance from all kinds of people. I’m so blessed that God put me in a community that has so much freedom; so glad to be born in Canada where you can work hard and achieve so many things.” He added that while proud of Box Lake Lumber he sees his children as his life’s greatest achievement. “The business succeeds not because of Dan Wiebe but because of all the people that have helped me; they pick me up and go the extra mile. They could do other things and get paid more money but they choose to live in Nakusp and keep Box Lake Lumber going. What a great community to raise your family in.”

The banquet was followed by the candle lighting ceremony for deceased former awards winners.
Frances Harding receives Silverton Volunteer of the Year Award

by Jan McMurray

Frances Harding was named Silverton’s Volunteer of the Year at a celebration held April 27 at the Municipal Hall.

Gary Willman of the Silverton Community Club welcomed everyone and spoke about volunteerism. “A volunteer does things not to be recognized or praised, but to be part of the community,” he said. “Each act of volunteerism makes a stronger community, and we have one very strong community.” He called on Mayor Kathy Provan to present Frances with the award.

Mayor Provan gave a brief summary of Frances’ achievements and contributions. A Registered Nurse, Frances always lent a helping hand to people in need of support while awaiting entrance to the hospital. Her skills as an RN coupled with the experience she gained while working with her husband, Randal Harding, who was mayor, then MLA, then MP, placed her in a strong position to serve on the hospital board. She eventually went on to represent the hospital board at the Regional District level, where her efforts were instrumental in keeping the hospital operating. Her work on the board contributed substantially to the current standards of health care service and the quality of life in our community.

During the more than 60 years that Frances has lived in Silverton, she has actively participated in many recreational activities and organizations. During the early days, she organized community skating, winter carnivals and regular card playing sessions. She was involved with the Girl Guides for many years, as a leader and then as District Commissioner. She has played a major role in organizing the July 1st celebration, and has helped support and coordinate activities for the Valhalla Summer School of Music. “It’s community volunteers like Frances who add so much to our community,” concluded the mayor.

As she accepted the beautiful plaque, Frances made a comment typical of the quintessential volunteer: “There are many more who are more deserving.”

Frances’ son and daughter-in-law attended as a surprise, joining the approximately 40 people who came out to celebrate.

The tables were beautifully decorated by Carole Heiden of Sew Much More, and a splendid spread of goodies and other refreshments was organized by Silverton Community Club members.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, May 1
Slocan Valley Legacy Society AGM
WE Graham Community School
7 pm

Thursday, May 2
Slocan River Stormkeepers AGM
Parsmore Hall
7 pm

All Candidates Meeting
Nakusp Seniors’ Hall
7 pm

New Denver Rescue Society AGM
New Denver Fire Hall
9 pm

Friday, May 3
Wire’s Festival Coffee house
Silvertown Memorial Hall
6:30 pm

Saturday, May 4
Board Safety & Handling with Susan
Silvertown College, Nakusp
10 am - Noon

Window May Day & Water Parade
Cedar Creek Café
11 am - 11 pm

Tessa Hosts Em-Palmer
Nakusp Legion
7 pm

Sunday, May 5
New Denver Queen’s Tea
Bowen Hall, New Denver
2 pm

Nelson Skiers Silent Auction Opening
Cedar Ridge Gallery
7-9 pm

Out of Africa – An African Dinner
Vatican
24 pm

Wednesday, May 8
Slocan Park Improvement District AGM
Slocan Park Community Hall
7 pm

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Group
Louisiana School
8:30 pm

Thursday, May 9
Aboriginal Education Enhancement Group
Nakusp Elementary School
8:30 pm

Friday, May 10
Dances of Uncommon Peace
South Slocan School
7 pm

Saturday, May 11
PLS Mother’s Day Plant Sale
Beside Valley Foods, Nakusp
10 am - 3 pm

Economics of Happiness Peace Cafe
Beside Valley Foods, Nakusp
7 pm

St. Joseph’s Art Show
Hidden Canyon Gallery
10 am - 2 pm

Roller Derby (Valley Ventures)
Slocan Legion Hall
5 pm

Cranbrook 4 Supreme Leader
Shelton Gallery
7:30 pm

Whole School 47th & Spring Market
The Whole School
10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, May 12
St. Joseph’s Art Show
Hidden Canyon Gallery
10 am - 2 pm

Mother’s Day Breakfast
Parsmore Hall
9 am - noon

Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast
Slocan Legion Hall
8:30 - 11:30 am

Tuesday, May 14
BC General Election
At polling stations near you
8 - 8 pm

New/Denver council
Council Chambers
7 pm

Kootenay council
Council Chambers
7 pm

Thursday, May 16
ASLCS Open House
Community Services Building, Nakusp
11:00am-11:30pm

Summit Lake Ski Club AGM
Nakusp Secondary, Room 20
7 pm

Last Wishes Society AGM
Hidden Canyon Gallery
7 pm

Linsey Noller
Silvertown Gallery
7 pm

Mushrooms and dairy goats submitted

Throughout the month of May, Slocan Valley Recreation continues the popular Rural Skills program with the annual Spring Mushroom Expedition and 2nd to Daisy Geits Workshop.

On Sunday, May 12, Robert Macrae from Selkirk College returns to share his extensive knowledge and passion for local mushrooms. Participants will learn to identify and gather a number of edible spring varieties as well as explore the fascinating characteristics of other non-edible types.

Gabriola Wolf hosts an Introduction to Daisy Geits Workshop on Saturday, May 25. She’ll offer insight into housing, fencing, feeding, health and how to safely collect and process goat milk. Participants may also have an opportunity to try their hand at milking. Gabriola’s background in animal health care and dedication to raising happy healthy animals is well known, and this workshop will be of interest and value to anyone who is considering raising goats or learning more about them.

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2013 BC Provincial Election

I am not expecting any major changes in either of the constituencies that the Valley Voice serves. The working capital that the NDP has in the West Kootenay is too large for them to lose. It will be interesting to see whether the Greens can cut out the Liberals for second place. To a certain extent, it depends on the performance of the leaders. If the Liberals continue to muddle down, Sajid Darak could attract a lot of the anti NDP vote. If Green sympathizers become confident of an NDP victory, they will be less concerned about splitting the vote.

Here in Kootenay West, there is no Green candidate, but we’ve got two independents. I don’t know Glen Byle or Bill. The young man drove from Trail on three hours notice to attend an all-candidates meeting in Silverton – a meeting that the Liberal candidate couldn’t be bothered to attend, despite having known about it for a week. I think Glen’s ideas about government by referendum are half baked, but interesting. I look forward to sitting down with Mr. Byle over a glass or two of single malt once the election is over.

Joseph Hughes, the other independent, is a thoughtful and articulate young man. I’ve watched him grow into his role as village councillor. He speaks well, thanks quickly on his feet, and brings his love for the land and the people of the West Kootenay to everything he does. He’s passionate about the Arrow Lakes and has re-engaged the debate about the Columbia River Treaty. Which is a good thing. It’s the most important issue in this election. He’s going to win votes in the northern end of the constituency. I expect that he won’t do as well as the big union towns of Castlegar and Trail. He takes the election seriously and is working hard. I really hope he does well. I like his position on the treaty, and I think that if he has a strong showing it can only improve our hand when it comes to negotiations.

As for the Liberal candidate, Jim Postolloff, the less said the better. If you can’t even show up at an all-candidates’ meeting, to meet the people that you hope will become your constituents, you’re not ready for prime time. Sorry, but I take democracy seriously and I’m amazed when a lot of good people take a lot of time to organize and attend all-candidates’ meetings, and the representatives of one of the two major political parties in this province can’t bother to show up.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
continued from page 4

by trained inspectors, semi-annual inspections by a data safety engineer and inspections by an independent data safety consulting engineer every five to 10 years.

BC Hydro is committed to investing in our electrical system to provide safe, reliable power to our customers. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these important issues. If your readers have any further questions or concerns, they can contact me directly at 250-365-4565 or by email at maryanne.coates@bchydro.com.

Mary Anne Coates, BC Hydro Castlegar

Electoral thoughts

The political sins are up, but where are the politicians? I remember ML on April 13, asking about her party’s policy regarding the Columbia River Treaty. Within seconds I had an answer. “Thank you for your email message... you are receiving this automated response.” And the latest word is... silence.

During this provincial election, I want to hear about water: water usage, water quality, water pollution, water rights and the legal protection of Canadian water. I want to hear about climate change and solar panels. I also want to hear about alternatives to fracking, the Site C dam, the Trans Mountain pipeline. I want to hear about jobs that don’t destroy the good news. In this provincial election, I hope we have some candidates who stand up for the politicians that I dislike the least. There is someone in the Kootenay-West riding I can vote for. He is a young person from Nelson, an independent. He is even coming to Edgewater to meet us locals. He is going to take a look at our forest farm, now known as ‘The Beach’ when it is not under water from a mud flat. His name is Joseph Hughes.

Barb Hohnborg

Edgewater

Open letter to president of Canada Post Corporation

Dear Postmaster General of Canada Post Corporation,

I am writing to express my concerns about Canada Post’s proposed changes to the Canada Post Tariff. I believe these changes are not in the best interests of our community and will negatively impact the local economy and the quality of life in the region.

The proposed changes include increasing the cost of mailing letters and parcels, reducing the frequency of mail delivery, and reducing the number of post offices in the area. These changes will have a significant impact on businesses, residents, and community organizations that rely on Canada Post services.

I urge you to reconsider these changes and find alternative solutions that will benefit all stakeholders. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Intervention, frogs and money

According to recent calculations for both direct and wholesale FortisBC electricity customers, a wired versus a wireless option for any new meter would result in a savings of more than $25 million. ($5,115,850 to be more exact, according to intervenor and Regent Energy’s K. Sirin Gilbert, a retired Shadick’s hardworking team, who is still responding to the BC Utilities Commission’s request for evidence.

Wouldn’t it also make sense that in a legal building situation, a business and/or property owner would have the legal right to compel any customer to cease something that is factually known to cause harmful cumulative damage, as is the case with the AMI “smart meters”? Between this point and the financial one above, perhaps the government of Holland knows what’s in store for the Province of British Columbia... to smart meter free. How did they manage that? Anyone out there know Dutch? Frogs – we know they’ve been in decline for decades and that they are vulnerable to climate change, pollution or deforestation. However, they are now on a very steep descent toward extinction, even in places where this habitat is perfect.

Frogs, like babies in the womb, live in a watery environment and are therefore especially sensitive to electricity. Perhaps you could give an example for the following. An experiment lasting two months exposing eggs and tadpoles to electromagnetic radiation from several cell towers located at a distance of 100 meters resulted in a 99% mortality rate. The growth and development of the control population of frogs under similar conditions but inside a shielding Fursky cage (i.e. no EMFs), was normal, with a mortality rate of 4.2%.

This study concluded that microwave radiation from cell phone towers in a real situation would have huge implications for the natural world. Well, it might be that we demanded that Telus keep the cell towers away from the human population as not only do we experience extreme negative health effects, that our valley frog populations (that live along the densely populated corridor like us) will also be safer. For now, and for the rest of the planet, let’s hope for the best for our mosquito eating friends, while we do our human best to keep the stomachs of those with regard to our wired electrical utility meters; and keep our common sense with regard to the placement of cell phone towers in our valley.

Duphne Fields

Slocan

Proposed Kaslo fire hall

1. We are being taxed on our full property assessment, not just buildings. Land value will remain unchanged if there is a fire and you lose your house or buildings.

2. This is a fire hall that will be owned by the RDCK. They want to tax us to provide a fire hall, that they will own, for free.

3. We all know what happens with these projects. Cost over run, more money needed to be borrowed, higher taxes.

4. Could the main reason for not bringing the present fire hall up to building code and continue using it be the fact the location does not fit into the ideal Village location?

The whole building is being remodelled and brought up to code; surely an open space bay garage can’t be that much more expensive to upgrade.

5. An example of a more than adequate fire hall is the Kaslo Village equipment shop by the recycling bins. Add one more bay, a bit wider for a future ladder truck, and we have a four-bay fire hall with an office and storage rooms, restroom and a shower.

6. The Village of Kaslo owns money on the Kemilah building, the old Village hall, and they have their maintenance buildings, school, hospital, Movie, etc. that they have to supply fire protection for. They will not pull fire protection as their loan agreements also demand fire protection.

I see a very large building that was constructed just south of Kaslo on the west side outside the town limits ever living in the Village or Arrow Lakes presently used for office space and RV storage. Granted, the RV storage area is not fully enclosed but I can only guess the owner did not pay anywhere near $1,000,000 to build it. This owner is the guy the Kaslo Village needs to be talking with to get a fire hall built that we can all afford.

For the political side that wants to build a legacy fire hall, how about this: Kaslo built a fire hall that will serve every community in the same habitat conditions we do not have the local populations with a 20+ year debt. We built our fire hall for less than half the cost of any other city or town in all the Kootenays. Now THAT would be a legacy to be proud of.

Bill Cruikshank

Kaslo

Ktunaxa Incremental Treaty Agreement offensive

On March 27, 2013, the Ktunaxa Nation signed an Incremental Treaty Agreement with the BC government giving them 242 hectares of Crown land on Welsey Beach across the highway from Bon Lake just south of Nakusp in advance of status agreement. The news release stated that the agreement brings opportunities for Nakusp residents to partner with the Ktunaxa Nation in a variety of ventures. This news is shocking and appalling on many fronts.

There is no archaeological or historic record of the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) peoples along the Kaslo Valley. All archaeological evidence points to these two valleys having been occupied by the Interior Salish peoples known as the Sinixt.

The first fair traders and Jesuit missionaries all confirmed that the inhabitants first encountered here were the Interior Salish people. Original Hudson Bay records show that the Sinixt lived here and that they were considered by the company’s employees as the finest of all the fur traders in the region.

The Sinixt were declared extinct in 1956, not because they did not live here (they did), but because negotiation (the Coleman report) for the Kaslo fire hall did not begin. Sinixt people were living at Burton and Edgewater as a matter of historical record. It is quite obvious to anybody who has studied the history of the Sinixt that the Ktunaxa’s extinction was a purely political move to eliminate them from the treaty process.

The Sinixt people intermarried with the Ktunaxa people during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries and the claims of having any association with these valleys comes from those Sinixt people who went to live in the East Kootenay’s with their Ktunaxa spouses. The Indian Act of Canada, one of the most discriminatory documents ever written, states that if a person from one tribe moves to the territory of another tribe, they become members of that tribe.

The Ktunaxa Nation does not have any legitimate claim to the Slocan and Arrow Lakes valleys. Their culture does not show up here in any of the archaeological or historical documents except that they did visit Sinixt valleys along the Kootenai and Columbia River valleys in the 19th century. A minor war was fought over the salmon fishery at the mouth of the River Slocan where an ancient Sinixt village existed at the time.

The Ktunaxa never built villages that make up the remains of most of the permanent settlements found in this area. They did not make pictographs every year and they did not invent the stickgame. None of the old Hudson Bay maps have Sinixt places named in their valleys. There are none in the Ktunaxa language, which is distinctly different from Interior Salish.

As far as I can see, the government has intentionally given this land in Sinixt territory to the Ktunaxa Nation to continue the lie perpetuated in 1956 that the Sinixt are extinct. It is not only a slap in the face to the Sinixt Nation but to all residents of these valleys. The Ktunaxa Nation is only interested in the financial gain this land will afford them. The Sinixt people have laboured tirelessly for the past 22 years to protect their land and its wildlife from extinction at the hands of the government and industry. For this they have been handed another insult by this agreement with the Ktunaxa that went behind closed doors. I think all residents of this area should be insulted too.

Many books have been written in the past 25 years about the pre-history of these valleys. Ktunaxa, Sinixt, Kootenay, by Paola Pontics, Geography of Memory by Eileen Pearse. Ghost Peoples by Cliff Woffinden, A Twist in a Tide’s Turn by Colin Omm, and several ethnography reports by Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy.

Cliff Woffinden

Nakusp

Miss New Denver 2013

Meet the candidates, Abbey McMillan and Maddy Maxminuk at the Queen’s Tea, Sunday, May 5, 2:00 pm at the Bosun Hall.

The Miss New Denver Pageant will be held on Thursday May 16 and the Hatsing of the Queen and Princess will be held on Friday, May 17 at Bosun Hall at 7 pm.
More on Slocan library
I write in reply to Mr. Smith’s and Ms. Morelli’s responses in the April 17 Valley Voice to my letter published March 20.

The library volunteers are not Village employees, but individual members of the public engaged in a joint activity on Village property. The success of the activity relies entirely on the volunteers’ ability to behave cooperatively as responsible adults.

Apart from under the Act, confidentiality cannot be imposed unilaterally, but only by mutual agreement. (As the old song goes: “Listen, do you want to know a secret? Do you promise not to tell?”) In this case, no such agreement was sought or received from the Village, or from me.

It is clear from Ms. Morelli’s letter, and directly refuting the complaint ‘confidential’ was that the accused would be sentenced without hearing the charges, and from Mr. Smith that no ‘hearing’ could be done from doing so. Both writers appear unaware of their letters’ advocacy of a world in which ‘confidential’ complaints against citizens are acted upon by government in secret – ironic, under the circumstances, that in public libraries are usually viewed as integral to a free and open democratic society.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Morelli skirt the question posed at the end of my letter, but I assure them that if I ever receive any formal, self-styled ‘confidential’ complaint about them, I will promptly inform them of it. It would be wrong of me to do otherwise.

Patricia McGreal
Slocan
Chemtrail action alert
Over the past 5-10 years, people all over the world have become more aware of, and alarmed by, the increasing number of unexplained jet streams, aerosol sprays plumes or chemtrails in the sky. How many times have we seen a gorgeous blue sky day turn to a thick white haze by afternoon? There have often been upward to 30 jets crossing the sky over New Slocan within a three- and a half hour period; many flights parallel each other, others fly in exactly the same altitude and angle as a previous flight just minutes before, yet others fly in a perpendicular angle, criss-crossing existing trails. This volume of flight traffic is simply not normal, especially when one considers that the direct flight traffic from Vancouver to Calgary is just north of Nakusp.

After a particularly heavy week of jets leaving visible trails in the sky over New Slocan, some residents had a rainwater sample sent to a lab on Vancouver Island. The results? 3.88 mg/l of aluminium – 39 times MAC (the Maximum Allowable Concentration for Drinking Water Guidelines)

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SLOCAN VALLEY
Pursuing funding for Master Plan

SILVERTON council, April 23: Council

by Jan McMurray

The Silverton Master Plan is on the horizon for the Village. An application is being prepared, with assistance from WSA Engineering, for a $10,000 study grant. Council has also budgeted an additional $5,000 for the study. Mayor Provan was surprised to learn that Silverton goes through 34 million US gallons of water each year. “So there’s probably a leak problem,” she said. Also, service lines need to be checked and loops need to be closed. She said the Village had already done a lot of work on the waterworks over the last year, and if this study can be done, “it could make our water system one of the best in the area.”

Silverton will participate in the Novice Communities in Bloom program this year, focusing on the downtown, Memorial Hall and Gallery areas. There will be an emphasis on food, and a community edible garden will be planted in front of the gallery. The program is being supported with $1,200 from the Silverton Master Plan and funds in donations from community members and businesses so far. Mayor Provan reported that a $1,000 sponsorship grant application will be made to CBT, as well as several other sponsorship opportunities. A select committee of council, including members of the public, will be struck at the next meeting.

New Denver council, April 23: Sufferfest plans presented

by Katrine Campbell

Janis Neufeld, President of the Kootenay Silverton and District Recreation Society and the Kooten of the North Slocan Trails Society attended as a delegation to tell council about the upcoming Sufferfest and the need for funds for the event.

The event is planned for this year, but in 2014 the event will be held on three days over the September long weekend, will be called the Kootenay Sufferfest and will expand to include Nakusp.

Neufeld noted the economic boost the event brings to the community, with 600 participants coming to Kaslo and New Denver. The Sufferfest is also a good way to support in New Denver’s facilities, including Centennial Park; it would be used as a staging area and about 50 competitors would need tents.

Mayor Auni Bunka reported on the last Regional District meeting. MP David Shepherd was there on what the federal government was doing, including a rundown on the budget and the proposed new municipal laws. The council was told that while the change will prohibit personal or outdoor growing, which means, Bunka noted, that agribusiness will likely get the contracts to provide medical marijuana. This is a concern to RDCK directors, who believe the new system will price the pot out of reach of the patients who need it.

Both Wildsilk and MP Alex Attenborough were at the commission in charge of redrawing riding boundaries, but believe the changes they opposed will go through.

The council will send a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities objecting to the Province’s decision to exclude volunteer fire fighters from the BC Film Fire Fighters memorial.

A letter will be sent to the Province, and if they don’t change their position, the resolution will go to UBCM.

Rural directors sent their recommendations to the commission, but believe the Province’s land use policy re: cell towers satisfies RDCK consultation requirements.

Bunka asked council if they wished to join the regional Emergency Program Standing Committee, eliminating the Village’s Municipal Emergency Coordinator position. After much discussion of the pros and cons, council said it is interested in joining but wants more information before it makes a final decision.

Councilor Henning von Krog reported that snow-based indices show the snowpack in the region is at 91 percent of normal levels, which isn’t a bad news.” Also, the last three sleds have been added and chained in place at the boat launch.

If the pilot program in successful, council may be invited to participate.

The RDCK board will review the decision made at the April Rural Affairs Committee on a policy regarding public consultation for cell tower sites. “There is some dispute whether RAC lack the authority to make that policy decision,” stated Mr. Provan in her report.

Councilor Main reported that she had had a discussion with the residents of New Denver and area regarding food security. A food policy is expected to come from the RDCK at the next Slocan Lake councils in the next few months.

Councilor Clarke reported that Recreation Society #6 has taken on the community soccer program. The Rec Commission is covered by RDCK insurance, so this arrangement satisfies insurance requirements of the school. Grants-in-aid were approved as follows: May Days ($1,000), Trails Society ($1,060), and the New Denver Nursery School ($419.27). The Valhalla Fine Arts Society’s application for a grant-in-aid to help cover tuition fees for low-income families was approved as a sponsorship rather than a grant-in-aid.

Julie Fry resigned as commissioner and is now the paid secretary, and holds the pastoral contract at the St. James church.

A letter of thanks will go to Rayn Butt, who has worked for the Village’s Public Works department for four years. He has accepted another position and has resigned as of May 3.

Mayor Provan accepted the invitations from the May Days Committee to ride in the parade and to speak at the May Queen event.

Council approved a request from the Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall to hold a ‘yard sale’ at the hall on Saturday, June 8 to raise funds for kitchen supplies.

A mature female sturgeon was tracked by researchers (May–July 1967) travelling over a 29 km area from creek mouth to creek mouth. It was assumed she was unsuccessfully seeking a suitable spawning channel.

Don’t miss the Hidden Garden Gallery’s Silent Art Auction

Drop off donated art Friday, May 17 from Noon - 3 WTN Art Show

Tuesday May 21 – Saturday May 25 10 - 230 Party and final bids Saturday, May 25 7 - 9

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

Employment Opportunity

Village of Silverton Public Works Assistant

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the Public Works Foreman, the Public Works Assistant will perform a variety of duties. Some of these include upkeep of municipal utility systems such as hydrants, water mains, water distribution lines, drainage ditches and dykes, as well as road works, signs, sidewalks, solid waste operations and water plowing and sanding.

You will also assist with training temporary summer students as well as participate in the development of long range plans for the municipality.

Salary

The Village is offering a salary up to $22/hour per hour, depending on qualifications and experience, plus full benefits. A three month probation period applies.

Hours of Work

This is a full-time position, with 25 hours per week. Hours of work will be generally Wednesday to Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Essential Qualifications

• High School graduation
• Experience in the operation of a back hoe and loader, snow plows and sanders
• Ability to perform minor maintenance and repair of equipment
• Experience with assisting in the installation, maintenance and repair of public works
• Strong leadership and interpersonal skills, and a team player
• Ability to work independently, under pressure, set priorities and meet deadlines
• Excellent communication skills, oral and written, as well as the ability to deal with the public and coworkers in a diplomatic and courteous manner
• Demonstrated experience in delivering superior customer service and meeting customer needs in a timely manner
• Valid BC Class 5 driver’s License

Preferred Qualifications

• Small Water System ECOF Water Distribution Certificate
• Level 1 First Aid

Current resumes reflecting applicants’ knowledge, skills and abilities relevant to the position and proof of educational certifications will be accepted until 4:00 pm Thursday May 23rd, 2013. Please provide the contact information for at least two previous employer references. Mail your resume to Bob Laffont, CAO – PO Box 14, Silverton BC V0G 2B0 or to blaffont@silvertown
KASLO & DISTRICT
The Valley Voice May 1, 2013

Kaslo council, April 23: Archeologist hired for boat launch project; Sinixt request consultation
by Jan McMurray

• The boat launch project may be starting up again soon. Work was halted when three artifacts were found on the site on April 9 requiring the Village to hire a professional archeologist to "record the archeological site and apply for a Heritage Conservation Act permit, and to understand the impacts to the site and allow completion of the boat launch." Council agreed to engage Tipi Mountain Eco-Cultural Services Ltd. at an estimated cost of $75,000 to do this work.

Archaeological monitoring of the project was being done in a condition of the Okanagan Indian Band’s approval of the project.

• Council received correspondence from the Sinixt Nation asking that the Village immediately begin consultation with them regarding the boat ramp project, and that the Village draft a document giving official recognition to them as indigenous peoples of the region. Council will seek a legal opinion on that request for official recognition.

• It looks like the public wharf will be replaced soon. A quote of $18,725 from Vanderhoof's Winchmark for the purchase of five 6’x24” floatmould decking components was accepted.

• Councillor Lang reported Friends of the Kaslo River would be submitting a letter of intent to enter into a five-year agreement with a contractor for removal of material from a portion of the Arrow River gravel pit. Council also received a letter of concern about the gravel pit operation from Gary Schneider. He states that a group of residents on Zwicki Rd. have concerns about noise, and would appreciate if 8 hours of operations were kept to 8 am-5 pm weekdays only. Smoke, water and light pollution concerns are also mentioned. This request would be referred to the Development Services Committee.

• The Village has embarked on an ‘integrated community sustainability planning project’ with financial assistance from Fraser Basin Council, an ICSP is necessary in order to continue receiving gas tax funding. Joan Chois, facilitator at Fraser Basin Council, provided an outline of the ICSP process. This will be posted on the Village website. Council supported her suggestion that a core focus group be established as part of engaging the community. The group will consist of 10-12 people with a range of backgrounds and roles in the community who encompass the ‘four pillars of sustainability’: social, cultural, economic and environmental. Council asked for the community to provide focus group candidate names to the CAO prior to April 30.

• Council agreed to partner with the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society and the Kaslo and District Art D Food Forum. The Village will apply for a $4,800 grant from the Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund for the proposed project.

• The Park Rental Policy was amended to give Saturday Market "absolute priority use of Front Street Park" every Saturday from June to September. The amended policy makes it clear that community-wide celebrations such as May Days, Canada Day, Jazz Fest and Light Up will result in certain properties being unavailable for rent to other parties, except by agreement with the organizing committee of the event.

• The council authorized an expenditure of up to $10,000 for the South Okanagan-Vincentown少量 of service conversion.

• Meetings of the April 17 budget meeting were held at that meeting, a ceiling of $7,500 was established for the replacement of the new CAO for Kaslo.

• The Kaslo Clubhouse Restaurant was granted a variance to the Noise Abatement Bylaw to extend the hours on either June 14 or June 21 to 1 a.m. for the purpose of hosting the JV Humphries School graduation prom, all music is contained inside the clubhouse. (Councillor Lang declared conflict of interest and excused himself for this item.)

• Council agreed to the Kaslo Riding Club Society’s request for an opportunity to discuss the DeSmiths’ complaints about the management of the gymkhana with council. The society will be invited to attend a Municipal Services Committee meeting as a delegation. (Councillor Hewat declared a conflict of interest and excused himself for this item.)

• A report by council’s representative to the Kaslo Housing Society, Lynda Beddow, was received. The big news here is that the society has acquired a property in the Abbey Manor expansion project. The society in charge of Abbey Manor will apply for funding under the Affordable Rental Housing Initiative program of CRT and BC Housing. If successful, the Kaslo Housing Society will contribute up to $30,000 of its savings to the Abbey Manor project. The $60,000 Community Forest Society fund being held in trust for the Kaslo Housing Society has been transferred to the Abbey Manor project, as well.

• The March report by council’s representative to the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, Erika Bird, was received. Kim Plaisance was hired as an intern woodland supervisor. There were 11 applicants for the manager position, and a selection committee was being formed. The council distributed totalled $75,590, and a new disbursement policy was adopted.

• Each council member reported on their organizational (personal) interests as identified in a prior planning session facilitated by Jim Gustafson, former CAO of the RDCK.

• Microphydro: Ken Butt, Don Scarf and Wayne Lay will be working together, looking at a project involving approximately 400 meters of Village-owned property on the Kaslo River near the original penstock area.

• Recreational business spectrum analysis: John Addison is working on a forest-based recreational analysis for drainage basins outside municipal boundaries.

Knowledge business network:
Mayor Lay is waiting for a business planning to identify areas knowledge workers want to do business in, and also suggesting forming a steering committee in Rossland to determine how knowledge can reach out to the world in this field.

Marketing Village lands:
Councillor Hewat reported the meeting with Meeti Durand at the RDCK to discuss various stipulations that could apply to Village-owned land so it would not sit fallow after being purchased by developers.

Economic development:
Councillor Holland reported most economic development discussion is taking place in the SECO Committee. A scan of past documentations is underway.

Social enterprises: Undertaking a partnership among the CBBC, KDC and the municipality, with KDC being the flagship in the project.

Cultural development:
An ad hoc committee spearheaded by David Stewart held a very active meeting a few weeks ago, and will bring the municiplality into the planning process.

Industrializing airport lands:
Councillor Lang reported he has yet to meet with UI Wolf, RDCK, and suggested airport hangar owners be included in future discussions. Councillor Holland suggested a planning committee based on an advisory committee model be pursued.

Kaslo hosts Future State Workshop on health care service delivery
submitted

On Monday, April 22, a Future State Workshop sponsored by Interior Health and hosted by the Kaslo and Area Health Care Group took place at the Kaslo and Area Community House. This workshop brought community members and local health centre staff together with local and regional Interior Health administrators to discuss health care service delivery at the Victorian Community Health Centre.

Those in attendance were welcomed by Maggie Watson, community representative. Maggie outlined the day’s activities, emphasized the importance of the planned break out sessions and relieved those in attendance to dig deep, exchange ideas and explore existing obstacles not as barriers but as challenges to be overcome with creative thinking and collaboration.

Dr. John Ross, consulting ER physician and facilitator Linda Taratnt started the morning by discussing the results of the community consultation sessions held in March and ratifying the major themes and recommendations that came out of those sessions. Karen Ormelechik, UI Planning and Strategic Services, followed with a review of the Interior Health document ‘Charting the Course,’ which outlines Interior Health’s decision making principles.

The remainder of the day broke participants into groups based on the major themes that emerged out of the community sessions. The groups were charged with identifying options for sustainable health delivery, exploring options for overcoming barriers, and identifying short-term wins (within current control and resources). The groups were also charged with looking at longer term solutions, the processes that could be used to achieve them and who needed to be engaged. Breakout session topics included: 24/7 emergency care, quality and continuity of primary care, community engagement, transportation and technology. Participants were encouraged to move between groups depending on their interests and expertise.

At the end of the day each group reported out, emphasizing long- and short-term objectives for each topic and asking for further input. This workshop is part of an ongoing collaborative process between the Kaslo Health Care Work Group and Interior Health. The knowledge gained from the workshop will contribute to the overall objective of designing a sustainable health care delivery system for Kaslo going forward.

Kaslo’s Victoria Day weekend included a May Day celebration led by June Lawers at the municipal bandstand.

Shared resources: Councillor Leathwood reported shared resources is a major topic at the school district and conversations will continue.

Poverty issues: Councillor Leathwood reported that the subcommittee has not been working well to date.

Improved community engagement: The public meeting at the fire hall on Sunday, April 21, was identified as an object example of lack of public engagement. Mayor Lay observed this was not an uncommon problem in other communities.

• The following spring recreation grants were awarded: NRECSS $500 (Mothor game program), Kaslo Youth Soccer $500 (equipment storage shed), Kootenay Lake Community Society $400 (annual Pirate Day), Kaslo & District Public Library $250 (Summer Reading Club), Kaslo Concert Society $500 (concert series), Kaslo Riding Club Society $300 (May Days horse show), Kaslo Suffetet $350 (Kids’ events).

• A municipal grant application from the Kaslo Jazz etc. Society for funding in the amount of $250 towards a festival shuttle bus was approved. (Councillors Hewat and Holland declared a conflict of interest and excused themselves for this item.)

• A $1000 recreation grant was approved for sponsorship of the 2013 Kaslo Logger Sports competition.

• A $400 bursary to JV Humphries School was approved for 2013.

• A $200 municipal grant was approved for the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society Youth Mentorship Project.

• The 2012 audited financial statements were accepted.

Eric’s Meat Market & Deli

Fresh Meat Cut Daily
Fresh & Frozen Salmon
Freezer Packs
Deli Sandwiches to go
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Smoked Salmon
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Current Offers
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In the spirit of taking learning out of the walls of the schools and into the community, JVH schools in Kaslo had their first 'Try a new recreational Activity' day. The goal was to introduce students to some of the amazing variety of local recreational opportunities that are available and low cost.

This was also an opportunity for community members and students to get to know each other and develop connections.

JVH thanks those who made this day so successful: Joy Lukacs (fitness), Sydney Smith-Binkley (hockey), Dawnjany Smith (marital arts), Stru Hunt (bert watching), Kaslo Kayaking, Sylver Dempster (boil-yea), Stacee Drocot (mountain biking), and Cam Z!) (jorn).
Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes, April 22: No decisions on medical marijuana until new regs come into effect

by Jan McMurray

Council received a staff report following up on Rodney Potaff’s proposal to set up a medical marijuana production facility in Nakusp. The council agreed to postpone any decisions on such facilities until the new regulations are officially adopted by the federal government. In the meantime, staff will continue to review the implications of allowing medical marijuana growth operations on land designated aggregate use. Therefore, until the new regulations are in place, the council will not make any decisions on such proposals.

Cay Otnay explained this was a zoning and land use planning issue for local governments, and more information is needed before council considers changes to the zoning bylaw. In her written report, she states, “At this time, Health Canada indicated that the new regulations will prohibit MMPOs (Medical Marijuana growth operations) in private dwellings however, they do not specify a minimum exanimate size for a production facility. This information will be critical in order to move forward and assess the environmental implications (air quality, water quality and quantity, site disturbance, and habitat) in light of the new federal regulations. There is a list of a dozen things that would have to be considered before amending the zoning bylaw, i.e. proximity to residential dwellings, visibility requirements, noise generation, building ventilation and potential odours.”

Tyson said most municipalities will allow medical marijuana production in agricultural and industrial areas only. Her written report states that the new regulations are expected to result in significant work for municipal staff to review current land use policy and regulations, develop licensing and permitting procedures, manage those procedures, conduct inspections and enforcement operations and liaising with Health Canada.

She said although council may have understood that Potaff was seeking a letter of interest in order to begin growing marijuana, the new regulations only have to notify their local governments; no letter is needed.

“We can’t say yes or no now, so it’s more prudent to say we are interested but it’s premature,” concluded Tyson. Council agreed.

The Otnay’s report included the following highlights:

- Pride Week will take place April 29 May 3. Staff has noted that cigarette butts are a problem downtown and will be taking action about proving ashtrays on Broadway.
- Mayor Hunting and the CAO have met with school board representatives about accessibility of shared resources, such as equipment and facilities. A follow-up meeting to include Public Works staff will be scheduled.
- The council also heard from James Bunnell of Trophy Tournaments since he cancelled their telephone appointment of April 8.
- The council also heard that Council Chair has been contracted to analyze the functioning of the ice plant at the arena. Two compressors have failed to date.
- Beach repairs and renovation have been done – the boom is back in place.
- The sewer treatment project is well underway. The water treatment project is just starting. The microhydro construction and commissioning will occur as part of the water treatment plant design/build contract. The host operating agreement is not in place and work on the property will start right away, with a local sub-contractor doing the timber works and steel due to arrive May 1.
- The CAO was to meet with the preferred proponent for the hot springs marketing contract. Attendance at the facility in the first quarter of 2013 is up from previous data compiled in 2012.
- The animal control bylaw was amended to match the RDCK animal control bylaw more closely. This was done for consistency for the animal control officer, who operates in the Village and dedicated Area. Fines were changed slightly to match the RDCK’s as well.
- The commercial rate for garbage pick-up was increased to $20 per cubic metre from $17.50 per cubic metre, and campsite fees were amended to charge $5 per show for one-registered guests.
- Council is systematically removing fees and charges from individual bylaws and including them in the Faas and Charges Bylaw. This occurred with the Employment Program of BC celebrates one-year milestone

-Applied March the one-year anniversary of the Employment Program of BC and to celebrate, an open house will be held in Nakusp May 15. Everyone is invited to enjoy barbeque and refreshments from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Arrow and Nakusp Lakes Community Services building, 205 6th St. Another event will be held as New Denver at a later date.

-In April 2012, 85 WorkBC Employment Services Centres and 114 satellite offices opened throughout BC, “offering a full suite of employment programs while ensuring quick and easy access,” the provincial government West Kootenay-Boundary senior limits in Burton submitted

-The regional meeting for the WorkBC Boundary Seniors Centre was held in Burton Hall on April 9. There was an excellent turnout of seniors attending from all over the West Kootenay-Boundary region, and each gave a report on their branch activities.

-The Burton Singers entertained with singing and playing music. After that lunch was served, hosted by the Burton Seniors. Liz Gilks from the Burton Leeming Centre was the guest speaker. She gave an informative talk on how seniors can stay active and healthy.

-A senior’s Health Fair will be held May 31 from 1 to 3 at the Nakusp Arena. There is no admission charge.
- Re-elected as chairperson was Gale Dyets of Burton; vice-chair is Wilbur Wozniakski from Freshwater, and secretary-treasurer is Ethel Goerten of Burton. The fall meeting will be held in Nelson October 8.

The average homeowner with a house assessed at $195,160 will pay $767.45 in municipal taxes (up $8 from last year), $223.34 in RDCK taxes, $551.95 in school taxes, $67.14 in hospital taxes and $75 in other taxes for a total of $1,805.15. This is an increase in total taxation of $51 over last year.

The average business, assessed at $225,479, will pay $1,937.79 in municipal taxes (up $21.18 from last year), $195.26 in RDCK taxes, $1,397.91 in school taxes, $190.96 in hospital taxes, and $220.18 in other taxes for a total of $4,661.26, up $70.13 from last year.

-Council approved a grant application of $25,520 to the RDCK Community Development Fund for area improvements.

-Council received the audited financial statements for 2012. The highlights as an increase in financial assets to $906,033 from $912,488.

The Employment Program of BC celebrates one-year milestone

Submitted

-April marked the one-year anniversary of the Employment Program of BC and to celebrate, an open house will be held in Nakusp May 15. Everyone is invited to enjoy barbeque and refreshments from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Arrow and Nakusp Lakes Community Services building, 205 6th St. Another event will be held as New Denver at a later date.

-In April 2012, 85 WorkBC Employment Services Centres and 114 satellite offices opened throughout BC, “offering a full suite of employment programs while ensuring quick and easy access,” the provincial government has said. Services range from access to computers and job search resources, to case-managed services including personal employment planning, skills training and work experience placements.

-To date, the centres have provided employment supports and services to almost 82,000 individuals. Of the more than 67,000 people who have received case management services, almost 50 per cent have successfully found employment. The training sector has seen especially well, with 5,338 individuals accessing both essential skills training, and skills training. Of these individuals, 58 per cent found a job within 30 days of completing their program.

-WorkBC Centre clients include individuals receiving employment insurance or income assistance, as well as specialized populations such as Aboriginal peoples, francophone persons, immigrants, persons with disabilities, rural and remote populations, multi-barriered clients, survivors of violence and/or abuse, and youth.

-May 1 to 11

-30% OFF Ladies Wear & Fabric
-20% OFF Ladies Swim Wear

Mother’s Day Special

May 1 - May 11

30% OFF Ladies Wear & Fabric

- Excluding Undergarments

20% OFF Ladies Swim Wear

Bon Marché

DOLLAR S DOLLAR

ARROW & SLOCAN LAKES COMMUNITY SERVICES

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, May 16, 2013
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
205 - 6th Ave. NW, Nakusp, BC

Barbeque Refreshments

Phone at 250-265-3033

Members & guests welcome

Open for the Season

Tues-Sundays

11 am - 8 pm

Great food in the great outdoors

calculation, according to the report, that 1 per cent overall tax increase.

When they ran the numbers on the assessment roll, they discovered that tax revenues will be $689,317. This is mostly because of the ferry construction project, which has increased the amount of tax collected from ‘light commercial’ properties for this year only, as the rezoning of the lands for the ferry project was temporary. The extras $11,609 will go into the capital reserve fund.

Tax rates per $1,000:

- Residential - 4.034 (municipal), 0.34 (hospital) and 1.66 (RDCK)
- Business - 8.59 (municipal), 0.84 (hospital) and 4.06 (RDCK)
- Light Industry - 13.38 (municipal), 1.17 (hospital) and 5.63 (RDCK)
- Utilities - 19.51 (municipal), 1.20 (hospital) and 5.80 (RDCK)
- Recreational/Non-profit - 2.71 (municipal), 0.34 (hospital), 1.66 (RDCK), 0.34 (hospital) and 1.66 (RDCK).
Blues Caravan coming to Capitol Theatre, May 24

Walker is a bold young toddler in the international blues scene, with all the right ingredients to topple the ranks of legends’ greatest.

Joanne Shaw Taylor wowed the audience in 2012 at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, when she burst onto the scene with a stunning guitar solo and Annie Lennox’s set, though both are prodigious discovery by Lennon’s guitarist Dave Stewart happened years earlier when she was only 16. Joanne developed her love for blues rock around 13 through the music “lying around the house,” and a boss collection of records compliments of her folks, but she honed her skills quickly and was on the road to stardom in just three short years.

Breathing into the Joy of Thai Massage

Thai massage is a form of energy medicine that originates from the same historical period in India as the Buddha and is traditionally an expression of his teachings on loving kindness and compassion. To practice Thai massage is to centre oneself in the heart and feel grateful for the opportunity to assist another to be well through healing touch. Awareness of breath for the giver and the receiver brings the massage consciously into the body and into the present moment. Breathing into the massage supports the intention to open and balance the flow of energy through the channels. When blockages of the energy are felt, the breath can help release them and restore the natural flow of life force through the body. And by sustaining awareness of breathing during the massage there is harmony and unity with the people and the environment, with the body, and also an amazing experience!

Breath is a gift of life. And it can be forgotten in the first pace of modern living. While anyone can tap into the power of the breath at any time and in any number of ways and experience ‘no small benefits, it is an especially beautiful experience to breathe consciously into the joy of Thai massage.

Tyson Barrett, a native of Kent, began studies in the healing arts while travelling around Asia 20 years ago. Now living in the Kootenays, Tyson teaches Feldenkrais movement classes in Winlaw and Nelson and offers Thai massage by appointment. He can be contacted at thatiouch@yahoo.com or 250-226-0262.

Whole School 16th annual spring market and 40th anniversary celebration

The Whole School is the province’s largest winter market and non-aligned independent school. This unique and rare local treasure of the Slocan Valley, at 5614 Hwy 6 in Winlaw, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this spring. To launch the festivities, the school will host its 16th annual spring market, a big-time celebration that draws folks from near and far. It takes place on May 11 from 10 am-5 pm at the school.

Right now, the school is passionately promoting its Build A Legacy campaign, which would help the school shift from being housed in a privately owned building to holding this asset for the school community at large. Specifically, raising $25,000 by April 2014 would serve as the down-payment necessary to pay off the current building, a permanent space for years to come and providing long-term sustainability and security for the school.

Between parent fundraisers and donation letters sent out to friends and family, more than $11,000 has been raised in the past year alone. The school is deeply appreciative for the strong show of support on April 6 at Winlaw Hall, where CBF held its

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Nakup explores the possibilities of biomass for heat

by Art Joyce

Nakup Councillor Tom Zeleznik is interested in having his community explore biomass technology as a means of producing low-cost, low-impact energy. Zeleznik, Nakup Community Forest director Hugh Watt and Chamber of Commerce vice-president Peter Wellbelieving met with David Dubois of the Wood Waste 2 Rural Heat initiative recently to discuss the possibilities.

"There's literally thousands of these systems in Europe," said Dubois. "Austria alone has 1,300 district heating systems."

Zeleznik has proposed the idea to Nakup council. Nakup has an extensive, massive amount of wood waste, they are extremely unable to find a use for.

Dubois met at the Time North Forestry office to answer questions about the idea of biomass technology and - which is being coordinated through Community Futures East Kootenay - offers export advice on everything from initial consultation through feasibility studies all the way through startup business plans, all at no charge. He said the first step is for the community to have clearly established support for a biomass project as well as determining what the heating will be used for - for example, distinct heating for municipal buildings, selling heat to private clients, or producing fuel for shipment to biomass markets elsewhere.

The municipality of Revelstoke has a biomass plant supplied by a local sawmill, providing heat for several downtown public and private buildings. That system has about a two-megawatt capacity. A small biomass heating plant sizes about 50,000 kilowatts is already in- place in Enderby, run by the owner of a trucking firm. Another one in Fruitvale, even smaller, provides heating for a school, that cuts soundboards for musical instruments. It's essential to first determine the intended uses of biomass heating in order to get a handle on the sense of the scale required of such a project. This in turn, could assist in determining future local fuel sources, will help determine whether or not the project is feasible.

"It's typical of a BC interior community in that we have more fuel than we can shake a stick at," said Dubois.

Another preliminary step is to do cost comparisons of other available fuels per unit of greenhouse electricity, fuel oil, and natural gas. These estimates are per gigajoule of energy generated. Propane costs between $2.80 per gigajoule; electricity about 8 cents per kilowatt hour or about $2 per gigajoule, with biomass costing about $6 per gigajoule. The next cheapest at $18 per gigajoule is natural gas but it is unavailable here. Another question was how the levels of emissions is likely to be. Dubois answered that most biomass plants now produce even less emissions than the average wood stove - not zero yet but comparable to propane emissions. The moisture content of wood waste is only an issue if it's between 60-90 percent per volume. Otherwise, the biomass plant can be engineered to dry the fuel source, thus this can add to the cost. The premium in wood waste is already dried cut ends such as construction waste or sawdust, the lowest quality - and hence higher cost to process - would be material recovered from clearcuts.

Dubois said biomass for electricity generation is still in the early stages of development and tends to rely on steam-driven turbines. This is still a very costly option for generating power as it requires massive infrastructure and coal be operated by qualified steam technicians. Biomass heating plants by contract require almost no staffing. To recover costs, efficiency from biomass needs to sell at 15-20 cents per kw/h and BC Hydro is currently only paying about 12 cents kw/h.

The Village of Nakup is 100 percent shareholder of the community forest so it could provide management of a biomass project. Other communities have also expressed interest in pursuing biomass for heating. Nelson is seeking contractors to conduct a feasibility study and the community of Cranbrook recently hosted a presentation by Dubois. An ad hoc group and subcommittee of New Denman is also investigating possibilities.

**NOTES FROM THE RCPM - Nakup Detachment**

These notes are compiled from Press Releases, and may have been edited

**Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm**

**Nakup Community Hall**

**Slocan Park Improvement District**

**KCP**

**Kootenay Conservation Program**

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a network of over 50 partner organizations working collaboratively to conserve private land throughout the Kootenay Region. Our partners include First Nations, conservation and agricultural organizations, forestry and businesses, educational institutions, and all levels of government. We have a small and dedicated team of staff and contractors working from a variety of Kootenay communities.

KCP is seeking to engage two qualified contractors to support the administration and delivery of its efforts throughout the Kootenay Region.

**Stewardship Coordinator**

The Stewardship Coordinator will lead the development and implementation of an innovative and targeted project focused on achieving improved effectiveness of stewardship activities on private land throughout the Kootenay Region. The Coordinator will work closely with program staff and partner organizations to assist with landowner and public outreach, perform site evaluations, coordinate project oversight and coordination, facilitate KCP stewardship committee meetings, develop a Stewardship Strategy and develop a process to track and report our effectiveness.

**Location**: TBD - within the Kootenay Region

**Administrative Assistant**

The Administrative Assistant will provide on-going administrative and communications support services to the KCP. The Assistant will work closely with program staff and partner organizations to help improve organizational effectiveness and maintain, and enhance, KCP communications efforts.

**Location**: TBD - within the Kootenay Region

For more detailed position descriptions please contact Dave Hilary by email at dave@kootenayconservation.ca or by telephone at 250-688-1508.

**Deadline for applications**: Sunday May 5, 2013, Noon PDT

We thank everyone who applies for their interest in the Kootenay Conservation Program; however only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Celebrating five years of fine art at Studio Connexion

**Podium Connection Gallery**

celebrates five years of fine art and this year promises a great line-up, with both local and visiting artists.

Podium Connection Gallery opens its season Friday May 17. Nakup artist Debra Rushforth is showing her amazing charcoal and graphite drawings until June 8. The former Calgarian is well known for her whimsical mixed media assemblages. Her new series, started two years ago, was inspired by her neighbour’s lava rock.

Wally Boulton is a well known landscape painter from June 11-29. Her past works have been inspired by Leonard Cohen’s lyrics and poetics. Boulton’s new series of paired works will be on display.

The only photography show of the season is by Suzanne Schneidert, who lives in Nakup half of the year and in the Arrow Lakes area the other half.

Her photographs will be featured from July 2-31.

The new signature status members of the Federation of Canadian Artists, Sharon Bamber, returns by popular demand for another week exhibition from July 16 to August 3. Her fantastical wildlife pastel paintings are known to collectors for their superb lifesizequality. Bamber is a finalist in the BBC International Wildlife Art of 2013 competition.

From Vancouver Island, Madeleine Wood and Don Cunningham show their new collaborative series of paintings inspired by nature, from August 15. Their work, and that of other local artists, can also be viewed during the Columbia Basin Cultural Week from September 3-21. Nakup artist Hollywood wines and Denyse Marshall will display a series of still lifes and landscapes in watercolor and acrylic.

The regular season wraps up with a series of distinct by Barbara May. Also a member of FCA, she is known for her beautiful figurative paintings from the LINNO and Asian series. Her new series of paintings seen in her incredible stone sculptures. Her fourth exhibition at SCG is from September 24 to October 12, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Studio Connexion Gallery, run by Anne Bévilonie, is located downtown Nakup at 203 Fifth Avenue NW, two blocks off Broadway, and is open from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday. For more information call 250-265-8888 or visit www.studicoconnection.com.

**Dancing Voices**

**with a voluntary subscription**

**Only $10-30**
$10 a Day Child Care Plan proposal seeks ‘new deal’ for families

by Art Joyce

For working families in BC, child care costs can sink their budget. To address this, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCCABC) and the Early Childhood Educators of BC have developed a $10 a Day Child Care Plan. Many organizations and individuals throughout the province have expressed support for this ‘new deal’ for families that would limit child care costs to $10 a day, free for low-income families.

According to Dr. Paul Kershaw, Human Early Learning Partnership scholar at UBC, despite a 10 percent growth in the Canadian economy since 1976, families today have less household income after housing costs. Early Child Care Education research has established that the birth to age six period is critical to a child’s development, making close parental contact essential. Yet parents today have less free time to spend with their children than they did 10 years ago. Therefore, says Kershaw, in addition to more affordable day care, policy changes need to be made to parental leaves from work. “Parents need more family-friendly leave options.”

This would mean extending parental leave from 12 months to 18 months, generally reserving the extra six months for women who currently have less access to parental leave. Exceptions of course would be lone parents and same-sex couples. Benefits would be available to single- and dual-earner households and would include the self-employed.

Then, when it’s time for parents to return to work – once the Mom and Dad benefit ends – the proposed policy would offer day care at $10 per day for full-time care and $7 per day part-time, making it free for families earning less than $40,000 per year.

Valarie Warington, Executive Director of the non-profit Kootenay Kids, says at present licensed day care rates at a minimum of $50 a day for infants and then lowest cost for 3.5 year olds is $45, although that rate is rare. This doesn’t take into consideration the rates for unlicensed day care centres but with evidence that ECEs spend less time with children and offer services for much less. As it is, says Warington, child care professionals earn too little – only $16.00 per hour after 10 years on the job for supervision and a dollar an hour less for regular staff.

Jumbo lawsuit gains momentum

submitted

The City of Nelson passed a unanimous resolution asking the Union of BC Municipalities to intervene in the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s lawsuit challenging the unapproved Jumbo Resort municipality high in the Purcell Mountains. The municipality established the city and appointed a city council in February in order to allow the development of a controversial ski resort.

Counsellor Candace Birtchick brought the motion to the table and the council agreed to a special session in order to approve it.

“Although the environmental issues around firefighters are important, I supported the resolution because the [creation of the] municipality compromises the democratic process,” said Counsellor Paul Kaiser.

Nelson is the latest of several municipalities to pass similar motions ahead of UBCM’s executive meeting this week. The District of Fairview started the ball rolling with a resolution in late February, and it sent letters to every municipality in the province. Since then New Denver, Castlegar, Maple Ridge, and other municipalities have expressed similar resolutions. The Lower Mainland Local Government Association has also asked the provincial body to get involved in the case.

UBCM had already passed a resolution in September protecting the province’s move to allow municipalities

选包括

New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society holds first AGM

submitted

The New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society held its first AGM on April 10. Over 40 people attended, including 16 youth.

Since the Outlet opened in doors nearly a year ago, over 37 different youth have enjoyed this welcoming and safe space to spend time with their friends. This project has been made possible through the CBT Community Directed Youth Funds program and has been youth driven from the start. The area’s youth is fully involved in The Outlet’s operations and governance. There are three youth on the board of directors and those who attend the youth centre are asked to provide input on many aspects of the operations.

The centre is equipped with several computers, a TV, stereo and gaming system, board games, arts supplies and a kitchen stocked with food to allow for a variety of activities to be enjoyed there. Many people have helped to get the youth centre established and have supported the endeavour throughout the time the centre has been open.

The support of our community was evident in the success of our first annual Night Out for The Outlet fundraising dinner held in January,” said youth centre administrator Paul Shandro. “We have been fortunate to have staff and volunteers who are generous, flexible and dedicated to our youth. We would like to express our gratitude to the board of directors for the tremendous effort they have made to get this project off the ground and to all who have contributed to making The Outlet a reality.

SLOCAN LAKE PUTTS AND SUCH

Spring is finally here and if you’re a golfer you’ve got no doubt checked out the course... It has wintered well and Curtis is fervently goring it to be in shape for the Club Opening on Sunday May 5. This is a great journey to kick off the season... loads of fun and a great chance to get the rust off the clubs... You don’t have to wait till the 5th though... because the clubhouse will be open seven days a week. Drop by and meet Rick Holmes.

Rick comes to the valley from Manitoba and has a wealth of experience in clubhouse management. He and his team will be offering great tasty home-style meals daily with a special menu for Mothers Day. Reservations are suggested...250-358-2406

The course is user friendly and we welcome golfers of all levels. Drop by and practice on our putting green, play nine or even more if you just have a cold one on the deck, either way we’re ready for you!
Village of Kaslo hires new Chief Administrative Officer
by Jan McMurray

Neil Smith will be Kaslo’s new Chief Administrative Officer as of the end of August.

“I look forward to serving the community and growing with it for years to come,” he said in an interview.

Originally from Scotland, Neil Smith has been in Canada since 1999 and comes to us from the Regional District of Mount Waddington in Port McNeill, where he currently holds the position of Manager of Economic Development and Parks, and is a BC Rural Network board member.

Smith said he had been considering making the move to a CAO job for a little while and was hoping to find a position in rural British Columbia that appealed to him and his family – wife Laura and children John (8), Julia (6) and Maari (1). “We value small town living and the quality of community life it brings,” he said. “Upon researching Kaslo, I was impressed by what it had to offer a young family in terms of services, recreation, lifestyle and climate. The local school in particular was a major factor in the decision to apply.”

He added that the Chair of the Regional District of Mount Waddington, Dave Rushton, is originally from this area and knows Kaslo well. “You couldn’t hope for a better ambassador for the area than he,” said Smith.

Although Smith has a lot of experience working in local government, this will be his first position as a CAO. He has completed some Municipal Administration Training Institute (MATI) programming, and is just one course short of the Capilano University Local Government Administration Certificate. He says the CAO job is “probably the greatest professional opportunity to serve a community, assisting the elected leadership in realizing their vision as best as possible while ensuring that services are efficiently delivered. In a small community, it is the ultimate multi-tasking manager role that ensures working life is never dull. In Kaslo, assuming the mantle from someone as long served and respected as Rae Sawyer is both daunting and exciting. There will be a lot to learn.”

When asked what he sees as the biggest strengths that he brings to the Kaslo CAO position, he replied, “Over the years I’ve looked after any number of infrastructure, promotional, website, sectoral, recreational and political projects. In short, adaptability and patience. It’s also good to know when to bring in the experts when the budget permits, too.”
Kootenay Savings announces board election results at AGM

submitted
Earth Day was the theme at the 44th annual general meeting of Kootenay Savings Credit Union on April 22. Members and guests in attendance heard the report of the board and management, the presentation of the financial statements, and the results from the recent director elections.

Highlights from 2012 included $2.7 million in patronage dividends shared with members and more than $471,000 in community giving, supporting many worthwhile groups and organizations throughout the Kootenays.

“Operating in a climate of global economic downturn and record low interest rates definitely presents its challenges,” said president and CEO Brent Tremblay. “The team at Kootenay Savings stepped up and met those challenges head on. The success we achieved would not have been possible without the efforts and support of each and every one of our employees and directors.”

Incumbents Mike Kenkin of Trail and Robert (Bob) Parkinson of Burton were re-elected as directors-at-large, while Am Naqvi of Nelson was elected by acclamation to the position of director for Area B covering Castlegar, Nelson and Central Kootenays. Roberts Hall of Edgewater was elected as the Area D director representing Kimberley, Cranbrook, Invermere and surrounding areas. All will serve three-year terms.

In keeping with the Earth Day theme, attendees heard details about the Kootenay Energy Diet, a program encouraging home-owners to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Fortis BC’s PowerSense is partnering with local credit unions, including Kootenay Savings, to offer low interest loans to help with the energywise investments.

Theatre BC Kootenay Zone Festival in Nakusp May 9-12

Nakusp welcomes the Theatre BC Kootenay Zone Festival taking place the weekend of May 9-12. Theatre BC supports competitive theatre festivals in each of the zones of British Columbia, and the winners from each zone come together to compete in the Mainstage Festival in July.

Mirror Theatre is hosting the festival for the East and West Kootenay Zone for 2013, featuring three productions in the Bonnington Fine Arts Centre. Thursday, May 9 at 7 pm, Bonac and Clyde by the submitted

Nakusp figure skaters celebrate end of season

The Nakusp Figure Skating Club held its year-end dessert and awards party April 8 at the arena auditorium. All skaters in the Pre-CarSkate, CarSkate and STARSkate programs were congratulated on their accomplishments this season and received participation certificates and awards. Major award winners were Hayleigh Janzen (CarSkate of the Year), Devon Wright and Ruby Zoll (CarSkate Spirit Champion) and Amy Watson (all-around skater).

Nakusp Secondary School drama class; Friday, May 10 at 7 pm, The Fantasticks by Mirror Theatre; and Saturday, April 11 at 7 pm, Fue! by the Revelstoke Theatre Company. Each production will be adjudicated by Danielle Dunn-Morris, followed by evaluative ‘coffee critique’ sessions. Awards will be made at the banquet on Sunday, May 12. Dunn-Morris will lead a workshop for the winning play in preparation for moving forward to the Mainstage Festival.

The festival is being made possible by support from CBT, RDCK, and other community sponsors. The public is welcome to all activities, performances, coffee critiques, silent auction, awards banquet, and aprés-show socials.

Tickets will be sold at Bon Marche prior to the festival – performance tickets at $10, seniors discount at $8, and students $6. A Mother’s Day special of all three show tickets is on offer for $25. At the door, tickets to that evening’s show will be $15. Tickets for the awards banquet and other advanced sale tickets may be arranged with call by calling 250-265-4556.
Joseph Hughes
New Hope for 2013

Just under 300,000 acres of southern BC’s four fertile valleys were destroyed by the Columbia River Treaty (1966-2024) which provides water storage for the US – Water to power their dams, their industry, and above all, their farms.

Remuneration from the US to BC has averaged $40 million per year for the past 48 years. The US announced this spring that this remuneration will be reduced by 90% to just 10% by 2024. The losses to BC include a 92% collapse of a sustainable inland fishery, the destruction of some of BC’s finest forest, recreation, small industry and agricultural areas (completely wiping out agriculture in the Arrow Valley which was formerly the 3rd most productive valley in BC and further increasing our dependency for food from the US) while entire species of aquatic, avian and terrestrial wildlife have been extirpated or severely reduced in numbers. Free-flowing rivers and lakes have been transformed into sterile industrial reservoirs. Former vibrant, lush ecosystems rendered non-functional and broken. With none of the powerful legislation protecting riparian ecosystems that are in place in the US, the Columbia River Treaty has been the largest manmade environmental disaster in BC’s history.

Even more serious, the North American Free Trade Agreement (written by the US for the US) is poised to permanently confer sovereignty over BC’s water to the US. With the US facing rapidly diminishing water supplies (both from reduced precipitation and the decommissioning of more than 800 of their own dams – 8 per year - as restoring ecosystems becomes a priority) combined with an increasing population, the riding of Kootenay West is in a uniquely critical situation. How much greater the US need for water will be in 2024, the date when the first changes to the treaty in 60 years will be permitted (providing 10 years advanced notice is given).

It must be understood that there was no requirement for a treaty to provide BC with flood control of hydro generation. The treaty was devised by the US solely to permit water storage in BC for US benefit – benefit amounting to billions.

Now is the time to throw your support behind a candidate who will fight to restore sovereignty of BC’s river system back to the residents of BC. The BC dams will continue to generate hydro power for residents and export. The Columbia Basin Trust and its power arm, Columbia Power Corporation, will also be unaffected. Flood control will likewise continue. Termination of the treaty means that from September 2024 onwards, BC will for the first time in 60 years be able to manage the Canadian portion of the Columbia River for the benefit of BC and not the US.

There are certain rare times in history when only an Independent MLA who is not bound by Party dogma can do the seemingly impossible. Which is why Joseph has turned down requests by the mainstream parties to join them. Even more extraordinary that one should come forward with the unwavering sincerity, commitment, tenacity and determination required. This is undeniably a David & Goliath situation but the original David won the fight, and with your support this one can too.

PS Joseph Hughes is not a one-issue candidate. He will fight for employment opportunities, the balancing of a vibrant economy with the needs of the environment, health, education, the rights and well-being of our Seniors, for the “no fee opt out” provision on Smart Meter, the restoration of BC’s Parks system and support for BC agriculture among many other issues. He is outspoken opponent of fracking and the Jumbo resort where, as with the Columbia River Treaty, democracy was completely taken away from the people most affected. But because of the 10-year advance notice for the decision of the Treaty is imminent (September 2014), Joseph is focusing on this. He is a passionate defender of true democracy.

Submitted by supporters of Joseph Hughes’ Candidacy, Leah Gilliland, Financial Agent
GENERAL ELECTION

MAY 2013

Get ready to vote.

In the 40th Provincial General Election, British Columbia’s voters will vote for their Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

BC Has More Ways to Vote

All voters can:

Vote in any district electoral office from now until 4 p.m. (Paciﬁc time) on General Voting Day, Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Vote by Mail

You can ask for a Vote by Mail package from your district electoral ofﬁce or through the Elections BC website at elections.bc.ca.

Vote at advance voting

Voters can attend any advance voting location in the province from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time), Wednesday, May 8 through Saturday, May 11. All advance voting locations are wheelchair accessible.

Vote on General Voting Day

Voters can attend any general voting location in the province from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Paciﬁc time), Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Identification Rules for Voting

Voters must prove their identity and current residential address to get a ballot or register to vote at the time of voting. Any one of the following pieces of identiﬁcation is acceptable:

• BC driver’s licence
• BC identiﬁcation card
• BC services card
• Certiﬁcate of Indian Status

If you don’t have any of the above, bring two documents that together prove your identity and current residential address. A complete list of acceptable identiﬁcation is available from Elections BC.

Voters without identiﬁcation can be vouched for by a voter in their electoral district who has identiﬁcation, or by a direct family member, or by someone who has legal authority to make personal care decisions for the voter.

The following persons have been nominated as candidates for Kootenay West for the 40th Provincial General Election.

Kootenay West Electoral District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate’s Name</th>
<th>Financial Agent</th>
<th>Oﬃcial Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glen Curtis Byte</td>
<td>Glen Byte 2047 Seventh Ave, Trail, BC V1R 3C4</td>
<td>Carlee Hughes 467 Nakusp East Rd RR 1, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katrine Conroy</td>
<td>Vincent Salvo 2420 12th Ave, Castlegar, BC V1N 4A8</td>
<td>Jim Postnikoff 1071 Lazaroﬀ Rd, Castlegar, BC V1N 4P3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Peter Hughes</td>
<td>Leah Gilliland PO Box 158, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0</td>
<td>Jim Postnikoff 1071 Lazaroﬀ Rd, Castlegar, BC V1N 4P3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Voting Places:

Blackburn Corn School 3100 Cornell Avenue, Castlegar, BC
Moneen Corn School 9830 Nelson Street, Nelson, BC
Nakusp Sports Centre 200 9th Ave N, Nakusp, BC
Nelson Corn School 47 Kincaid Street, Nelson, BC
Penticton Corn School 3232 Penticton Road, Penticton, BC
Royal Canadian Legion 12110 Bailey Road, Trail, BC
Royal Canadian Legion 110 First Avenue, Trail, BC
Slocan Park Corn School 1317 Harmony Road, Castlegar, BC
Slocan Sports Hall 200 7th Avenue, Nelson, BC
Toroys Corn School 2500 14th Ave, Trail, BC
Trail Corn School 3232 Penticton Road, Penticton, BC
Trail Corn School 3232 Penticton Road, Penticton, BC
Trail Corn School 3232 Penticton Road, Penticton, BC
Trail Corn School 3232 Penticton Road, Penticton, BC
Wamusa Corn School 110 First Avenue, Trail, BC

Advance Voting Places:

Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC
Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC
Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC
Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC
Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC
Revelstoke Corn School 1100 14th Ave, Revelstoke, BC

District Electoral Offices:

1380 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1
1365 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1
1365 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1
1365 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1
1365 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1
1365 McQuarrie St Trail, BC V1R 4H1

elections.bc.ca / 1-800-661-8683

TTY 1-888-456-5448
Kootenay West all-candidates meeting held in Silverton

by Jan McMurray

An all-candidates meeting for the Kootenay West riding was held April 25 at the Silverton Memorial Hall. The riding has two independent candidates, Joseph Hughes of Nakusp and Glen Byke of Trail; an NDP candidate, incumbent Katrina Conroy of Castlegar; and a Liberal candidate, Jim Postluk of Shoreacres. Postlukoff did not attend the forum; he has decided not to participate in all-candidates meetings during the campaign.

Glen Byke said he decided to run as an independent because he wants people to be more interested and involved in politics. Feeling that no party represents his views, he has come up with an “mothball idea” called Technology Enabled True Democracy, where he would list every bill online, and people from the riding could vote on the bills. Byke said his system would work with the existing system, and would allow for more accurate representation. Check his website, independent.ca for details.

Katrina Conroy has been MLA since 2005, and since 2000 for the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys. She said the forest industry needs to be restored, and our resources must be managed sustainably. The NDP would invest in post-secondary education, skills training, sustainability and stewardship of the land, health care that makes sense regionally, and a Buy BC program.

Joseph Hughes believes that independent representation is the only true way to have a democratic process, untethered by party politics. He said that he is very concerned because grandparents are living in institutions away from their families, families are divided in order for parents to find jobs, health providers with real solutions have no support, and government is forcing its policies on people without their consent.

The environment

Conroy said the NDP would do scientific studies, including inventories of plants and animals, to determine what the province can sustain. In response to a question about the NDP’s position on fracking, she explained that the party will not call for a moratorium, but will do an environmental study. “It’s possible for fracking to be environmentally friendly, then fine, but if not,” she said.

Hughes feels the best way to achieve sustainable environmental management is by having discussions with people from the affected regions who are involved with the issues, instead of “accepting answers from on high.”

Byke said in his system, people can propose a bill about issues they are passionate about. If the majority of people in Kootenay West approve of the bill, Byke would bring it to the legislature.

Transportation

Questions were asked about a passing lane from Silverton to Enterprise Creek, and a bridge across the Arrow Lakes.

Hughes is a strong advocate of passing lanes on the roads in this area and a bridge over the Arrow Lakes to replace the Glen-aware Shelter Ferry. He said an “economic summit” series of meetings held in Nakusp highlighted that “the single most potent stronghold is the ferry.” He would also advocate to get the bridge placed onto a 10-year plan.

Conroy said she has repeatedly brought forward Silverton Hill at meetings with the Ministry of Transportation. She said it would be disingenuous of her to promise a passing lane, as the province is left with a deficit budget. She recognizes the need for a link in the upper valley, but she knows some people don’t want the bridge, so discussion needs to happen. “What’s going to work for the region so we get the best benefit for tourism and industry?”

Byke said his big dream is to have specific taxes to fund specific programs. For example, instead of gas taxes, there would be an airway improvement tax. Instead of insurance tax, there would be a health care tax. He no longer wants to see taxes going into a government pot and then disappearing. “People don’t mind paying taxes if they can see the benefits,” he said.

Columbia River Treaty

Conroy believes we should re-negotiate the treaty so that BC benefits from it as much as Washington does. She said the NDP has been shocked with how slow the government has been on this issue. “I think we have an opportunity for four strong voices from the Kootenays,” she said.

Hughes said this is the most important issue to face this valley in our time, and is the main reason he is running now. “What happened in the ‘60s was a complete injustice, and it’s happening again,” he said. Hughes thanks we need the “lowest” representative to tackle this issue, and that the issue is to be “watered down” by party politics.

Byke said he would talk to people who know about the treaty, list the pros and cons online, and let the voters decide. Then he would make sure the government knows what the people of Kootenay West want.

Smart meters

Conroy said it was wrong of the Liberals to allow BC Hydro “to inflict this on people” without following due process. “If people want them, fine, but if not, they should have the right to have them taken out. Most people wouldn’t mind paying a bit more to have a meter reader,” she said. The NDP will re-consider the Energy Act, as there are “a number of issues” with it. She added that they have received more emails and correspondence on the smart meter issue than any other.

Hughes would advocate for a stop to the smart meter program. He pointed out that opting out is not practical because people move. He fears there is an “absolute failing” of democracy when there is a public outcry and the government does not feel it necessary to respond.

Forestry & raw log exports

Hughes said the export of raw logs also means the export of jobs. He indicated that the value of keeping logs in BC is much higher than the price they fetch as exports. He feels that accountability is lacking in the forest industry and a better process is needed to make sure companies are doing their reforestation, re-decimating of roads, etc.

Conroy said the NDP’s looking at a “total re-vamp” of forestry, and one of the party’s motives is: BC logs for BC jobs.” She said the province needs wood waste energy projects and re-man plants like Box Lake Lumber in Nakusp. She is frustrated by the consequences of the changes to the Forest Act, such as the lack of consultation around the Springfield Creek, which licences the Interfor and the “hundreds of thousands of trees that need to be planted in this province. Companies are watching over themselves – it’s like the fox watching over the hen house,” she said.

Byke thinks a good way to start on the raw log issue would be to establish a ratio that is acceptable to British Columbians of the number of raw logs to the number of processed logs.

Will you do anything to stop the corporate free-for-all?

Conroy doesn’t think it’s right for the government to downsize and “give it to the corporations, who are not doing such a hot job. This government has abandoned stewardship of this land.”

Hughes said he is running so he can try to stop this. “We are all pleading for a change because we are sitting here on the bottom getting stepped on and our world is run by greed,” he said. “Our rights were fought for tooth and nail in the past and we have to do it again. We have to stand together, all of us, for our rights.”

Byke believes that “corporate greed is one of the worst things on the planet today. Everything would be a co-op or a non-profit if I had my way. That way, when a company is successful, the employees and customers would benefit from it. It wouldn’t get sent to shareholders.”

Tales from the Fisherman’s Market: Halibut to the left of me, halibut to the right

I remember clear as day the first real job I ever had in the fishing industry, and it was dangerous, cold, and harsh.

Back in the day I worked for a very large broker of Halibut. Usually this product is blast frozen right off the water then packaged into boxes or totes and shipped all around the world. Well, with the anything to save a buck mentality, our corporate buyer purchased all of our halibut without the box…. or the tote. It may not sound like a lot to save 15 cents a pound but with an 85 thousand pound container, it adds up. The only missing part of the equation is you have to get someone to unload the halibut and pack it back into a tote for less money than you saved. This is how our story begins.

I remember my Uncle pulling me aside, telling me he needed me to unload a trailer that had just arrived. He said it may take all day but he wanted it done nonetheless. I was stoked. Just to have my Uncle talk to me at work was exciting, now I was his guy for the job. Thanks Uncle Doug. I still to this day have never seen anything so daunting as a solid wall of frozen halibut 12 feet high and 60 feet long. Imagine trying to grab a rock out of a pile of rocks. Well, the rock would be easy, the landslide would not. This was my job, and I walked away with two bruised ribs and a finger that would never point straight again. I also walked away with a greater understanding of hard work and an even greater respect for the halibut that graces all our plates.

May is Halibut month at the Fisherman’s Market, and don’t worry; it comes in fresh and we will huck it for you as well… so your fingers won’t ever look like mine.

Sign up today for our ever popular whole halibut sale!

-Cory S.

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COMMUNITY

Joseph Hughes, Katrina Conroy and Glen Byke debated campaign issues at the Silverton Memorial Hall, April 25.
Nelson all-candidates meeting covers wide array of issues

by Art Joyce

An all-candidates forum held at the Prestige Inn the evening of April 23 attracted a full house and featured NDP incumbent Michelle Mungall, Liberal candidate Greg Garbulka and Green candidate Sjeng Derkx. The audience sounded out candidates on a wide array of issues, including healthcare, affordable housing, education, economy, child care, and the environment.

Moderator Tom Thom森 of the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce warned of a tight regime over the conduct of the event. A proctor with a sign was asked to remove it when the man asked, "Have you heard of free speech?" Thomson answered, "Not here tonight," eliciting ironic laughter from the audience.

What do you bring to the table?

In opening statements, the candidates spoke of their backgrounds and basic platforms. Garbulka cited his 33 years in the hospitality industry as a businessman.

"I bring to the table a lot of experience managing people and budgets, and taking care of people. I’m a problem solver," he said. Derkx repeated the Green Party mantra of being "fiscally conservative, socially progressive and environmentally responsible." He emphasized that the party does not take corporate or union donations and that he is prepared to go against party discipline if it means standing up for his constituents. "I’m not a career politician," Derkx said. "This is not about me; it’s about you." Mungall cited her four years' experience as MLA for Nelson-Creston, claiming successes such as helping defeat the Glacier-Howser run-of-river hydro project. "When I was first elected as an MLA, people said it’s nearly impossible to achieve anything as an opposition member; we proved them wrong," she said. She cited her "lifelong love of politics" as a motivating factor.

It's the economy, stupid

Thomson led off question period by pointing out that 90 percent of businesses in BC are small businesses and asked what each candidate would do to support that sector. Derkx said that the riding ranks 48th out of 85 ridings in average income, with only not followed through. "We have to change the way we think about Eastside being lower," he emphasized. The Green Party commitment to building economy by fostering clean, renewable industries such as developing waste wood for use as a bio-fuel. Garbulka said he would support the region's core industries — mining, forestry, agriculture and tourism. Mungall pointed out that small businesses are finding they have to pick up the costs of training due to the Liberal government's poor support for skills training and entrepreneurship programs. The NDP would re-invest in skills training and support.

A local business owner stated that the removal of the GST and the prospect of increased corporate taxes made it difficult to run her manufacturing business. She wanted to know what the parties would do to help foster manufacturing in BC. Garbulka spoke of a Liberal promise to reduce small business taxes by 40 percent over the next four years. Derkx said a complete overhaul of BC's tax system is in order, since at present many corporations pay no taxes at all while people below the poverty line still pay taxes. Mungall pointed out that the Liberals promised in the last election to reduce small business taxes to zero but had not followed through. "We can't wait for an entire revamp of the tax system while kids are going hungry," she said.

No healthy environment, no economy

It was clear in many questions from the public that the burning issue in the room was the recent creation of the Jumbo Glacier Resort municipality despite 20-plus years of overwhelming local opposition. Garbulka said he wasn't up to speed and thought the issue too complex for a simple yes or no answer. He added that resorts across the Kootenays are already

Struggling to attract enough business so adding another resort probably wouldn't help. Derkx said the Green Party "has fought for Jumbo..." wild for 20 years; first in opposition to the NDP who were supporting it in the '90s, which we shouldn't forget..." They would nix the resort. Mungall countered Derkx by saying, "I think it says a lot about a political party that's willing to change its position based on listening to the people. We need to uphold democratic principles and that's why we have to keep Jumbo wild."

The candidates were asked what their party would do to support the Jumbo Glacier Resort project in Nelson. Derkx said the key is to support the local economy, which is what the NDP is doing. Garbulka said he would support the environment and ensure that "the voices of local people are heard.

The environmental impact will be huge. "The only people who will benefit will be the corporations who are pumping millions into these two parties. We will stop all new developments in this area." Mungall denied the NDP were receiving millions in campaign contributions from this sector. She said the party would stop the Enbridge pipeline and strengthen environmental assessment requirements.

It starts with the family

More than one person asked what the parties would do to support child care in BC, specifically asking if candidates support the $10 a day child care plan proposed by child care advocates across BC. It was pointed out that BC rates are the worst in Canada in child poverty and has the highest gap between the top and bottom 10 percent of income earners. Both are social determinants of crime and intergenerational poverty.

Mungall answered that the NDP platform includes a $210 million commitment to the BC Family Bonus program, raising family income immediately. "We've identified a $300 million fund created by the Liberals so children could have money for post-secondary education; we want to use that now for children in their critical first six years."

"Throwing around hundreds of millions of dollars just leads to more cynicism about politics," Derkx responded. "I believe the key is to get economic activity going."

The Green Party is in favour of a guaranteed annual income to address poverty. Garbulka said in order to help families the best thing we can do is create a strong economy and put our fiscal house in order. His claim that the Liberals had done a good job of managing finances was met with jeers from the audience.

On the question of education, Mungall said the NDP is promising $100 million for public schools, plus $60 million for daycare subsidies. Garbulka said that was all very well but that the NDP had no fiscal plan to pay for those incentives. Mungall countered that the party's fiscal plan will garner funds from a tax hike on the top two percent of income earners in BC.

Other issues raised included health care funding, downloading of services on local governments, and affordable housing. Mungall said the NDP plans to inject $45 million into health care while Derkx said he would slash the top-heavy bureaucracy at Interior Health, which she described as people earning above $75,000 per year while communities lack adequate access to services.
Community engagement discussed at Kaslo Community Forest AGM

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest AGM was held April 24 at TV Hampton School.

With no resolutions on the agenda, the board invited comments on how to engage the membership and community, which seemed fitting at an AGM with a small turnout compared to previous years. The AGM took place in a classroom, with the polling booth outside in the hallway. About 30 people attended the meeting in the classroom, and about 24 people came to vote only.

The four people elected to the board were Stan Baker (40 votes), Donna Cornie (30 votes), Glen Settle (47 votes) and Ken Wopple (30 votes). These four replace John Addison, who re-ran unsuccessfully for a seat; Greg Lay and Hans Hansen, who chose not to re-run; and Dick Martin, who resigned from the board in early 2013. The two unsuccessful candidates were John Addison with 11 votes and Steve Favcett with 25. Continuing board members include Steve Anderson, Erikka Bird, Jeff Matte, Jeff Ryden and Chris Webster.

Fifty-four of 120 members voted. The directors’ report, given by John Addison, board chair for the 2012/13 year, states that there were only 55 members in good standing at this time last year, compared to 67 new members signed up by the AGM.

The discussion on membership and community engagement elicited several ideas. One was to better promote the community benefits of having the community forest, such as the grants, the donations like the climbing poles at Loger Sports, and local employment. It was suggested that the Winter in the Forest Festival is an excellent venue for outreach and public consultation. Other suggestions included an email newsletter and the hiring of a communications director. The need to keep the website up to date was stressed, and Addison reported that the society was transitioning to a new website which is expected to be live within a month.

Jeff Matte gave the treasurer’s report, explaining that the year and would not be available until late, due to the illness of the society’s accountant. Only a profit and loss statement was presented, showing a profit of $326,333.65. It was pointed out that some of this profit is tied up in reserve funds.

There was discussion about the board decision to not renew the woodlands management contract with Richard Marchand for the third and last year of the contract. When member Don Scarlett asked why, directors Chris Webster and Steve Anderson answered the question, explaining that there was a disagreement in interpretation of the contract. “We approached them and said it was not being interpreted properly,” said Anderson. “We were seeking to clarify the interpretation of what it said,” said Anderson. “He was not going to budger at all...” said Webster. “It really put us between a rock and a hard place.”

Addison reported that the board had advertised the manager position and had made a short list of four; down from 11 applicants. Interviews were scheduled to take place on Monday and Tuesday, April 29 and 30.

The directors’ report explains that in 2012, the final year in the five-year cut control period, the community forest was aiming to catch up on its undercut from previous years, when the log markets were considerably down. They did not reach their goal – a total of 42,938 cubic metres were cut in 2012, leaving an undercut of about 48,000 cubic metres. Reasons given for this include pulp prices, wet weather and a fire at a block in the Hutton area.

Greg Lay explained that the 48,000 cubic metres the board was aiming to cut over the next five-year period. “You can cut all five years in one year if you want, but if you use it or lose it at the end of 5 years, so you are hoping the market will change enough. The last five years have been challenging.”

Steve Anderson added that there were two years where they cut very little because of the poor economic situation. The KDFCS licence allows for a cut of 25,000 cubic metres a year, or 125,000 cubic metres over five years.

Erika Bird reported that Dave Collier did an assessment of all the information regarding the KDFCS chart area that has been input into the government database over the years, and discovered this needs a lot of work. “There is a lot of opportunity for errors all along the line, so you can’t blame anyone,” she said. “Now we know what we don’t know, what we’re competent in and what we need to change, so that will take a bit of money but at least we know what we’ve got.”

She said Collier said KDFCS is certainly not alone with this – the data is a “shambles” all over the province. The recreation committee worried with the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society on the Buchanan Recreation Area and the recreation tenure was officially approved under Section 57 by the minister in 2012, with the management plan signed by January. Tom Duchatel thanked KDFCS on behalf of the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society, saying it was a very successful Nordic season at ‘Backy.’ Susan Malkey added that KDFCS is the first community forest to have an area-based recreation tenure.

Time to get ready for spring – and bears

As the days get longer and warmer and we get our gardens ready and prune our fruit trees, bears are awakening from their six months of hibernation. Grizzlies, which den in the high country, will burrow through the deep winter snow that insulated their dens and emerge to a still snow-covered world.

Black bears, which den at lower elevations either in dens dug under tree roots or in the hollow interiors of large trees, won’t have as far to travel to feed on the first green-up in the valley bottoms or avalanche chutes or to look for winter-killed animals.

Because spring first comes at lower elevations this can often put people and bears at close contact. If you are out hiking or biking it’s time to dig out the can of bear spray, your best protection if you have an aggressive encounter with a bear or another large predator such as a mountain lion.

Two recent studies involving noted bear biologist Dr. Stephen Herrero show capsaicin-based (pepper) spray to be effective in repelling the majority of bears in close encounters. In the most recent study of 72 incidents in Alaska, where people used spray to defend themselves in close encounters with grizzlies, black bears and polar bears, the bears’ undesirable behaviour was stopped over 50 per cent of the time. The three people who were injured by grizzly bears, even though they used the spray, received only minor injuries.

Remember that if the wind is blowing strongly from the bear to you, it may not work effectively and you may have to move around to get a better hit with the spray.

It was also reported that Keele Creek Road, still closed due to landslides, was discussed at a November round table discussion with representatives of the government. It was agreed that KDFCS should not bear the full financial burden of re-opening the road, and that there would be ongoing discussions to find a way to get the road open again.

Approximately $77,000 is in the legacy fund, which is financed by putting away $1 per cubic metre of the timber harvested every year. Rick Hewat is managing this fund. In response to a question from Laurie Moss, Steve Anderson said there had not been any discussion on a purpose for the fund, and indicated there probably would not be until there was a more substantial amount of money in it.

It was also reported that a $7-per-metre road reserve fund was put in place to partially offset the cost of road building.

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Winlaw parents lobby School District #8 to turn off Wi-Fi
by Art Joyce

After hearing from a group of Winlaw parents at the April 16 School District #8 board meeting, the board complied with the parents’ request to turn off the Wi-Fi at Winlaw School.

The Winlaw group, headed by Clare Kelly and Colleen Emery, appeared as a delegation to lobby for a Winlaw-free school. Citing the precautionary principle and scientific data raising health concerns, they requested that the board honor their request to turn the Wi-Fi router off during school hours.

“Wireless is a new technology and there are no long-term studies on children and pregnant mothers because it’s less than 10 years old,” said Emery. “I’m not willing to provide my child as a test subject for this technology.”

The delegation was upset that a directive had been given by the school district to activate the Wi-Fi router when they had already made their concerns known to the principal. Emery said the decision of the district superintendent not to provide hardwired Internet service “has prevented our school from reflecting our community values. It does not support our desires for human-enrusted learning.”

The delegation added that they felt the decision “disrespects and disallows local decision-making.” They pointed out that many families had moved to the Steslaw Valley expressly for this purpose – away from electromagnetic saturated environments in urban areas.

“Getting a wireless-free environment is extremely rare in this society,” said Emery. “We have the opportunity to offer them a signal-free environment.”

Clare Kelly provided the school district with a copy of the precautionary principle – a principle that states that “if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmless, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking an act.” Failing that, the wise course would be to use the technology until proven safe. Kelly listed off a broad range of organizations that have endorsed this principle in schools, including the Ontario Catholic Teachers Union, BC Coalition of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC), Los Angeles Teachers Union, and others. She backed up the request with a petition signed by Winlaw parents asking for the Wi-Fi to be turned off.

New Denver Council Café
by Katrina Campbell
Six people tuned out to the New Denver Council Café April 27. Mayor Ann Bunka and councillors Henning von Kraigh and Heather Fox were there for casual conversation and to answer questions.

The morning started with general discussion on the local economy, including Silverton and the area around the villages. Participants noted several new businesses had started up. That led into a discussion of the two large empty buildings on Main St., and a question about unsightly premises. Bunka said she wasn’t sure about a bylaw, and would look into it. Someone also questioned the location of the septic systems on both properties.

Regarding danger trees, the Village’s policy is to take complaints. For the trees concerned, have a professional assess them all and prioritize them. The Village has a limited budget for tree removal on its property and they are removed as necessary.

From there talk turned to wildfire interface fuel removal, or taking cut brush and small trees to starve any wildfire. The hazard comes from Crownland abutting municipalities, but the province has pulled funding. New Denver has already done its share, but now, von Kraigh said, villagers “are on their own if we want to do it and can’t afford to do it.”

The planned Water Week event won’t happen this spring because the Public Works department is short-staffed, the Village hopes to hold it in the fall. The idea is to show people where their water comes from and how it gets to the tap. Some residents have complained about water bills because “the water is free!” but ignore the fact the system costs money to build and maintain.

Talk about taxes came next; only eight cents of every tax dollar goes to municipal coffers. UBCM is looking at how the system can be improved, said Fox, but it’s complicated. There are plans for an improved trail running from Carpenter Creek to Bigelow Bay, plans that are on the shelf waiting for a grant.

Kelly added that going against parents’ wishes in this situation could actually cause enrollment at Winlaw school to drop, potentially endangering its funding. Clare Kelly’s house-schooling family considering enrolling their children at the school will not do so if Wi-Fi is turned on.

That’s another 12 students we know of who wouldn’t enrol,” said Kelly. One family has already taken a child out of the school for this reason and others have expressed a willingness to do so if their wishes aren’t respected.

The delegation was also concerned about the social implications of Wi-Fi. They said on one of the school district’s “Bring your own device” days, they noted classroom disruption, cheating, and bullying. A further concern was unsupervised use of the internet.

“The district lacks a digital technology policy and this needs to be remedied,” said Kelly. “It needs to reflect how tools are used and their social and environmental consequences.”

Superintendent Jeff Jones responded to the delegation’s concerns by saying that the board was in the process of drafting a digital technology policy. He was more equivocal about Wi-Fi. “We can turn the Wi-Fi off but it goes against our educational initiatives throughout the district,” he explained. “The district needs to be at the forefront.”

Emery pointed out that both BCCPAC and the BC Teachers Federation had passed resolutions supporting having one school per district Wi-Fi-free. Susan Wilson, treasurer of the district PAC confirmed this, stating that the provincial association has been lobbying the Ministry of Education to proceed with caution. The BCCPAC resolution calls for “each Board of Education to have one public school at each education level (elementary, middle, secondary) that is free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones and cell phones. This school will only be equipped with wired computers and wired telephones for personal, educational and administrative purposes.”

“It’s a very divisive topic because if you aren’t affected by Wi-Fi it’s difficult to sympathize with those who are,” said Wilson. “At our conference last year we had a lady come over from Victoria with a note from her doctor to attend and she was visibly ill after a few hours.”

One resident is concerned that there is still a lot of dust settling on the bush. She believes it starts with trees trimming and yard waste, then starts to include scrap wood and escalates to garbage. She asked about burning the waste, but another participant pointed out smoke was a major problem to her and burning wouldn’t be a good solution. The Village has Arbor Days in the spring and fall to pick up yard waste and tree trimmings, and at other times people can take a load to the transfer station for $5.

“We have to start thinking of Village structures,” said Wilson. “They are all getting old, and we’re a village of 500 people. Do what we want to keep, and what do we want to have? Maybe the societies should be looking atAll.”

“It’s not imminent, but we need to start thinking about what to do.”

Suggestions from the participants included a small property tax increase, earmarked for building renovation and repair. Someone suggested getting grants and using volunteers, but grant money is not always easy to come by, and volunteers will sooner or later need to be supervised by a Village employee, for legal and liability reasons.

The Mori Trail will be open this summer, but will be in the same condition, and may be cost to the taxpayer. The Village will do some work on it, but it doesn’t have the money to fix everything. Work plans for an improved trail running from Carpenter Creek to Bigelow Bay, plans that are on the shelf waiting for a grant.

PROGRAMMING INTERRUPTION

Please be advised that local radio and television service will be out for the day on or around May 8. Upgrades to power supply will be undertaken at that time.

CBC Radio One won’t be affected.

AREA NORTH TV SOCIETY • 525-1203
Nakusp council to lobby for back-up power from proposed Foshtall project

by Ian McMurray

Plans for the proposed Foshtall independent power project transmission lines have changed again, prompting Nakusp council to invite project proponent, Darcy Fear of Foshtall Creek Power Ltd., to the April 22 council meeting as a delegation.

Nakusp council would like to see the transmission lines come to Nakusp because this would provide back-up for BC Hydro’s Nakusp-New Denver/Silverton line, which is one of only two single line feeds in the province. After hearing from Fear that the Nakusp route is not financially feasible, council committed to contacting BC Hydro and government representatives to discuss this. “We need back-up,” commented Mayor Hamilton.

Fear said the interconnection study completed by BC Hydro for the Nakusp powerline route came back with a price tag of $7.8 million plus a $7.8 million (105%) “fudge factor.” On top of that, if there is an environmental disaster, Foshtall Creek Power would have to pay for the clean-up at all three substations (Nakusp, New Denver and Whitehat).

Although BC Hydro would provide the company with about $2.2 million for network upgrades as part of the Standing Offer Program, Fear said the project is too small to bear these costs.

Fear said he thinks BC Hydro’s “fudge factor” is extraordinarily high in this case because the Nakusp substation is very old and does not have a lot of extra capacity. If it cannot handle the extra power from Foshtall, BC Hydro might have to move the substation.

“Those are the risks BC Hydro is seeing,” Fear said. “What if there’s no more room? What if we have to move?”

As a result of the high interconnection cost for the Nakusp route, Fear’s company is once again looking at the original plan to build the transmission lines north to the Foshtall power project and interconnecting with the Penticton lines.

Fear explained that halfway through the original interconnection study for the Penticton route in 2006, he found out that the Penticton transmission line is privately owned. Fear said BC Hydro had neglected to tell him this. When he asked the owner of the line at the time, Canadian Hydro, if the Foshtall project could interconnect at Penticton, Canadian Hydro turned him down.

That’s when he started looking at bringing the line to Nakusp, which is about 10 km south and across the lake from the Foshtall project. The Nakusp route had the transmission lines following Sadie Mountain Road south for 17 km and then being buried underneath the lake for 4 km, to come out at Revelstoke Point. Revelstoke Point Enterprises has given Foshtall an easement across the private land so the line could reach the substation. Unfortunately, as explained above, the interconnection study on this route has shown it to be prohibitively expensive.

Meanwhile, Canadian Hydro and thus the Penticton project has been taken over by TransAlta Corporation, which is willing to consider interconnection with Foshtall. So BC Hydro is doing yet another interconnection study for the Penticton route for Foshtall Creek Power.

Fear reported that in 2006, interconnection at Penticton cost $4 million. “It could be double now. That might stop us right there,” he said. However, he said all their research shows that the Nakusp route is the less expensive route.

Fear has been working on the Foshtall power project for over 12 years. He applied for a licence on the creek in 2001 and has applied for a contract with BC Hydro under the Standing Offer program.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
6:00 p.m., May 13th, 2013
Edgewood Legion

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the date and location as noted above to receive representations from all persons who deem it their interest to make representations regarding the following:

The purpose of amendment Bylaw No. 2341 and Bylaw No. 2342 is to allow for a dwelling to be constructed on the subject property.


Bylaw No. 2342, 2013: Proposal to amend Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1575, 2004, by re-zoning the subject property from Open Space (OS) to Agricultural 2 (AS2).

Legal Description/General Location: The 5.9 hectare subject property is legally described as Lot 6 District Lots 7893 and 7894 Kootenay District Plan 1194, PID 014-025-549 and located on Whitehat Settlement Road, (see map below)

The Public Hearing on Bylaw No. 2341 and Bylaw No. 2342 is to be held by Director Paul Peterson, Electoral Area K”, as a delegate of the Board. A copy of the Board resolution making the delegation is available for public inspection along with copies of Bylaw No. 2341 and Bylaw No. 2342 as set out in this notice.

Written submissions for or against the proposed amendment can be read, or verbal submissions made, at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the Hearing, written submissions must be delivered to the Regional District of Central Kootenay, prior to 7:00 am on the day of the Hearing. All written submissions are public information pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Submissions may be delivered to: Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 209, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 or by fax at (250) 352-8300 or submitted by email at planning@rdck.bc.ca or by hand to the Nelson address below. Please direct enquiries to Planner Mart Crowe at (250) 352-8172 or toll-free 1-800-266-7325, email mcrowe@rdck.bc.ca.

The aforementioned proposed bylaw may be inspected from April 29th to May 13th, 2013 both inclusive, on the web: www.rdck.bc.ca and at the locations and times as follows:

Planning Department Office, Regional District of Central Kootenay, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C., between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; closed statutory holidays; and Appropriate Field Office or Recreation Complex.

DATED at Nelson, B.C. this 24th day of April, 2013.

Dawn Atkinson
General Manager of Corporate Administration.
Lindsey Walker plays Silverton Gallery on Thursday, May 16

Lindsey Walker will play at the Silverton Gallery on Thursday, May 16, 7 pm. Admission is by donation. Check out www.lindseywalker.band.com, and www.silvertongallery.ca.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Walker has had a passion for performing ever since she was singing her guts out on her deck as a child. It wasn’t until moving to Edmonton to study voice at Grant MacEwan University that Walker decided to follow her heart—and her gut. Upon graduating with honours, she embarked on her singing and songwriting career, and has made a name for herself as a celebrated musician, an accomplished songwriter, and a well-known actress. She feels most at home when singing her originals which are a amalgamation of roots music, jazz and soul. With each song Walker writes, we are invited to see another side of this ever-talented musician, and with each new lyric she writes we somehow are able to understand ourselves a little more as well. She lists as her inspiration “Sorley bars late at night, people watching at the arrivals gate, cold, cold nights, love (you'll always always love someone?), longing, wanting, and a bit of much more—.” She is launching her debut EP, “Our Glory,” commemorating the missing women of East Vancouver. “I will never forget the moment I realized my aunt—my own flesh and blood—I was a suspect of the Pickton murderer,” says Walker. “I found a poster online with her photo which read ‘missing since 1993.’ She was only 27 years old when she went missing. In that instant, I knew I had to dedicate myself to learning as much as I could about East Vancouver as well as the missing women. Her name was everywhere.”

White sturgeon released into Columbia River

Submitted

Approximately 4,000 ten-month-old white sturgeon were released today into various locations of the Columbia River between Castlegar and Trail, with about 1,200 being released at the main release site below Hugh Keenleyside Dam. This marks the 12th annual release, hosted by the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (UCWSRI). The juvenile sturgeon are raised by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC at the Bell River hatchery in the East Kootenay through a program funded by BC Hydro and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. They are produced from wild adults, caught in the Columbia River last June. Juvenile sturgeon are doing well,” added Gerry Nelletstijn, Chair of the Community Working Group of the UCWSRI. “For every 1,000 fish released approximately 180 survive to age 12. The Conservation Aquaculture Program is a critical stop-gap measure to save this population. Currently there is virtually no natural recruitment Art auction at Hidden Garden Gallery

Submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery’s Silent Art Auction is back by popular demand, and everyone can participate in what promises to be the most eclectically show of the gallery’s 12th season. The inaugural Silent Art Auction was two years ago and people had much fun so it has been requested again. So...if you’re spring cleaning and interested in recycling, looking for new art for your home, want to trade some art, and/or want to support the Hidden Garden Gallery, now is the Time. You can accomplish all of the above.

Bring your donation of art to the gallery (#183 studios New Denver) on Friday, May 17 from noon to 3 pm. Visit Tuesday May 2 through Saturday, May 25 from 10 am to 3 pm to view the show and to place your bids. We shall party on Saturday, May 25 from 7-9 pm with final bids collected at 8:30.

Don’t miss the fun and excitement. Mark your calendars, peruse your home for art you may wish to recycle and give to a new home, view the show, party, place your bids and maybe find amazing new art for your home. For more information contact Evelyn Goodell at 358-2355.

Ownership of Dr. Brouse Lodge transferred to BC Housing

by Jen McMurray

Ownership of Dr. Brouse Lodge, New Denver’s independent living facility for seniors, was transferred to BC Housing from the New Denver Silverton and Arena Seniors Housing Society on April 1, 2013. The facility, opened in October 1986, was operated for over 30 years by this local non-profit organization.

“Many people have been involved over the years,” said society president Don Collard. “We ran the building as volunteers, and BC Housing was very happy with the way it was kept up.”

The society approached BC Housing about operating options for the facility, and the society’s board supported the option to transfer ownership of the lodge to the Province.

BC Housing reported that they are looking for a new non-profit operator for the site. In the interim, Dona Lindsay (president of the New Denver Silverton and Arena Seniors’ Housing Society) has been contracted as building manager. “This transfer will ensure continued availability of affordable housing for seniors in New Denver,” said the BC Housing spokesperson. “If a new non-profit operator is considered in the future, then the Province would enter into an operating agreement with them and continue to provide affordable, subsidized housing at the development.”

Dr. Brouse Lodge was built in 1986 on the old hospital property. It was named after New Denver area’s first doctor, who resided in the village from 1895 until he died in 1925. A new building was completed in 1990 by Edith Green.

The idea for the seniors’ housing project dates back to June 1980, when the Homemaker’s Society (now the Homemaker’s Society and Demand Survey showed a need for independent seniors’ housing in the area. The Kinsmen Club agreed to become the sponsor of the project in 1981, and in March 1982, the New Denver Silverton and Arena Seniors’ Housing Society was incorporated. The Kinsmen Club purchased the old hospital for $1,000 in 1983, and had it torn down in 1984.

The Province approved the project in June 1985 and provided a $103,750 grant, representing 25 percent of the construction cost. The Canadian Housing and Mortgage Company provided up to $35,213 per year to help the society pay down the $311,250 mortgage.

The caretup was built in 1988, bequeathed by Silverton resident Roland Peasach. BC Housing is a provincial crown agency that develops, manages, and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options. The agency partners with private and non-profit organizations, other levels of government, health authorities, and community groups to increase affordable housing options in BC.
School District #10 shuffle leaves Lucerne looking for new principal

by Jan McMurray

Lucerne School is looking for a new principal, as a shuffle occurs in the school district in September. Natasha Miles will be principal of Nakusp Secondary, and current Nakusp Secondary principal, Sue Paterson, will become principal of Nakusp Elementary.

New couple to Nakusp opens Heritage Nursery

by Jan McMurray

Bill and Carla Poulain of Kelowna have taken over the Spicer nursery in Nakusp, allowing Janet Spicer to focus her time and energy on farming her renowned organic vegetables.

The new business is called Heritage Nursery, "We felt that the name Heritage Nursery was very fitting. The Spicer farm is truly a historic landmark of the Kootenays," said Bill. The couple described this opportunity as "a dream come true for us - we both love horticulture, working outdoors and interacting with the public."

Bill and Carla fell in love with Nakusp en route to Nelson several years ago, found their dream home in Arrow Park four years ago, and moved in a year and a half ago. They lived in Kelowna for over 30 years before making the move.

Bill is a certified landscape horticulturist and was the owner/operator of Cuskadee Landscaping in Kelowna for 12 years, designing and installing landscapes for projects for both homes and buildings. Carla has taken several courses in horticulture, including Xeriscaping and pond construction, and has a Certificate of Achievement in horticulture. Bill and Carla are also past members of the Kelowna Garden Club.

The couple has made improvements to the property they are leasing from Janet. There is a grand new entrance and sign, and a must-see gift shop offering a variety of work by local artists in an artfully renovated outbuilding. They have also made changes within the nursery. They have added a small water feature, as well as some landscape themes and planting arrangements to help customers with ideas for their own landscape settings.

Heritage Nursery is offering landscaping design and installation services, including free estimates. The nursery will be carrying a wide selection of fruit trees, shade trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, and hanging baskets. High quality soils and amendments will continue to be available, as well.

"Our prices are very competitive and we will be continuing to bring in new stock to suit the needs and budgets of all our customers," said Bill. "We look forward to bringing great service to the community of Nakusp and surrounding areas and look forward to meeting many new people."

Silvertown CBT Community Initiative grants

by Jan McMurray

Silvertown council’s decisions on the CBT Community Initiatives grant applications are as follows:

- Harvest Share ($1,999), Health Arts Society - Consorts in Cues ($1,000), Healthy Community Society - Coming Together for Food ($2,000), Kootenay Literacy Society - Writer’s Weekend ($525), New Denver and Area Youth Society - The Outfit ($2,000), New Denver Rescue Society ($4,999), North Sloan Trails Society ($2,000), PALS Animal Rescue Program ($300), Silvertown Community Church - Christmas by the Lake ($725), Sloan District Chamber of Commerce - Visitor Info flyers ($250), SFCC - Silvertown Wildlife Urban Interface treatment ($5,000), Sloan Lake Gallery Society - fire alarm installation ($5,000), Sloan Lake Garden Society - Kohan Garden infrastructure safety repairs ($250), Slocan Solutions Society - Power of Place workshop ($1,500), Sloan Solutions Society - Slocan Valley Eco Tour ($250), SQD Duane - Interactive Drama Awareness in public schools ($250).

There were 18 applications requesting a total of $40,708 and $33,280 was available for distribution. Ten groups received the full amount they requested, while six received partial funding. Unsuccessful applicants include the Home Association of Central Kootenay and the Kootenay Storytelling Festival Society.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLON HYDRO THERAPY is now available at Hand & Soul in Silverton. Call for an appointment or brochure. "The Forgotten Key to Health." 250-350-2666.


CARS FOR SALE: 1997 TOYOTA TERCEL evolution, 4 cyl, manual trans, high kms, solid body, runs well, $650 obo. 250-262-7279.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES: Need a vehicle? Looking to sell or expanding your own business? Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training, and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-676-6771 ext 401 or email Natbarn@futurebc.ca

DARK OF THE HAVENS: thanks everyone for all the support for our Variety Coffeeshop.

WE WOULD LIKE to thank all our family and friends who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Modesto & Elvira Denette

TOEVERYONE WHO CAME out and voted for the Legion in our effort to receive CFB funds. We are very grateful that you were successful in receiving this assistance for the much needed improvements to your Legion building.

THANKYOU! THANKYOU! Everyone for your loving care of Mildred Bolt while she was in the Pavilion with you. She made a profound difference to many people during her teaching career as you have done for her family during her time with you.

Kath & Art Mather

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

OPEN INVITATION to a Celebration of the Life of Penelope Bennett (1938 to 2013) - Please join us in remembering our dear friend, Penny. We would like to honour her memory with brief stories from her many friends. Tea will follow the reading. Donations of snacks would be appreciated. This event will take place at 1:00 pm, on Saturday, May 25 at the Vatican Whole.

CLASSIFIED ADS

MOTHER’S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST at the St. Joseph’s Legion Hall 502 Harold St. Sicamous May 12, 8:30-11:00. Adults $10.00, Children $5.00. Everyone welcome.


THE ARROW LAKES Distributed Learning School students are pleased to present their show of their art at the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-226-7271 ext 401 or email Natbarn@futurebc.ca

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GENERAL ELECTION

Remember to Vote. Tuesday, May 14 is General Voting Day.

Do You Have This Card?

This card tells you where you can vote in the 2013 Provincial General Election. Take it with you when you go vote. If you do not have this card, visit the Elections BC website at elections.bc.ca, or call 1-800-661-8683 (toll-free).

Download our VOTEBC App for iPhones and iPads to find a voting location near you.

BC Has More Ways to Vote

All voters can:

Vote by Mail: You can ask for a Voting by Mail package from your district electoral office or through the Elections BC website at elections.bc.ca.

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day, May 14, 2013.

Vote at advance voting: Voters can attend any advance voting location in the province from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day, May 8 through Saturday, May 11. All advance voting locations are wheelchair accessible.

Who Can Vote?

You can vote if you are:

- 18 years of age or older, or will be 18 on General Voting Day (May 14, 2013)
- a Canadian citizen
- a resident of British Columbia for the past six months

You Can Register When You Vote

If you aren’t already registered, you can register when you vote. You will need identification that proves both your identity and current residential address.

Bring Identification

Under the Election Act, voters must prove their identity and residential address in order to receive a ballot or register to vote in conjunction with voting in a provincial general election or by-election. Voters may present identification, or use a process known as vouching. Some acceptable forms of identification and information on the vouching process are found below.

Option 1

A single document issued by the Government of BC or Canada that contains the voter’s name, photograph and residential address, such as a BC driver’s licence, BC Identification Card (BCID), or BC Services Card.

Option 2

A Certificate of Indian Status as issued by the Government of Canada.

Option 3

Two documents that together show the voter’s name and residential address. Both documents must show the voter’s name. At least one of the documents must also contain the voter’s residential address.

Please note: Digital or electronic documents (e.g., e-bills) are acceptable. Hand-written information on a document, photocopy or electronic scans/photos of a paper document are not acceptable.

The following are examples of the documents types authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer for the purposes of voter identification (the list of documents is illustrative, not exhaustive).

For more information visit Elections BC’s website at elections.bc.ca or call toll-free 1-800-661-8683.

Get our VOTEBC App for iPhones and iPads to find the closest voting place and for information you need to vote.

Or, contact your district electoral office.

Kootenay West

1998 McQuarrie St
Trail, BC

(250) 364-6108

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
May 8 – 11 and May 14 – 18 a.m. to 8 p.m.
WE Graham Community Service Society petitions school district to retain funding by Art Joyce

As if fighting for the lifeblood of their community, Holly Jack and Joanne Ellis of the WE Graham Community Service Society (WEGCSS) appeared before the School District #8 board to appeal a proposed funding cut. Last year, the society suffered a $25,000 cut to the annual funding received from the school district. A further $25,000 cut is being considered by the school district this year. Prior to 2012, the school district provided WEGCSS with $75,000 a year.

SLOANE VALLEY RECREATION

- Peanut TBall (4-6 yrs) - Registration ends May 31
- Spring Mushroom Expedition - Sun, May 12
- Drop-in Coffee time at Slocan Park Hall - Wed, May 8 (9:30 am-11:30 am)
- Stained Glass for Beginners - May 10, 17, and June 1 (Saturdays)
- Edible Fungi Walk - Sat, May 18
- Into the Dairy Cows - Sat, May 25
- View complete Spring/Summer Leisure Guide at www.rcky.bc.ca
- Register Early!

Ellis, who is retiring as director of the society, was present but allowed her successor Holly Jack to address the board. Jack explained that a cut to the society would have widespread impacts, since they serve clients throughout the Slocan Valley. Jack listed off an impressive array of social services, including art therapy programs, public internet access, a youth centre and skatepark, a food bank, mental health services for at-risk youth and adults, a seniors lunch program, and an employment counselor. In addition, grief and addictions counseling services are offered. After-school, recreational, cultural and summer programming helps both kids and their families to deal with the isolation of living in rural communities.

"Kids come from all over the valley to engage in recreation and socialization," Jack said.

The society has built links with various organizations providing services, including the Kootenay Art Therapy Institute, the Strong Start program, Kootenay Career Development Services, Kootenay Restorative Justice, and just this year partnered with Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. All in all, a very big bang for the buck. And for some, the centre has been a lifeline — literally.

"Services provided through WEGCSS have prevented suicides and enhanced the mental and emotional wellbeing of the student population," Jack explained.

"Such programs follow the new brain science and recognition of the importance of relationship and attachment, according to one professional connected with the centre."

Board members asked Jack what makes WEGCSS different from other community services centres in the West Kootenay. Jack answered that she has worked in Salmo and the Boundary region and felt that what distinguished the society was its sheer range of services. She added that in contrast to these other communities, the WEGCSS client base is much more spread out. At this point Ellis spoke up, pointing out that besides WEGCSS, there are basically "no services whatsoever" for the 4,000 people they serve in the valley.

"It started with two suicides and we realized we had to care for our children better," said Ellis. "There are huge transportation issues, then you add the poverty, and the fact that we've lost our major industry. A lot of the mothers that attend Strong Start have husbands who are working outside the valley."

Jack said she saw similar problems in the Boundary region from Midway to Bawverskell, where there are no such services offered.