Kaslo fire service referendum passes by a wide margin

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo will have a regional fire service and a new fire hall after Saturday’s referendum passed 456-242.

Voter turnout was 64 percent, and 65 percent of those who voted marked their ballot with a yes vote.

The vote authorizes the borrowing of $1,630,000. The construction of the new fire hall, adjacent to the arena is estimated to cost $1,029 million. The loan will also cover septic, hydro and furnishings for the new hall, and the Kaslo Fire Department’s debt of more than $300,000 owed on two trucks.

“The work needed facility will address the deficiencies noted from the audit conducted in 2019,” said Kaslo Fire Chief Larry Botky. “The audit stated the biggest risk to the fire fighters in Kaslo was the fire hall itself.”

Taxation for the fire service will just about double. A $300,000 home will be taxed $264.30, up from $134.70. A $800,000 business will pay $647.35, up from $330. However, the cost of the hall could come down substantially if community volunteers step up to the plate.

Still Eagle is landing in a new location on Baker Street, Nelson

submitted

After 22 successful years on Ward Street, one of Canada’s original eco-stores is moving. As of June 20, Still Eagle will be housed in the old Kootenai Moon space at 476 Baker Street.

Still Eagle has been Nelson’s iconic shop with a conscience for 22 years. Currently about eight staff provide clothing, household items, and all things eco not only to locals, but also as wholesalers to local stores and eco boutiques Canada-wide.

Still Eagle’s local and wholesale business has helped grow many successful local Kootenay businesses, including Nomad, Malia Devi, the Hempest, and more. They have long been bustling at the seams with web, wholesale, and retail ‘departments’ sharing a single office.

Plans to add staff, and broaden their selection, are in high gear as the new space is three times larger. Still Eagle will likely not be so ‘still’ over the next two months as they prepare for their new nest.

The good news for shoppers looking for a deal on eco-friendly clothing and accessories? Still Eagle is crankin’ up their May sidewalk sale on Ward St to a massive store-wide clearance so they have less old stock to move.

If you’ve liked previous sales, you’ll love this one. All old stock (previous seasons) 30 to 90% off (yes, that’s not a typo) – plus dozens of un-needed shelves, desks, filing cabinets, credenzas, store fixtures, and 22 years of accumulated and assorted treasures.

The Ward Street location will be open till at least June 30 to complete the clearance sale. Come to the Grand Opening on June 20. There will be balloons for sure, and some kind of super fun, as yet-to-be-determined event. Stay tuned for more news in the upcoming exciting weeks.

Studio Connexion Gallery is very proud to celebrate 5 years of Fine Art

May 17 to June 8 • Debra RUSFIELD
June 11 to June 29 • Elizabeth LAIHALEY
July 2 to July 13 • Suzanne SCHNEIDER
July 16 to August 1 • Sharon BAHMER
August 9 to 11 • Madeline WOOD & Dan CONNINGHAM
Sept. 3 to Sept. 21 • Holly WOODS & Denye MARSHALL
Sept. 24 to Oct. 12 • Barbara NAYE

Gallery Hours: 11 am to 4 pm Tuesday to Saturday
203 Fifth Avenue NW, Nakusp

A New Nest for

Good news for bargain hunters: Our weekend sidewalk sale (Friday May 17 to Monday, May 20) kicks off our Biggest Blow Out Sale Ever

All Old Stock 30 to 90% OFF

Grand opening (hopefully) June 20, Solstice
Still at 557 Ward St, Nelson, BC, until June 30. 476 Baker after June 20

Visitor Information - Page 18
Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society awards first grants at AGM

by Jan McMurray

It was a big moment for the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society (SVCLS) — and for the Slocan Valley community — when the society awarded its very first community grants. This happened at the SVCLS’s second AGM, held May 1 at WE Graham School. Much of the society’s work since it formed in 2011 has been preparing for this first granting cycle.

The Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society operates under the Opprey Foundation and manages the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund. The goal of this endowment fund is to create a sustainable source of funding for community groups in the valley. These first grants went to support Concerts in Care ($500), a group of professional musicians, primarily from the Kootenays, who put on concerts at long-term care facilities in the region; the Silverton Gallery ($1,310) for new chairs; Unity Music Festival ($1,800) to help put on the third annual festival; and a Financial Literacy Showdown ($1,100), a one-day event in November that will bring a wide range of groups together to raise awareness of the many services, programs and supports available that can reduce the financial pressures families face.

Craig Stowell, SVCLS board member and co-chair of the granting committee, reported that eight grant applications were received. Two did not meet the criteria, one was received late, and one was not successful.

“We came up with a way of looking at these grant applications objectively,” he said. “Our goal was to develop an accountable and transparent granting process that supports a healthy, resilient, vital community.”

This year, SVCLS focused on projects that clearly identified need — opportunity in the valley, showed innovation, connected with other groups, showed diversity, and spanned the valley. Stowell also said the process had a good look at the way applicants would measure their success.

At last year’s AGM, the board was asked that they protect themselves from conflict of interest. President Alex Berland gave a brief follow-up on this issue. “This is a very important issue in a small community, where people are applying for grants. We recognize that we need to be trusted and seen as ‘squeaky clean’ in the community, so we played this a lot,” he said. The result was a code of conduct, and policies on conflict of interest, confidentiality and privacy.

In Berland’s president’s report, he said that after last year’s AGM, the board obtained CBT funds to hire Derek Murphy to lead a strategic planning process. This resulted in a values statement and direction for working on policies.

Four committees were established with clear terms of reference, and volunteers were recruited to sit on the committees alongside board members. The four committees are: communication, granting, fund development, and governance.

The communications committee’s big job this year was to develop a website. Berland recognized the work of board member Adrian Wagner of Eldorado, who put many volunteer hours into this project.

The governance committee created policies and procedures so they are using Opprey Foundation policy as a starting point.

Slocan trading company opens up a showroom in Slocan City, and the Grand Opening on May 18 is not to be missed. The party features an amazing line-up of musicians, and starts at the store during the day before moving across the street to the Legion from 7 pm to 1 am.

The Slocan Trading Co. is an online trading company that deals in an eclectic variety of goods – antiques and collectibles, musical instruments, tools, art, celebrity memorabilia, boats etc. We also sell guitar strings and many more. Please be our guests on Saturday, May 18th at 10 a.m. for snacks and hospitality from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at our new showroom in Slocan. We also have some music featuring Canadian Blues Icon Big Dave McLean, the Drake Brothers, Steven and Adam, Kelly Jay Fordham of Crowbar, and a host of local and nationally known musicians for some easy listening at the shopfront from 2 U 5 P.M. There will be a dance at the Slocan Legion starting at 7 p.m. running until 1 a.m. in the evening. There will be a cover charge of 15 dollars at the Legion.

Phone 250-355-2299.
Slocan family and community mourn loss of Daniel Crossley
by Jan McMurray

The body of 18-year-old Daniel Crossley of Slocan was found in Slocan Lake near the Sprinuger Creek area early on May 1.

The mill manager discovered the body at about 11 a.m. and called the RCMP. The RCMP dive team was able to recover the body the next morning.

Daniel had been missing since April 23. Police report that foul play was not suspected and the coroner will be conducting an autopsy.

"It’s an incredible blow to us as a family and the loss to the community," said Daniel’s father, Dean Crossley. "There will be a hole in our hearts for a long time, perhaps our entire lives."

The Crossleys own the Harold Street Cafe in Slocan, and Daniel had been working there part-time for the last two years. He was his last year of high school, taking online courses from home, and had applied to go to university for engineering.

"He had so much potential, and had a servant heart—he was a very giving person," said Dean. "He loved to cook and be around the restaurant."

Dean said he would not speculate as to what may have happened, but Daniel was always joyful. "He was never depressed," said Dean. "He knew how to handle the troubles that came his way. He was daring—he would walk out on the booms and such. So there is a question mark in our minds as to what happened. We may never know."

The caring response from the community has been a huge help to the family. "During those eight days when we didn’t know where Daniel was, we were just so grateful for the support of the Slocan community, and for Search and Rescue and the individual teams that went into the mountains looking for him. During the time he was missing and since the body has been found, so many people have come by with words of encouragement—I have nothing but good things to say about the response of the community of Slocan."

A candlelight vigil was held in Slocan on Friday, May 3, with about 200 people walking from the school to the beach. Pat Ashton gave words of support and encouragement, and the community sang Amazing Grace, prayed for Daniel and the family. "It was a wonderful tribute to Daniel for which we are grateful as a family," said Dean.

A service will be held at Nelson Covenant Church on Monday, May 6, led by Jesse Lesch, pastor, and a personal friend of the Crossley family. Daniel’s three brothers spoke at the service, sharing some “hilarious stories,” according to Dean. “Their mother was surprised at some of the things that went on behind their parents’ backs!”

Dean says the family’s faith has given them strength, and a sense of peace and comfort. “It’s natural for people to want to explain the why of these things, but we can’t always do that. We believe God is in control of the circumstances of our lives and our son Daniel is in a better place, and we’ll be with him."

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July 31, 2013

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Winners will be recognized and honoured at an awards ceremony in September.

To make a nomination or for more information on the Representative’s Awards, including previous awards, visit www.npea.ca

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Community Calendar

Thursday, May 16

Worldwide Open House
Community Simms House, Nelson 11:30-1:30pm

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

Lest We Forget Society AGM
Hidden Gallery Café 8:30 pm

Lindley Walker
Silverton Gallery 7 pm

Friday, May 17

ND Community Market Society AGM
Manko’s Brewing Co. Café 6 pm

Saturday, May 18

Kaslo Loggers Sports
Logger Sports Grounds, Kaslo 11:30am-1:30pm

Nakusp Farmers Market
5th Ave, Nakusp 9:45am-1:45pm

Drink On! Lakefront City Trading Company Maple Street, Kaslo 4-6 pm

Sunday, May 19

Kaslo Loggers Sports
Logger Sports Grounds, Kaslo 11:30am-1:30pm

Nakusp Farmers Market
5th Ave, Nakusp 9:45am-1:45pm

Kaslo Loggers Sports
Logger Sports Grounds, Kaslo 11:30am-1:30pm

Monday, May 20

Tin Man
Valley View Golf Club 7 pm

Tuesday, May 21

Shelton Council
Council Chambers 7 pm

Preservation to Honey Farm
Kaslo 7 pm

Wednesday, May 22

Public Board Meeting, P.R.W.E. Lighthouse Theatre, Kaslo 7 pm

Nakusp Trails Society Rail to Trails
Nakusp Kaslo 7 pm

Thursday, May 23

Nakusp Heritage Trail Soc. A.C.T. 
Parkesmore Hall 7 pm

Friday, May 24

Meet Words Under M.L. Leke Longhorn Cultural Centre, Kaslo 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 25

Penney Bennett Celebration of Life
Vancouver Church 1 pm

Mem’r Theatre’s The Fantasticks
Silverton Gallery 8 pm

Sunday, May 26

Nico Jordan, author
Kaslo Library 7 pm

Skookum signage dedication
Mist Lake 3 pm

Monday, May 27

Nakusp Council
Council Chambers 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 28

Community Supper with Children
New Denver Historic Site 6:30 pm

New Omen Hospice Society AGM
New Omen Hospice Office 7 pm

New Omen Council
Council Chambers 7 pm

Kaslo Council
Council Chambers 7 pm

Wednesday, May 29

WAGS Open House
Slocan Valley School 7 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave

Communities in Bloom - Celebrating Our Communities

Save the Date
May 31, 2013

Slocan Lake Arena

Society hosting a Dress Up Family Dance. Come celebrate with Cyprus, Daniella, Margaret, Marlowe and Mercedez.

All girls will be dressed in their finery. Music by Snow Board instructor, Mckee! Everyone is welcome! Donations to the Arena Society will be appreciated.

There will be beverages and snacks for a small donation. This is a non-alcohol event.

Pipeline and Tanker Free BC events have taken flight

On June 1, Alex Atanamowin will host an informal panel and round table discussion entitled “Pipeline, Tankers and Energy Policy” at the United Church in Nelson. Thursday evening, featuring NDP Energy and Natural Resource critic MP Peter Julian, and special guests.

The next day, GATHERING OF EAGLES: Convergence for a Pipeline and Tanker Free BC” will land at the Brilliant Cultural Centre near Castlegar, 1 pm to 5:30 pm. The event will clarify the impacts of the proposed Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan pipelines, on suite bills C-38 and C-45, and increased tar sands production, along with options which will best serve BC.

Everyone is welcome to arrive early, at 10 am, to participate in a special Dockahh-first Nations prayer meeting, lead by Ernie Vergi, with emphasis on prayers for the Earth.

This event will feature Chief Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs; Joel Phillip, Pentiction Band councillor; Gerald Amos, former chief councillor of the Haisla First Nations, Kitimat; MP Peter Julian; First Nations traditional prayers.
Boggling the Burton Flats

As typical, during the recent Easter long weekend, locals once again witnessed a dozen or more fun-seekers park their motor bikes, campers and trailers on the flats, establishing their presence by doing their stuff on motor bikes, ATVs and pickups – boggling across the alluvial fan, criss-crossing the creek, and of course ... getting stuck.

In response to complaints by locals of non-compliant activities, it became apparent the dragon had no teeth. Being the long weekend, the only jurisdictional compliance officer was off duty while the local blue and white’s response was “it’s a Forestry thing, we have a limited staff on call for the weekend and I’ll pass with new due to whether or not he’s able to commit the manpower required to do the following.

That success has been short lived, however, because of a years-old tradition of coming to Burton to bug. This shows how frightening the all-inclusive white and blue, and complete disregard for our collective achievements. Apparently, boggling the flats during spring long weekends is deemed an inherent right to have some fun.

Enter the provincial dragon with signs posting “No Mud Bogging – fines attached for violators.” However, within the past few years these signs have mysteriously disappeared. I am sure they were not removed or destroyed by Burtonites.

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.
More marginalization of the Sinxit

Writing from my native England, as a one-time resident of the Slocan Valley and Nelson, I have a great love and concern for the people of the West Kootenay and continue to read The Valley Voice with great interest.

I am sure many others will find it especially ironic that in the April 17, 2013 edition, it was reported (on p. 6) that the Kaslo boat launch project had been delayed due to the discovery of ancient artifacts and that archeological resources are being protected by the Okanagan Indian Band's approval of the project. In the same edition (on p. 12) was an article about the Kasnina Nation's non-aggression agreement with Wensley Bench.

Meanwhile, for the past 25 years, the Sinxit have been struggling to emerge from deemed extinction and assert their right to consultation regarding development in their ancestral lands, which includes both Wensley Bench and Kasnina. This was the result of ethnological and anthropological surveys and records (see Cliff Woolfenden's account in the May 1, 2013 issue).

The Kaslo pier, a closed door collision with the government, it is the Okanagan Nation that appears to have some kind of relationship with and jurisdiction over Kaslo, which is geographically closer to Kasnina ancestral lands than Wensley Bench, which is geographically closer to traditional Okanagan Nation lands. Does this not strike one as rather strange?

In 1987-1990, it was the Sinxit who fought to successfully repatriate ancestral remains removed during archeological exploration at Nelson, BC in the early 1980s. At the time of the dig, it was the Kasnina who were consulted and who apparently had no objection to removal of the remains. Which seems to suggest that the Sinxit were not of their own ancestors. Nor did the Okanagan Nation take any interest in this in their teminable cultural matter. And for political reasons, despite knowledge of their existence, it was decided at the time not to inform the Sinxit.

Since 1987, the Sinxit have taken up their role as stewards of the lands and have limited themselves back into the community. Yet once again, the Sinxit have been marginalized. And in a way, it follows that residents of the whole area have also been marginalized; pawns in a power-game with a hidden and suspect agenda.

Colin Gruny

Telus responds to useless cell service

Last Sunday, I went downtown to "talk" to my bank department, and voiced my disgust with the placement of their cell tower in New Denver. It should be high on the mountain, where it could service the back roads. Telus called me the cell next day; the fellow on the phone was concerned about my problem, and told me he was going to send my letter up the corporate ladder. If more people would complain, maybe Telus would do something about it.

Here's what my complaint was about: access coverage on a back road.

My friend Kaye and I were driving in Kaslo, and asks Armin and I if we would like to go up one of the back roads to a lake. We said sure, so we took his pickup truck and went. 23 kms up. East Wilson Creek road we went until we can't go any further — the snow is roughly 10 inches deep on the road. Karen turns the truck around and asks Kaye to come over and look at it. We turned the truck around and asked Armin and Kaye to come over and look at it. Kaye's dog Snuffie had a blast rolling in the snow. When we got back to the truck it wouldn't start, so we had to walk back down the mountain, and I called no cell — no cell service. I figured if we walked for a bit, we could maybe get service.

Then we decided if we pushed the truck, it should roll down at least a little further down the mountain, and maybe there'd be a service there, so we pushed a little and it jumped on the back bumper. Whoa!

Then, it stalled again. We left man in the truck and walked about a kilometer up the road. No luck, so we started back, turned to start it again and it worked, so we drove off and made it about 15 km when it stopped again. Still no cell service.

It was by this, it was a short drive to get dark. We talked it over, figuring out one of us could walk the 8 km or so to the highway; it would still have taken time but it wasn't as bad as the original 23 km. I left with the dog, Kaye stayed with snow.

I get a couple of kms up the lake and heard a truck behind me; a real nice phone call from Kaye, who is up on the mountain. Gotta make a call, turn around and get out after the snow.

The phone is a non-renewable resource, the people of Kaslo are the owners, and the council is the custodian.

Kaslo council and process

When the Village of Kaslo council chooses to dispose of our assets or fund costs, the process must be transparent.

In this year's budget, Kaslo council has identified $147,500 of expenditures for projects at the airport. To support this expenditure, an unsigned document was submitted to the March 7 council meeting outlining the work for the airport; business park and includes the construction of a new airport north bypass road as well as upgrades to the airport south bypass road.

The document stated that the south bypass road was recently constructed by the council and a detailed cost analysis for it was never produced.

On May 9, 2013, the council placed an ad in the local paper offering a rather confusing disposition of land/lease/lease agreement with a deadline and a minimum upset price. Three bids were submitted before the deadline from qualified bidders who met all the requirements. The bids were opened by the clerk and she stated that the opened bids would go the regular council meeting in mid-June.

At that meeting, council received the bids and they chose to delay the process by referring it to a committee meeting to be held in the next week. At that meeting, ran again around asking the members for feedback, the bidders, the council chose to enter into negotiations with the three bidders who were present and then attempted to turn it into an auction. Ultimately an auction was taken by the council so they asked the bidders to negotiate amongst themselves and come back to council.

My concern is observing this is that the next step council may entertain would be to authorize the spending of the $147,500 budgeted for the airport road development and this process could meet the same rate.

Also, if a contractor gains control of the Village of Kaslo gravel pit, they could rip up any road construction or any other projects such as water lines come up for bidding and the Village needs gravel.

Additionally, the Ministry of Highways has stated in the past that this particular gravel from this pit is the best gravel in the area for use in asphalt paving.

The gravel is a non-renewable resource, the people of Kaslo are the owners, and the council is the custodian.

Scraping HST not good for local business

I keep reading how people misunderstand how the HST worked, how everyone is having a great time and why we have to keep the HST.

HST is an educational tax which in the country where that language is spoken. And it's a country technically developed and in the forefront of anything marketing and economic advancement. And there are no smart meters anywhere, from the North Sea right down, or rather up, the Alps.

If the average person gets your offer from the door, the meter reader comes once a month and notes down what he reads on the meter.

It's free, somwhe more removed from the more populated centres, the power supplier leaves you a stack of cards on which you note down what you read on the meter and send it in once a month. This is the same we did years ago here in the winter time, when the meter reader would have to walk 100 metres through deep snow.

In another area, the meter reader comes every three months.

"Smart Meters — what's in it for us?" Did you ask me back in Dutch when I asked them about them. I never heard any complaints about failing meters or over billing, either.

Our electrical supply cut last winter due to our electric company's problem. Our bill was $184.96, our trouble # 1 888 769 3766 a few minutes later..."Your power supply is interrupted by a tree falling across the lines."

I expect the power to be restored by 5.30 pm..." our answer. The power was on by 5.10 pm. Why do we need smart meters for better surveillance of the system?"

To spend a billion dollars for the installation of a system that seems to malfunction frequently and needs replacing within 15-20 years when the present system seems to be working for at least 40 years is totally insane.

I do not believe the engineers of BC Hydro would force such a thing on us.

I worked with some of them 40 years ago, they are not a force of nature, and of course I don't think the Commission will spend $1 billion on HST. Of course I don't think the Commission will spend $1 billion on HST.

The following is an example from my 20 year-old Slocan Valley business and how the loss of the HST affects us. My little soap company competes on a national scale. We sell across Canada, so when Ottawa agreed to the HST, BC to remain competitive had to bring in the HST. I received a reduced under the HST system for all of my purchases within my business that was taxed by HST. So if my purchases were $112,000, I would receive $12,000 back. So that is $12,000 less expense.

I do not like the HST, as a major Olympic competition is in Canada this year and the playing field if we both have HST.

The HST was easy to administer. Now under the PST, I don't get changed for anything anymore. I have to go out and buy a soap and any direct packaging. Products that will be resold are not charged PST. However, to send our soaps through the Distinctive Dreams I have to purchase six soaps in a box, put those six soap boxes in a shipping box, and wrap all the boxes with shrink wrap on a pallet. All the items that we used to ship to market are taxed 7% now. I use the same box maker for our soap boxes and six-pack boxes. So for every product that we ship to market are taxed 7% now. The PST, tape for labels — no PST. There are so many PST rules, it is mind boggling. Price product is very complicated.

The HST eliminated double taxation. When a business is supplying a product or service, their pricing is reflective of their expenses. BC products will have to be more expensive because the businesses are PST taxed and then taxed at purchase. So when you purchase our soap, you are paying taxes that have already been paid. Otherwise, the province that BC products are being sold in and products, has a huge advantage over BC. Ontario businesses were jumping with glee at the monopoly demised in BC and the PST, tape for labels — no PST. The PST is going to cost us several thousand this year in increased expense.

So the NDP's solution is to grow the economy and help small business — increase workplace training. But according to the NDP platform, they are going to increase corporate taxes and fuel taxes, so they are going to increase business expenses even more.

Nina George

Crescent Valley
Peace Café speaker discusses economics of happiness

by Art Joyce

At a time when the economics of consumerism are clearly surpassing the limits of sustainability, what value will help create a more sustainable local economy? This was one of the central questions in the Peace Café held at the Bronson Hall on May 9. Sponsored by the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk.

ROCK Resource Recovery Facilities

COMMUNITY

HOURS OF OPERATION

All Waste Facilities will be CLOSED on Monday May 20, 2013
Summer hours will be in effect at Edgewood Transfer station with additional opening on Sundays from May 19th, 2013 (12 noon to 4:00pm)

For more information contact the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 1-800-667-4321 or the ROCK at 1-800-288-7325 or our website: www.rock.bc.ca

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Weaving aboriginal education into Arrow Lakes schools

by Jan McMurray

Aboriginal education in Arrow Lakes School District 10 was the topic of public consultation meetings in New Denver May 8 and Nakusp May 9, as part of a review of the Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement.

The New Denver session was sparsely attended, allowing for an intense conversation with members of the Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Education Council (ALAEEC) about aboriginal education in the district.

Schools/IDU: It’s recognized in the province for embedding aboriginal education into all schools and as many classrooms as possible, said Terry Taylor, aboriginal education coordinator for SD40 and member of the ALAEEC.

Most school districts have separate aboriginal education programs for aboriginal students only. We’re one of the few school districts where we have aboriginal education for all students, said Gaiushka Silverfox-Dunn, an elders and member of ALAEEC. Taylor added that the Ministry of Education is now putting out the message that aboriginal education is for all students, noting that SD10 is “shaped of the game.”

The ALAEEC members at the meeting agreed that there is more awareness and acceptance of aboriginal culture both in the schools and in the wider community since the agreement was signed three years ago. In the schools, more and more students are self-identifying as having aboriginal ancestry as it becomes “safer” to do so. Taylor said she feels a ripple effect in the community when people come out and see students’ projects at events such as the National Aboriginal Day celebrations and the recent UBC Writers’ Coffeehouse.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Council

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HOT SPRING OPERATOR (Casual)

GENERAL OUTLINE – Hours of work will vary depending on scheduling and will require evening and weekend end shifts.

Duties are specific to the operation and maintenance of the Hot Springs Facility.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS – include grade 12, RPACT Pool Operator Level 1, first aid, chlorine handling, WHMIS, and food safe certificate. A detailed description and list of minimum requirements is available from the Village.

RATE OF PAY – As per the Collective Agreement, rate of pay will be $18.05 hour for the probationary period.

This Temporary Position is available from the end of May – October 14, 2013.

Applications are requested to submit resumes with copies of all certifications to the Village of Nakusp Box 280, VOG 1R0 or drop off in person at 91-1 Street NW, Nakusp, BC.

The Village thanks all who apply however only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. This posting will remain open until the position is filled.

The Village of Nakusp

Employment Opportunity

One of the two positions for the Village of Nakusp is for the Hot Springs Operator. The position is for a Casual Employment. The position is aimed at a person who is willing to work evening and weekend shifts. The position is for a minimum of 12 months. The pay is $18.05 per hour.

The position is a part-time position, and the hours of work will vary depending on the scheduling and requirements of the Hot Springs Facility. The duties of the position are specific to the operation and maintenance of the Hot Springs Facility.

The minimum requirements for the position include a grade 12 RPACT Pool Operator Level 1, first aid, chlorine handling, WHMIS, and food safe certificate.

The rate of pay for the position is $18.05 per hour for the probationary period, and the position is available from the end of May to October 14, 2013.
SLOCCAL VALLEY

Rosebery-Summit Lake trail: concerns raised over new application for tenure

by Jan McMurray

The Rosebery-Summit Lake rail trail was a hot topic once again at the RDC (Rosebery Galena Trail Commission) meeting of May 9.

The fact that the North Slocan Trail Society (NSTS) has applied for a non-motorized recreational tenure on the rail-trail, still under consideration by the RDC, of “subverting” the RDC process, and the motorized vs. non-motorized use of the trail.

The RDC has not given up on obtaining tenure for this trail, even though it withdrew its application in February because the Province placed some costly conditions on that approval of the tenure. When faced with these conditions (a survey of the trail, an archaeological assessment, a (submittal plan, Maps of Transportation approval of the entrance and exit points, etc.), estimated to cost $200,000-$250,000, the RDC decided to withdraw the application and set up a sub-committee of the Galena Trail Commission to work with RDC staff on a business case for the trail.

One of the Galena Trail commission紫色: Miha Koolen, on the sub-committee and is also a director on the board of the NSTS. Some commissioners felt this put him in a conflict of interest situation, and that the NSTS was “subverting” the RDC/ Galena Trail Commission process by submitting the application for tenure.

“When members of the group act without informing us, serious questions are raised,” said Commissioner Ian Finn. “You have only been working on this, I believe, are a member of another group trying to subvert the process we’re working on.”

Koolen explained that the NSTS submitted the application because maintenance work on the trail is sorely needed. “I feel that someone needs to be an advocate for the trail,” said Koolen. “There has been a gigantic neglect since the railway was abandoned. Although volunteers are working on the trail, there are needs that need to be addressed. I don’t see any immediate outcomes with our [RDC] process, and someone has to take care of this trail.”

Koolen indicated that if the NSTS application is successful and the RDC decides it wants the tenure, something could be worked out. “In the meantime, someone needs to look after the trail.”

He said water management to minimize further damage was the priority, and the NSTS wants to raise funds and use its volunteers to do this.

For asked Koolen why the NSTS had specifically applied for the trail to be non-motorized. “Knowing that motorized vs. non-motorized is a hot button issue and probably kept the trail from going forward 20 years ago, why not consider a motorized trail? Why not bring all the groups together?” he asked.

Koolen replied that the NSTS’s mission is to develop and maintain a non-motorized trail. “We can’t apply for motorized use of the trail as a society because of our mission,” he explained. “We can’t raise funds on the basis of our motorized mission and then turn around and go against it.”

Koolen said the Province would conduct a public consultation process and would determine “what’s best for the trail.” He said there were three possible outcomes for the NSTS application: it could be accepted as applied for, accepted with modifications, or refused.

While some commissioners felt that Koolen was in a conflict of interest situation by sitting on the RDC, Koolen(submitted) and on the NSTS Board of directors, others felt he was not. The commission will ask RDC staff for a rating on this, but in any case, Koolen said he had no problem resigning from the sub-committee.

Two of the commissioners said they had no problem with the NSTS application, pointing out that any group can apply for the tenure. Director Popoff confirmed this, and added that more than one group can hold tenure on the same trail.

He assured the Commission that the Province is aware the RDC has an interest in the Rosebery-Summit Lake trail, and will keep the RDC informed about all applications.

“lt’s good there is more than one interested party,” said Popoff. “My intent is to make that trail available for public recreation.”

Popoff also advised Koolen to contact the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, which takes care of the rail trail in the south valley. The agreement SVHTS has with the Ministry of Tourism expires in one year, and Popoff said the ministry is talking about adding amenity conditions on the renewal of that agreement.

On the issue of whether the Rosebery-Summit Lake trail will be motorized or non-motorized, Popoff said “I don’t think it is beneficial for our community for the Province to say, ‘This shall be motorized or non-motorized.’ I think the community should make that decision.”

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

Recreation Commission #6 - Silvertown representatives needed

The Village of Silvertown is looking to appoint two Silvertown residents to sit on the Recreation Commission #6 as a representative and alternate.

Please contact the Village Office for details at 250 368-2472 or email mmcalvins@silvertown.ca

Small fire at Red Mountain Road interface project

by Jan McMurray

A small fire broke out on the Red Mountain Road near the current wildland-urban interface fire project on Friday, May 3 between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

The New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department was called in and extinguished the fire. The south entrance of Red Mountain Road was closed until about 10 p.m. “We don’t know exactly what happened - it’s still scratching my head over it,” said Stephen Martinson of the Slocan Integrated Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo), which is in charge of the wildland-urban interface project.

There was very little damage done, as the fire stayed on the ground and was very easy to put out. Doug Fisher, fire chief for the volunteer fire department, said that this was proof that fuel treatment projects are effective. The fire broke out about one metre from a SIFCo burn pile that had stopped burning the day before. Martinson said they usually check fire piles one day, but because of the hot, dry, windy weather, the crew had been checking on the piles twice a day to make sure they were out.

“That fire would have been checked six times since it went out on the Tuesday - twice on Wednesday, twice on Thursday and twice on Friday,” said Martinson.

MESSAGE

To: Parents of children in grades K-5

From: Staff of W. E. Graham Community School

Did you know?

> Your choice for schooling your children can have a big impact on our community school

> If about 5 more students registered in grades K-2 and about 5 more students registered in grades 3-5 then it is a good chance we would have the following grade configurations and numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>14</td>
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Why not support your community school by registering your child here for September?

For information call W. E. Graham Community School: 250 555 2212.

 contre emploi / emploi pour la population

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the Works 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, distribution lines, drainage ditches and ditches, as well as road works, signs, sidewalks, waste water operations and winter 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 is included.

Hours of Work

This is a full time position, with a minimum of 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 water 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 working within a team environment
- Valid BC Class 5 Driver’s License

Preferred Qualifications

- Small Water System EOCP Water Distribution Certificate
- Level 1 First Aid

Current resumes reflecting applicants’ knowledge, skills and abilities related to the position and proof of education, qualifications 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 Lefleur, CAC – PO Box 14, Silverton BC V0G 2B0 or to blaffeur@ silverton.ca
**KASLO & DISTRICT**

**JLV staff working to find creative solutions to declining enrolment**

At the School District #8 board meeting held at JV Humphries School in Kaslo May 7, a group of JLV staff gave a presentation entitled "JLV responds to the needs of the 21st century learner." The staff reviewed some of the exciting processes the school has gone through as it continues to look at creative ways to deal with declining enrolment while keeping the school a vibrant learning environment.

In the secondary:

We have now completed our core selection conversation with the secondary students. This conversation started with these three Big Picture questions quite similar to those we asked the parents in the fall:

What have been some of the most successful learning experiences for you this year?

What strategies or procedures were challenges for your learning this year?

What some of this year's secondary wide activities that we should do again next year and why?

These questions gave us a better understanding of our learners. The answers varied widely but the themes that emerged were:

1. Students get the most out of activities with a real, meaningful purpose.
2. Students valued learning that went beyond the book into the real world.
3. Students valued getting out of the classroom into the world.
4. Students valued school-wide activities that promoted fun, teamwork and creativity.

We also gave them a list of major themes for electives that will help us group our interests.

We have adopted a new timetable for next year that will provide us with much more flexibility to do project based learning. We will start everyday with a goal setting time. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will have longer blocks to permit more time for deeper exploration of the content.

Wednesday is set aside for the electives. This time will focus on major themes such as food production, rock band/Outdoor Ed. Students will have one elective in the morning, one in the afternoon. This will give us time for extended experiences that will promote project based learning.

In the elementary:

The staff brainstormed a whole series of activities that will involve more multi-age connections, more experiences beyond the classrooms walls and more opportunities to do project based learning.

Here is the list of these exciting possibilities:

- Partnering between Grade 12s and Grade 2s. Keep up primary playground together. Plan Easter, Santa writing and gardening with them too.
- Combination of classes. Ski trips.
- Blended classes in Intermediate.
- Intermediate/Secondary joint activities.

The Festival features three homegrown Kaslo performing acts on its Maple Stage. Approaching Normal is a four-piece original rock band, which may be celebrating the release of their first CD right around Jazz Fest weekend. Moonshiner is a guitar and voice duo performing jazz standards and ballads. The Jen Van Gold Band is an original funk rock trio with a retro psychodelic flavour and progressive arrangements. Their groove-laden songs easily move from strong funk dance beats to odd time signatures to slow, improvisational guitar voicings, often within the same song.

Look for all the details about schedules and tickets at www.kaslojazzfest.com.

**2013 Kaslo Jazz Fest features lots of Kootenay talent**

The 22nd annual Kaslo Jazz Festival features world-class performers from all over the world to celebrate the local Kootenay talent to showcase as well. On our Main Stage, the festival audience will be treated to a quartet fronted by jazz clarinetist, Melody Doucha. Melody teaches at Selkirk College and is also an in demand singer across Canada, hailed as “…a jazz singer of the first order.”

With several albums to her credit, Melody is noted for performing “original material that catches the ear” (The Vancouver Sun).

Over the years, she has performed and recorded with other Canadian jazz greats including Tom Keenlyside, Dave Sturovski, Tilden Webb and others. Melody appears in her own episode of the television series, JAZZMAN. The show features Melody performing original compositions and airs regularly on BRAVOtv, The BET Network and Cool TV. Her songs are on regular rotation on national, local and college radio including Magic 99, and CBC's TUNIC, Disc Drive, After Hours, L'Escafe Jazz, Jett Air, and many others.

Also on the Main Stage, Clinton Swanson fronts a Nelson based blues project for the express dancing pleasure of the Kaslo audience. Troy Farnese (drums), Billy Mendoza (bass and vocals), Doug Stephenson (guitar) and band leader Clinton Swanson submitted by Randy Morse.

**JLV’s Tempest blows reviewer away**

First an admission: my children are long-grown up, I attend school concerts and plays these days more for a sense of nostalgia and loyalty to friends in the teaching profession than because I expect to be entertained.

So you can imagine my shock—and delight—when the opening scene of J.V. Humphries School’s The Tempest completely blew my socks off. The set design and lighting were stellar, kudos to Paul van Deuren. The costumes were astonishingly good, most of them created outside of the either by a band of talented local seamstresses.

Then there was the dancing. When I heard this adaptation by JLV’s queen of drama, Jill Holland, of the Bard’s final play was to include music and dance—I remember, this was a school play—my cynical flag flew. I stood charged. The dancers were fantastic, the music just right, and the choreography by Lynette Lightfoot, remarkable.

And as for the acting, I hardly know where to begin. Kids attempting to tackle Shakespeare usually reminds me of trailer parks and tomatoes—the combination is always messy, and seldom works well. Not this time. Seven-born Cockrell as the sweeney and rightful Duchess of Milan, Prospera, was a revelation. By turns lovely and haughty, volatile and vulnerable, she handled the play’s lead role with remarkable aplomb. Ellie Hewett as the petrach Ariel was full of youthful exuberance and energy, impossible not to like as she flirted about the stage. I also must single out Jassy Lay as the masquer Caliban, whose physically was astonishing. Gillis Lastwood who played the drunken sailor Stephano with real gusto, and Ryan Tate, whose jests, Trinculo, was Stratford-worthy.

Truly, there were no acting weak links here. Throughout The Tempest I had to keep reminding myself that Ms. Holland was only able to draw upon a group of 30 students to put on this amazing evening’s entertainment. I can only shake my head in bemused admiration. I walked out of the school’s theatre feeling thoroughly entertained, and convinced that drama should be made mandatory immediately, from Grade 7 on, in every school in BC.

And that Jill Holland should be put in charge of the whole show.

**Japanese plays and dinner at the Langham**

Celebrating Asian Canadian Heritage Month, the Langham Cultural Centre presents two Kyogen plays—a form of traditional Japanese comic theatre—recognized by UNESCO in 1991 as a masterpiece of oral world heritage. Kyogen is a fusion of dance, music and acting with satirical humour, and addresses worldly concerns of greed and vanity, and the pleasures of witty banter. The first play, Bo Shibari or ‘Tied to a Pole’ is an English translation of a Japanese Kyogen in which the characters manage to become progressively drunk even though they are tied to a pole. The second one, The Not Naming Contest is a contemporary satire about North Kootenay Lake’s life in traditional Kyogen format.

The plays will be performed by JLV drama students and other Kootenays, and directed by Robert Banks Foster. After the plays, an Asian dinner will be served culminating with Chaio (Japanese tea ceremony). In many Asian cultures food and tea are typically part of celebrations often shared with family, friends and neighbours and symbolize hospitality, happiness, cleanliness and peace.

Please join us May 24 at 6:30pm at the Langham Theatre, Kaslo. Admission and dinner are free.
Selkirk College Strategic Plan presented in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Selkirk College’s new five-year strategic plan (2013-2018) was presented at the Nakusp campus on May 1 by Angus Green, president. The development of the plan began last year, and included a comprehensive consultation process with students, employees, communities, and the college’s board of governors. An impressive 2,455 ideas were generated from this process.

Faced with compiling all these ideas into a plan, the college hired a Roseland company to put them all into a computer program. Greenlee indicated that the computer program helped to create a “useable” plan. “The last strategic plan I helped develop, we ended up with directions that were too high level and vague. People had a hard time grappling onto those and doing something with them,” he said.

This new plan is very practical, with five strategic directions, built on five fundamental principles. The five fundamental principles are:

- focus on the learner, teaching excellence, community engagement and innovation, a healthy workforce, and sustainability of the college.
- Five strategic directions are: increase enrollments, develop innovative programs, modernize infrastructure, support 21st century learning environments, expand on community development and innovation, and the employer of choice for the region.
- Financial Environment. Greenlee said the college will focus on recruitment, retention and program quality and relevancy.

“The today’s young person is highly mobile and flexible, so they will go somewhere unless we have what they want,” said Greenlee.

Online recruitment efforts are being ramped up with a new website and the use of social media (Facebook and Twitter), and retention efforts will focus on student success. “The college has been good at being accessible, but success is something we could work on,” he said.

The average age of a Selkirk student is 26, and the fastest growing student demographic is 46+. Numbers in the younger age groups are declining. Greenlee would like to see more students coming into college straight from high school or from their gap year. He said one of the reasons they don’t is a cultural attitude that “if it’s local, it’s not quality,” but Selkirk College has a very good reputation province-wide as a quality post-secondary institution. Greenlee also pointed out that it is a good choice economically. Almost all courses at Selkirk are transferable to universities, and the tuition fee is about half.

“We want to work away from the college being Plan B. We want to be Plan A in the region,” he said.

Both the Silver King (Nelson) and Castlegar campuses, built in the 1960s, need upgrades, “so we will be going to the government with this after the election,” he said.

The Nakusp campus makes up 2.3 percent of total Selkirk College enrolment. In 2011, there were 1,997 students enrolled in Nakusp. In 2010, there were 1,997 and in 2009, there were 2,147.

Kuskanax Mountain Trail ready to roll this summer

by Jan McMurray

The Kuskanax Mountain Trail near Nakusp is expected to be completed in mid-July this year. This is good news for those who like challenging trails—the climb from the trailhead at Hot Springs Road to the summit is 7.2 kilometres long and has an elevation gain of 1,480 metres. Last year saw the most difficult section of the trail built toward the summit of Kuskanax Mountain, with an elevation gain of 600 metres. This year, the crew will continue the trail along the ridge for an elevation gain of approximately 300 metres to the summit, and then down to Turner Road.

The Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society has received grants from the Nakusp Legion ($250), BC Hydro ($1,000) and the CBT Community Initiatives and Affected Area Enabling program ($9,000) for this year’s work on the trail. Barb Chwacka, society president, said they would hire two or three local people for the job this year, and it would take them about 20 days to finish.

“I hope this will just be the beginning,” said Chwacka. The society works with the Ministry of Forests to get the signage done, and the ministry covers the cost.

Kamloops and some Burton members will be competing. Activities start back up again in September, starting with an executive meeting September 9 and the regular meeting September 16. If you have ideas for upcoming season for activities, let someone on the executive know.

Enjoy your summer. Now is the time to plan what you will enter in the Burton Fall Fair September 5. So get growing those garden veggies and flower and get your lawns and turfs ready. There are currently 70 members, so there should be at least 70 entries for sure.

Burton Seniors’ 124 news

submitted by Gale Deets

Great food! Great company! Good cheer! Burton Seniors held their final potluck on Thursday, April 25 at the Burton Hall. The theme was Chinese and there was no lack of different dishes to try. Those attending really enjoyed the evening.

The group’s next meeting is May 13 at 10 am in the United Church basement. The final wind-up barbeque for the season will be held in June.

The Seniors’ Citizens’ Association of BC AGM will be held June 13-15 in Castlegar, and a Burton delegate will attend.

The annual picnic for West-Kootenay Boundary Regional Seniors will be held June 25 at Grand Forks at 11 am. All seniors are welcome.

The BC Seniors’ Games are in

PUBLIC MEETING

Nakusp to Summit Lake

RAILS TO TRAILS

Wednesday, May 22

7:00 pm

Legion Hall, Nakusp

The Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society invites everyone to a public input opportunity to discuss the recreational use and stewardship of the old rail bed.

*The portion of the rail bed that will be discussed begins at the Village of Nakusp municipal boundary and ends at the Area K boundary on Summit Lake road.

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Nakusp & Area Community Forest

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013

SELKIRK COLLEGE – NAKUSP (311 BROADWAY ST)

7:00 – 8:00 PM

COME AND CHECK OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY FOREST

PROJECT INFORMATION AND MAPS WILL BE PRESENTED

MEMBERS OF NACFOR’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT GROUP WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS THE PROJECTS

PLEASE CALL THE NACFOR OFFICE AT 250-265-3656 FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.NACFORCommunityForest.com
submitted
Planned as a kickoff to BC Seniors’ Week (June 2-8), the second Seniors’ Resource Fair will take place May 31 from 10 am - 3 pm at the Nakusp Arena and Auditorium.

Organized by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL), this free event is intended to help seniors and their families gather important information and learn about services and businesses which can enhance quality of life and directly benefit older adults. Fair participants will have the opportunity to meet with service providers and listen to a range of speakers offering important information on the subject of aging.

The fair also presents a prime learning opportunity to those who are caring for an older adult. As a family caregiver, it is important to learn about all the resources in your community which can assist your parent or relative.

Last year, more than 160 people attended the fair and it is hoped that this year’s event will be equally successful.

Based on community feedback and interest, the planning committee has expanded the number of information tables, and a larger and broader range of programs and services will be represented. New vendors this year include Canadian Hearing Care and Edward Jones financial specialists from Revelstoke, and MEC/REI from Castlegar. In addition, alternative health practitioners from Nakusp will be on hand to provide information and offer free acupuncture massages and reflexology.

Fair organizers have invited speakers to share information about topics important to older adults’ health and well-being. The line up is: 11 am - Shannon Paul, D.O.C., Body, Mind and Spirit: the Benefits of Physical Activity; 11:30 - Julie Leffel, “Living with Dementia”; 1 pm - Theresa Weatherhead, “Sensuality and Aging”; 1:30 pm - Karen Friel, “Hearing Loss and Communication.”

Shon’s Bike & Ski opens in Nakusp
by Jan McMurray

Shon’s Bike & Ski is a new business in Nakusp and is celebrating its opening with a huge sale throughout May. Everything is 10 to 60 per cent off, and one lucky customer will win a bike.

Shon’s sells, services and rents bikes and skis. Shon is a professional bike mechanic with over 20 years of experience and can service all bikes from basic beach cruisers to high-end race bikes and everything in between. Bikes are his passion.

The store carries road, mountain, touring, BMX, dirt jumpers and kids’ bikes from major brands including Marin, GT & Bontrager. Shon’s also carries new and used cross-country and downhill skis and accessories, and is a full-service ski shop.

Shon and Janis Neufeld come to Nakusp from Kaslo, where they own Kootenay Mountain Sports. “The Nakusp opportunity was presented to us by some very good friends, including Marie from Little Mountain Outdoor Gear and Sabine from Black Bear Bike Repair, who noticed that Nakusp needed a full-service bike store,” said Janis.

The couple discussed their plans with Sabine, who “happily declined from continuing to operate her business, and encouraged us to make the move to Nakusp,” said Janis. “We are very thankful for all the work she has done creating the space, and paving the way to make our transition go smoothly.”

Shon and Janis purchased the building where Black Bear Bike Repair was located, and moved the store from Kaslo to Nakusp at the beginning of May. Janis and the couple’s six children, Rebecca 22, Maia 13, Kaelin 11, Sibyl 9, Pyper 8, and Elias 7, will be staying in Kaslo until the end of the school year.

Janis says Shon’s complements Little Mountain Outdoor Gear. “We are ‘Bike & Ski’ sales, service and rentals, while they are ‘Outdoor Gear’ apparel and shoes. We changed our name from Kootenay Mountain Sports to Shon’s Bike & Ski to make the difference clear. We used to carry limited shoes and clothing in Kaslo, but it wasn’t our strength and will be dropping the lines. Our strength is bikes and skis,” said Janis.

Janis says the response to the new store has been excellent. “We already love Nakusp, and are overwhelmed by the welcome we have received from other business owners, the Chamber and community members. We started receiving welcome phone calls and emails from the community two months ago, as soon as the word got out!”

She says they were attracted to Nakusp because of “the friends we have made, the momentum Nakusp is gaining, the increased population base, Summit Ski Hill, the new ‘Pump Track’ and other local initiatives, and opportunities, education and experiences for our children.”

Janis co-owns the store, but is also a professional triathlete and running coach and kinesiologist. She is also president and race director for the Kaslo Sufferfest Society, which will be changing its name to the Kootenay Sufferfest and evolving into a regional event to include Nakusp.

submitted

Mirror Theatre’s ‘The Fantastics’ to show at the Bonnington and Silverton Gallery

Mirror Theatre’s ‘The Fantastics’ to show at the Bonnington and Silverton Gallery at 7 pm. Tickets for all shows will be $10 at the door ($8 for seniors, and $6 for students). Tickets for the Nakusp shows will be on sale at Bon Marche Dollar Dollar.

The Revelstoke Theatre Company with its production of ‘Fool’ won Best Production, Best Director (Iyn Kanibulob), Best Costume Design (Iyn Kanibulob), Best Actor (Danny Kanibulob), Best Actress (Sarah Harper), Best Technical, Best Backstage.

The Kootenay Secondary School Drama Class with its production of ‘Bonnie and Clyde’ won Best Supporting Actor (Connor Scambler), Best Supporting Actress (Kitluka Braugstam), Best Set Design, Best Ensemble, Adjudicator’s Choice Award for Director (Patrick Mcgibbon), and three Honourable Mentions (Trinity Miller, Tamara Can and Morgan Lecocivit). Mirror Theatre with ‘The Fantastics’ won Best Music (Marilyn Massey), Best Newcomer (Daniel Rixon) and an Honourable Mention (Susan Szatharny).
New Denver celebrates 75 years of royalty

by Jan McMurray

New Denver has had royalty every year since 1939, making this year a special one – the 75th!

To celebrate, there will be a Memory Walk at Centennial Park on Sunday from 1-3 pm, with photos and memorabilia on display in the gazebo.

The program has mostly been for young women ages 15-19, but in 1991, it was ‘Mr. May Day’ (Joel Etter, Darcy Buchanam, Ryan Jordan and Mr. Congeniality Jay Budilisfor) and in 1993 and 2012, it was ‘Li’l Miss New Denver’ (1993: Camille Leontowitz and 2012: Charlotte Farrel)

“We have not missed a year since 1939,” said Rhonda Bossole, who has played the role as coordinator since 1976. Lora Lee Brekke has worked alongside Rhonda since 2000.

It was the Women’s Institute that started the program in New Denver. Dr. Francis’ wife was the key person behind it, and she would sew the girls matching dresses in the WI colours of green, white and yellow. Mrs. Francis also started the Maypole dance the same year she started the ‘Queen of May’ program.

The New Denver Community Club took over the May Queen program from the Women’s Institute, and the Community Club continues to be the program sponsor today.

The very first ‘Queen of May’ was Margarette Thring in 1939, with Princesses Norma (Broughton) Manion, Blanche (Meers) Deverson, Page Boy Danny Campbell and Flower Girl Evelyn Esoncker.

Stoltenberg and Kathleen Ellis.

From 1939-52, the ‘Quee-a’ festivities took place in Green Park, and then moved to Centennial Park in 1963, the year the park was created.

The selection process has evolved over the years. In the beginning, the girls were appointed. Later, the girls who told the most May Days rattle tickets was named queen. In the mid 1940s, votes were cast in ‘Teen Town’ (a youth service club), and then voting moved to the school. From 1980 to the present, it has been a judgement of talent, composure and communication skills. The selection process involves secret judges, a high school vote and a community vote.

Rhonda Bossole, who was princess in 1974, said she got involved because there was a time when there were not many activities for girls in New Denver.

“It’s amazing to see the change in the girls from when they first start the program to when they finish,” says Rhonda. “They learn to speak in public and to be more confident, but they have to do a lot of grunt work as well, like washing dishes, setting up and cleaning up the hall, serving – whatever needs to be done. They come out of our program a more rounded citizen.”

Geezer Fish contest joins the fish derby

submitted

New Denver’s May Days Fishing Derby will have another winner: the oldest fish caught! The Sloan Lake Stewardship Society has donated a generous prize for the geezer fish winner.

When you bring your trophy fish in for weigh-in, we will remove 2-5 scales behind the pectoral fin.

Size is generally associated with age; however, size is not precise. Researchers interested in determining a fish’s age and rate of growth look for structures which increase incrementally with age. The most commonly used techniques involve counting natural growth rings on scales, vertebrae, fin spines, eye lenses, teeth, or bones.

Rings far apart are a sign of rapid growth, which would be expected in warmer months. Rings closer together would indicate slow growth, in lower feeding seasons, in colder water. Scales are most widely used in aging fish because of their non-nutritional colloboration.

However, with our fish derby entries, these fish will most likely end up on many dinner plates.

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Organic Produce, Dairy, Bulk Foods and a wide variety of other good foods.
We use all organic ingredients n our Expresso Bar.
Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 9:30

Back to the 80s
Welcome to New Denver May Days!
Rutabaga’s Whole Foods

Spring Cleaning Sale - May Long Weekend
Open 7 days a week
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Celebrate May Days in New Denver, May 16-20

by Jan McMurray

New Denver will be re-winding the 1980s at this year’s May Days celebration.

The May Queen events start off the festivities on Thursday evening with the pageant. Come and see the talents of this year’s candidates, Abbey McMillan and Maddy Moineux. The Naming of the Queen is the highlight of Friday evening’s program. Both events are at the Bosun Hall at 7 pm. On Friday night, the teen dance follows the May Queen program at the Bosun, 8:30 until midnight, with DJ music by Good Times Entertainment.

The May Queen program in New Denver is 75 years old this year! To celebrate this milestone, there will be a Memory Walk at Centennial Park on Sunday, 1-3 pm, with photos and memorabilia on display in the gazebo.

On Saturday, New Denver’s main street is bringing with activity, starting with the bike rodeo at 9:30, followed by the Soapbox Derby at 10 am. All 5 to 12-year-olds are welcome to race in the Soapbox Derby. No worries if you don’t have a soapbox car — there are a few there for everyone to use. A hot dog roast starts at 11 am in front of the post office, and What’s in Store is offering free ice cream cones from 11 am to 1 pm. Other events on Saturday include the golf tournament at the Slocan Lake Golf Course (10:30-11:30) tee off, and the start of both the fish derby (register with the Centennial Park attendant at 8 am), and the beach volleyball tournament (2 pm) at the park. The final weigh-in for the fish derby is Monday at noon, and the volleyball tournament continues through Sunday. Another exciting event is the scavenger hunt — pick up the form at the May Queen events or just about any local business.

On Saturday night, the adult dance at the Bosun features ‘Wheelhouse’. The $17 ticket includes a free buffet. There will be prizes for best ‘80s outfits.

The Summit Lake to New Denver bike race (30 km) happens Sunday morning — participants meet at Summit Lake Day Park at 9 am.

Most of Sunday’s events happen at Centennial Park, starting with a pancake breakfast brought to you by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. These wonderful breakfasts are served from 7:30 to 10 am. Then you can check out the bocce tournament (9 am-5 pm), volleyball on the beach (10 am start), and the ‘flyingly’ cross race (1 pm), the May Queen Memory Walk at the gazebo (1-3 pm), drop-in scrub baseball (2-4 pm), and the silent auction at the May Days Committee tent. The hot and cold booth opens at 11 am, and the Bavarian Gardens are open from noon to 4 pm. The pig roast for just $15 is an excellent choice for dinner, while listening to the sultry sound of Tara McHec. A popular ‘80s movie (ET)

New Denver Volunteer Fire Department now recruiting

Volunteers have fought fires in our area for more than a century, originally as neighbours and then as two departments based and manned in Silverton and New Denver. The two have been amalgamated since 2006 as the New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department, serving an area from the south end of Red Mountain Road to Rosebery along Hwy 6 and out to Three Forks on Hwy 31A. We are also prepared to fight interface fires around our communities.

In addition to the firefighting we attend motor vehicle accidents, often as first responders. We extract trapped motorists, administer first aid, recover people over the bank, and provide emergency traffic control. The department members also operate a rescue boat on Slocan Lake.

We come when you call, day or night.

The department is always looking for new volunteers. Fire practice is every Thursday at the fire hall at 115B Slocan Ave. in New Denver, and all are welcome. Volunteers train weekly on the apparatus that we use on calls, as well as taking government-sponsored first aid, boating and firefighting courses. The training is varied, paid for by the department and the qualifications can also be used in industry.

We will have a recruitment table at New Denver May Days in Centennial Park on Monday May 20 after the parade, from 11 am to 3 pm. There will also be a table on Canada Day in Silverton.

Many people work away, or come and go for other reasons. We need a larger pool of trained people because of this. If we do our bit when we are home, others will be there to cover for us when we are not here. We are looking for physically fit men and women who wish to serve their neighbours.

This is specifically a call-out to our area but if you are reading this in other places reached by The Valley Voice you also have a volunteer fire department. Find out when your local fire practice night is and show up. They will be happy to see you for sure.

Community building? You bet!

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ThURSDAY, May 16, 2013

7:00 pm Queen’s Pageant

Bosun Hall

Scavenger Hunt

Pick up form from Pagent & most local businesses - free

FRIday, May 17, 2013

7:00 pm Naming of the Queen

Bosun Hall

8:30 pm Sixteen Candles

Teen Dance

Midnight Bosun Hall

Music by Good Times Entertainment

Tickets are $10/person, includes a Pop & Buffet

Transportation Info:

12:00 am. departs from Bosun Hall

SATURDAY, May 18, 2013

Scavenger Hunt continues...

8:00 am Fish Derby

Register with the Centennial Park Attendant.

Info: Jessie Menger @ 358-2252 – $25/person

Pamper: Iron Peak, Slocan Lake Hardware, Mountainberry, ND May Days & Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

5:30 am Bike Rodeo

Main Street - Biking basics & road etiquette for young bikers. Must have a bike and helmet to participate. Info: Teresa Steenbeek @ 358-2184

Sponsor: RHC Insurance Brokers

10:00 am Soap Box Derby

Main Street - Registration -$5/entry includes a hot dog. Info: June’s Tinklets @ 358-2552

11:00 am What’s in Store

For May Days?

1:00 pm Join us Saturday

11-1 for a free ice cream cone! Your support has been our success.

10:30 SLGC Golf Tournament

11:30 am Slocan Lake Golf Course - info: 358-2408

Tee-off Sponsors: Reimer Meagher & Silvertown Building Supplies

2:00 pm Beach Volleyball Tournament

Centennial Park

Mixed 4 on 4 - $5/player

Info: Sue Yunnuck @ 358-6803

9:00 pm Get ‘FOOTLOOSE’ Adult Dance

1:00 am Music by ‘Wheelhouse’

Bosun Hall – NO MINORS

Dress in your favourite ‘80s look for a chance to win a prize tickets are $15/person. Live Music & Buffet. Dance Tickets will be available at June’s Tinklets, NURU, Mountainberry & New Market Foods.

Transportation Info:

12:00 am & 1 pm - departs from Bosun Hall.

SUNDAY, May 19, 2013

Fish Derby, Scavenger Hunt & Volleyball Tournament continues...

All events at Centennial Park unless otherwise stated

7:30 am Pancake Breakfast

Host - Chamber of Commerce

9:00 am 29th Summit Lake Bike Race/Ride

South Slocan Lake Day Park - free event

Info: Mike & Heather Koolen 358-2680

9:00 am - 12th Thomsonson Bocce Tournament

8:00 pm: Registration: Shelley: 358-2450 $20/team

12:00 am Beach Volleyball Tournament

11:00 am Silent Auction

4:00 pm Come check out our tent. Buy a pig roast ticket, a souvenir T-shirt & make a bid. Featuring Erin Renk & Les Wiesbrich memorial art supplies and many more local artisans

Hot & Cold Booth opens

8:00 am Bavarian Gardens

10:00 am Dinghy Cross

Race a dinghy to win a cash prize Info: Linda Fitchett @ 358-2642

1:00 pm 75th Anniversary of the May Queens

Gazebo in Centennial Park

2:00 pm Drop in Scrub Baseball game - bring your own baseball glove

5:00 pm Pig Roast BBQ

7:00 pm Roasted Pork Dinner - $15/person

June’s Tinklets 358-2252, NURU or Shelley 358-2454 for tickets

Host-ND Days May Days Committee

Sponsors-New Market Foods & Fomi’s

7:00 pm Bingo - Bosun Hall host SLAS

Dark Movie Night – free, rated PG

8:30 pm ET The Extra terrestrial (1992)

Loonie concession: pop & popcorn

MONDAY, May 20, 2013

Fish Derby & Bocce Tournament continues...

All events at Centennial Park unless otherwise stated

9:00 am Hot & Cold Booth opens

9:00 am Parade Line-up @ Lucerne School

10:00 am The Parade begins

9:00 am Hot & Cold Auction

10:00 am Drop in Scrub Baseball game - bring your own baseball glove

10:30 am Miss New Denver Crowned

Citzens of the Year honoured

May Days 2013 Awards

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For complete details and final schedule see www.newdenvermaydays.com

Check out the Silent Auction Tent

Limited number of Souvenir T-shirts

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COLUMBIA BRASS TRUST a legacy for the people

A huge “Thank You” goes out to local individuals, associations, businesses and groups (the people behind the scenes who make it all happen) who contribute their time and energy in the spirit of community. We would like to thank the Columbia Basin Trust for their generous funding.
Logging Trucks are rolling – must be time for Kaslo Logger Sports

Has everyone noticed load after load of logs rolling down the highway? Eleven of those monster trucks are taking their loads of Kootenay mix from the causeway up the Duncan Forestry Road to Castlegar-Interior, Kalesiukoff Lumber and Forepine Wood Products. The cedar poles, the cream of the crop, are going to Stella-Jones in Revelstoke. This definitely represents logging at its finest and makes me proud to be a part of the Logger Sports Show Committee which is a tribute to our forestry workers.

Our show has been so popular at the annual May Days that we have expanded to include the two-day super-sized, Novice and Intermediate events will be run on Saturday, May 18 and men’s, women’s and open events May 19. Show goes from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kaslno Logger Sports has been going for 37 years now and has always been a free family event. Due to the two-day show we are looking for more volunteers for positions such as parking, stewards, food, hut duties, gate keepers, etc. To volunteer please contact Kathy Freeman at 250-353-2679 or RDagtime@netzero.com.

Kaslo May Days

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Kaslo Logger Sports has been Super-Sized to a two day show!
Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19
11:30 am to 4:30 pm
What's happening at Kaslo's May Days

submitted

The fast-approaching Victoria Day long weekend means another wonderful series of events at the annual Kaslo May Days Festival. Join us in the beautiful Village of Kaslo for three days of events for the entire family to enjoy. Starting on May 19 and going straight through until May 20, each day is filled with excitement.

The always-entertaining Kaslo Logger Sports hosts two full days of events, welcoming world-class athletes from across North America. Access to all the events is free and the newly added seating area will ensure that you have a terrific view as the participants compete in classic logger sports events such as the tree climb, chained saw, underhand chop, and log rolling.

Historic Downtown Front Street will host the 16th annual Show 'n Shine featuring a brilliant collection of cars, hot rods, motorcycles, trucks and more. The downtown core will also be center stage for the annual May Days Parade that will take place on Monday at noon. Be sure to stop into the wonderful shops and restaurants that keep our community vibrant.

Vinny Park, on the shores of Kootenay Lake, will host a variety of unique craft and food vendors as well as a weekend-long softball tournament and free live music presented by the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival Society. The highlight of the celebration will be the annual May Pole Dance, performed by the Kaslo Grade 1 class.

The weekend will be filled with a variety of other great events and opportunities for entertainment. Kootenay Horse and Cartage will patrol the streets, the Kaslo Fire Department will offer helicopter rides, Kaslo's Riding Club will hold a demonstration, the skate park will host the Kootenay Skateboard Series, Logger Sports will be home to a beer garden sponsored by the Kaslo Curling Club and Kaslo Golf Club, the Legion Ladies Auxiliary will hold a pancake breakfast, and the Hospital Auxiliary will have a Victorian Tea to benefit the VHCA.

At this action-packed weekend of fun and excitement in our community, we hope to see many new visitors and familiar faces enjoying the festivities.

Kaslo May Days is brought to you by the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by The Village of Kaslo, Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK Area D, Kaslo and District Community Forest, Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism, Kootenay Rockies Tourism, and many hard working groups within the community.

For a full schedule of events, visit the Kaslo May Days website at KasloMayDays.com.


The book delves into the wisdom of the ages to encourage people to discover their unique and personal magnificence that is waiting to be written as their lives. It reminds us that life contains endless possibilities and when we are filled with wonder and gratitude, we open doors to new realms. Imagination is our greatest resource for shaping the profound marvel of our pure potential.

Remembering that we are part of a greater whole, with a magnitude beyond belief, we are able to face challenges and celebrate our lives with grace. Join Janet at Buddy’s Front Street Pizzeria in Kaslo at 7 pm on Friday, May 17 for music, reading and cocktails.

Kaslo author launches latest book

submitted

Friday night of May Days will see Kaslo author Janet Pearson launching her newest book, Legend That You Are: Recreate the Story of Your Life.
Columbia Mountains Institute conference reveals regional biodiversity

by Art Joyce

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology held a conference at Silverton Memorial Hall on May 13. The event brought together ecologists from government, NGOs and private consulting firms. A wide-ranging program of presentations moderated by professionals was supplemented with afternoon field trips.

The Valkulla Wilderness Society presented on 'Rare and Little-Known Species of Central Selkirk Mountains,' in particular several varieties of lichens found in the Southern Interior rainforest of the Inconspicuous River Valley north of Nakusp. VWS spokesperson Anne Sharrod explained that the Inconspicuous contains the most extensive intact inland rainforest in the Interior Cedar Hemlock zone, with 1,800-year-old trees dating back to the glacial plucking of the hillside. But it was the discovery of 300 species of rare lichens that put the forest on the international scientific map.

These species of lichen had never been known in Canada or North America before and seven were previously unknown to science. It took scientists from five countries to do the DNA analysis. Up to 57 percent of oxygen produced in Pacific forests comes from lichens. The plant was going to be the site of a run-of-river power plant but when the discoveries were presented to the developer, they withdrew their plans. Sharrod also said that the majority of the endangered Mountain Caribou are concentrated in the Selkirk and Purcell ranges, adding to the urgency of conserving the area.

Adrian Lestie of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Selkirk College explained that his agency is expanding its mandate beyond local community initiatives and seeking direction from ecologists as to what support role to play.

Comox Valley Leader

by Dave Currie

Among the institute’s goals is to break complex data into easily understandable measures that are relevant and lead to action. The RDI is partnering with B.C. Parks and Water Smart programs and the CBT Clamato Change Initiative and wants to know about habitat restoration projects. Food security and water issues are other areas of interest.

Jakub Dulisse presented an assessment of Western Toad mortality on Highway 6 at Summit Lake. The species is one in only two in Canada that is red-listed internationally. This species currently faces a high risk of extinction due to habitat degradation. Dulisse concluded that the challenges facing a mountain management plan for it are to find some regulatory teeth.

Jennifer Yeow of Passmore Laboratories spoke of habitat restoration efforts on the Slocan River by Slocan Streamkeepers. She said Slocan River is really two rivers — one above Lemon Creek and one below. It begins at Slocan as multiple channels but is gradually funneled into a single stream largely due to human development. Rivers normally change course and add new side streams over time, creating conflict with built-up settlements where erosion of stream banks occurs.

Since fish are indicators of stream health, Streamkeepers began in 2003 with a mandate to monitor fish populations such as rainbow trout but have expanded to tally whitefish, brown trout and sockeye. A plan to build fish habitat structures at over 20 locations in the river was badly received by the public.

The riparian restoration program started in 2004 provided a viable option, planting trees for riparian restoration. Fish populations have stayed fairly constant, which means the ecosystem is stabilizing.

Kootenay Canoe Project coordinator Eva Johanson said that the canoe project, which has a historical staple of First Nations communities for food and fiber, had not been fully mapped before. Their inventory has improved the existing database and revealed a new canoe ‘hotspot’ at the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers near Castlegar. However, due to the use of recreational vehicles and development, there is a less and less canoe “boom” in the region. Partly the problem is that canoes only bloom 3–4 weeks per year; the rest of the year it looks like regular grasses.

The project aims for greater public awareness and some replanting in heavy recreational use areas.

Kootenay Co-op Radio

This event is part of the station’s semi-annual membership drive. The recorded show will be broadcast May 21 from 3 to 5 pm and May 22 from 8 to 10 am on CILY 107.5 FM.

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May 15, 2013 The Valley Voice

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Tales from the fisherman’s market: Sitting on a Mountain of Fish

I’m told that scallop is the most recognizable of all your senses. I believe it. I remember my dad coming home from halibut openings when I was young. My mother and brother and I would bend down to the dock to greet him and they would all be unshaven and wearing well worn work clothes. Occasionally one of them would be spurning some form of injury caused from a rough time at sea. They were so cool.

I’m sure they were all exhausted but you wouldn’t know it. These were good times for all. (unless I had done something wrong while dad was away) Mothers and fathers, girlfriends and wives, sons and daughters, and of course regular people looking to see the action at the dock would all be there. I wish I could remember it better than I do. One thing I do remember very well is the smell of the full boat load of halibut. It wasn’t bad, it wasn’t even fishy. But it was strong and it smelled like a fresh halibut boat.

Sometimes my dad would sell some of his catch on the wharf and people would line up all day to buy whole halibut off him. It was like a cotton candy kiosk at the fair. My job was to jump into the hold and pass up the fish for him. I remember him sending me back down time and time again saying, “find a smaller one!” If I came back up and suggested there weren’t any smaller ones he would give me the “hayery eyeball.” The hayery eyeball wasn’t some-thing around with. You found another one. I later realized I could just go down on the mountain of fish and sit there for a minute and come back up with the same fish and proclaim that I found a smaller one. Halibut are like penguins they all look the same. I’m not necessarily proud of this.

Things are different for me now, I catch less than I sell, but it is still the same smell. I remember when a shipment of fresh halibut comes through the door of my shops at thirty eight years old I can honestly say I have been selling whole halibut for over thirty years. Get a whole halibut, fresh and on sale for all of May at the Fisherman’s Market in Nelson, Kelowna and Kamloops.

-Adam P.
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COMMUNITY

Nakusp Mayor’s Message: BC Mayors’ Caucus a fruitful and beneficial meeting

by Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling

The third BC Mayors’ Caucus (BCMC) meeting was recently held in Prince George, attended by 70 BC mayors.

Without a doubt, the BC Mayor’s Forum is one of the most fruitful and beneficial meetings that I have the privilege of attending as a mayor. It is a great way for mayors to network and learn about the similarities and differences we have with other communities.

At this two-day meeting, we had a lot of discussion around the various issues that affect our municipalities, and narrowed the list down to five major items.

We agreed that we support the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) efforts to secure a long-term predictable funding source to local government for infrastructure projects. We all have aging infrastructure and it is important to receive federal and provincial help in upgrading our systems. The replacement of aging infrastructure is not something that the municipalities on our list can take care of.

The second item was the BCMC request for the province to extend the Small Communities grant program. This program helps small communities with funding needs that cannot be covered by governmental sources.

Third, we are requesting a review of legislation that imposes wage settlements by binding arbitration on local government. Communities need the ability to pay to be considered in wage settlements and to date, this has not been the case. The BCMC is also requesting the province establish a ministry dedicated to local government, currently, the ministry that looks after local government has several portfolios (Community, Sport and Cultural Development). A ministry dedicated solely to local government would go a long way to benefiting communities.

The fifth request of the BCMC is that the premier attend the Mayors’ Roundtable on local government.

The caucus steering committee had a one-hour discussion with the premier after the meeting. They discussed downloading, with the committee’s goal being an opportunity for discussion with the Province before public policy changes are brought in that affect local government budgets and delivery of services.

During the meetings, we engaged in extensive dialogue with the recently appointed Municipal Auditor General (Richard Pallister) and M. Jack Musselwhite (Prince Rupert), Wayne Stetski (Cranbrook), Lori Ackerman (Fort St. John), Peter Meijer (Kamloops), Ed Waters (Surrey), Greg Moore (Port Coquitlam) and John MacDonnell (Sawyard).

Karen Hamling, Mayor of Nakusp.

Powers of Attorney – The Double-Edged Sword

My work as a wealth planner goes far beyond the role of an investment advisor. Yes, investments play a significant part of one’s wealth but there are many other aspects that form one’s financial world. A wealth planner will look at the big picture by incorporating tax minimization strategies, reducing risk associated with disability or death, and working with the nature and elderly who are dealing with estate planning and end of life issues.

Most of us are aware of the importance of creating a will to ensure that our estate is dealt with and our assets are distributed according to our wishes. As wealth planners, we strongly encourage our clients to work with a lawyer when creating their wills and we usually encourage them to set up a Power of Attorney as well.

An enduring power of attorney allows the person named as attorney to make financial and legal decisions in the event that you become mentally incapable. An enduring power of attorney can be a useful tool when you are unable to make decisions about your assets. However, it is very powerful instrument and it can be misused. It is important to only appoint someone who is completely trustworthy and who is up to the job of managing your assets prudently.

Before a person agrees to act as your attorney, the person should be aware of the duties and obligations that are described in the Power of Attorney Act. These include the duty to act honestly and as good faith, to act in your best interests, taking into account the current wishes, known beliefs and values and any directions that are set out in the document.

To dispose of any property that the attorney knows is specifically gifted in your will.

To keep your assets separate from the attorney’s assets.

To keep proper records, including creating and maintaining a list of your property and liabilities.

Financial abuse of the elderly is a huge and growing problem, as frailty and rising rates of dementia can leave the seniors of Canada’s aging population, to the mercy of their children or other relatives. Some of those charged with the responsibility of caring for aging relatives can’t wait for them to die. They often use these powers of attorney agreements to spend the senior’s money on themselves.

The people who carry out financial abuse are often well-meaning adult children who see no reason why Mom’s money should be sitting in a bank account or funding her high-priced house care. This sense of entitlement on the part of family members seems justified, as it will be their inheritance anyway — why not take some now?

There is one group that doesn’t understand their role and they innocently misuse the power of attorney because they don’t understand their responsibilities.

The leader of the group that uses a power of attorney to ruin someone financially. In the most blatant cases (sometimes involving a new ‘best friend’) seniors can be targeted, exploited and left penniless and alone after granting this power of attorney to someone they hardly know.

What’s different in these cases is the results are often dramatic and the vulnerability and stress they experience is often what leads to death.

The Public Guardian and Trustees can step in when there are concerns about how an attorney is acting, but it’s often not possible to recover lost money or property. It is one thing to turn the tap off and stop future drains, but it is difficult to get money back that has gone down the drain.

People who choose to use a power of attorney can change their name to act jointly, which could help provide a check against abuse. People can add a provision requiring the person appointed as power of attorney, to provide financial records to family members on a periodic basis.

There is another option available for people who have no one else they can trust and that is guardianship.

Also covered by legislation, the Patient’s Property Act can help people with powers of attorney whose plans fall through. In that case, the court can appoint a guardian. It could be someone the person has nominated or it could be someone else in the family, a friend, or even someone with expertise in the field. The appointed person or attorney of power is held to a higher standard of responsibilities and reporting, which can be an important safeguard.

The court can also appoint a guardian if there have been allegations of misconduct or abuse.

It is so important to have in-depth discussions with your financial planning and your lawyer to be sure you are fully aware of how powerful this power of attorney document actually is. From a financial planning aspect, a power of attorney is a good document to have, but it can obviously come with pitfalls.

Often what is forgotten is the overriding rule: if you’ve been granted the power of attorney, you are required to provide maintenance for the person who has given you the power in the first place. Remember: It’s NOT your money.

Debbie Perpelin CFP CPA is a wealth planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd and Vice-President of The Affiliated Financial Group, in Castlegar. Please contact a professional advisor to discuss your particular circumstances prior to acting on the information above.

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Most recreational trailers have a GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight — the weight of the trailer and its load) of less than 4,600 kg and may be driven by a driver who holds a class 5 or 7 Driver’s Licence.

If the towing vehicle or trailer is equipped with air brakes, an air brakes endorsement to the Driver’s Licence is required before the vehicle or trailer can be operated.

If you want to tow a recreational trailer (or any trailer that has a GVWR of more than 4,600 kg), you are required to apply for either a higher class of Driver’s Licence or an endorsement to your existing class 5 or 7 Driver’s Licence to involve a knowledge test and road test. To know for sure, you should contact a Driver’s Licensing Office like our Castlegar or New Denver offices so they may assist you in determining what you require for your specific situation.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate driver’s licence and driving skills for the trailer you are towing. If you do not have the proper licence, you can be ticketed and may be in breach of your insurance in the event of a crash.

If you aren’t sure of the weight of your recreational trailer, take it to a weigh station to be weighed, and have it weighed at no charge.

For more information please call any Driver’s Licensing Office like our Castlegar (250-358-2677) or New Denver (250-358-2677) offices.

Happy Trails!
School District #8 2013-14 budget adopted despite debate

by Jan McMurray

The Nelson-Creston School District #8 board adopted the 2013-14 preliminary budget at its May 7 meeting but without considerable discussion first.

With nine trustees present, the preliminary budget passed with five in favour, three opposed and one abstaining.

Former Sicamous Valley trustee Penny Tees was present, and asked the board to present the budget to the public at a separate meeting before adopting it. “Don’t underestimate the importance of the public’s response... It’s their money you’re allocating... It’s not acceptable to do second and third reading tonight if you want to retain your relevance as a public body,” she said.

The board discussed moving second and third reading to a special meeting before May 15, but decided against it. If they had delayed adoption of the budget, lay-off notices would have had to be issued to staff, only to be withdrawn once the budget was passed. This is because staffing decisions have to be made very soon according to collective agreements – and with no budget in place, administration is forced to proceed as if there will be a “bare bones” staff. This happened last year, and the lay-off notices “put incredible stress on those people and their families,” said Trustee Bob Wright.

Tees also thanked the board for continuing to fund WE Graham Community Service Society with $50,000 in 2013-14. The district provided WEGCSS with $75,000 per year for many years, but last year, the board cut this down to $50,000 and even discussed phasing out this funding altogether.

The budget includes an increase in support for early learning – $300,000 for teacher, noon hour supervisor and education assistant time, and the purchase of technology where required.

For more information on the budget, please visit the school district’s website at www通车域.com.

Kootenay Co-op Radio Programme Schedule - March to August 2013

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>6 am</td>
<td>Med for Trad</td>
<td>Break the Stance</td>
<td>Flashbox 70s</td>
<td>Diversity Beats</td>
<td>Funkytown</td>
<td>Classical Corner</td>
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<td>7 am</td>
<td>Kootenay Morning</td>
<td>The Building Show</td>
<td>Kootenay Morning</td>
<td>WINGS</td>
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<td>8 am</td>
<td>Democracy Now</td>
<td>Room / Free Range</td>
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<td>9 am</td>
<td>Democracy Now</td>
<td>Break the Stance</td>
<td>Host n' Holler</td>
<td>Earth Vibe</td>
<td>Variations on a Theme</td>
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<td>10 am</td>
<td>Memories</td>
<td>Bach and Beyond</td>
<td>Host n' Holler</td>
<td>Radio Free Karate</td>
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<td>Birdman</td>
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<td>11 am</td>
<td>Johnny D's Rock &amp; Roll</td>
<td>Pick Up</td>
<td>Earth Vibe</td>
<td>The History Hour</td>
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<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Alternative Radio</td>
<td>Eclectic</td>
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<td>WINGS</td>
<td>Beat Salad</td>
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<td>1 pm</td>
<td>The Bospoke alternates with Footloose Armchair</td>
<td>Waterfalling on Plastic</td>
<td>Audio Day's Ball Beat</td>
<td>Ghost Modern</td>
<td>2 am</td>
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<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Diversity Beats</td>
<td>Today's Special</td>
<td>My Fair Lady</td>
<td>Zen Riot</td>
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<td>Aural Improbabilities</td>
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<td>Trax on Wax</td>
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<td>Limer Notes</td>
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<td>The Way Back Relax Shack</td>
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<td>Mel-Melo</td>
<td>Wine Dark Sea</td>
<td>In The Key of BC</td>
<td>Walking on the Ceiling</td>
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<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Wine Dark Sea</td>
<td>Waterfalling on Plastic</td>
<td>Reinventing Tom Gable</td>
<td>Walking on the Ceiling</td>
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<td>Funkytown</td>
<td>Sex, Drugs, How We Roll</td>
<td>The Norm</td>
<td>Free Range with Roamin' Radio</td>
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<td>10 pm</td>
<td>Dirty Pockets</td>
<td>Love, Sex &amp; Everything in Between</td>
<td>The World &amp; the Insects &amp; Robots</td>
<td>Mountains and Valleys</td>
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**Visit the Nikkei Centre during May Days**

submitted

You may have noticed the colourful fish kites that have been flying in front of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC) this past couple of weeks. These fish are known as koinobori or carp streamers, and are erected to wish good health and strength upon all children in honour of Children’s Day. In Japan, Children’s Day, better known as Kodomo No Hi, falls on May 5 and is a contemporary combination of Doll’s Day for girls, traditionally celebrated on March 3, and Boy’s Day, observed on May 5. To mark this special occasion, the local children from the preschool and Strong Start programs at Lucerne School participated in a koinobori making workshop led by Early Childhood Educator Chelcie Alexander. The wonderfully creative streamers were then presented to the museum so they can be displayed at the Visitor Centre. These very eye-catching streamers will be up on display in the NIMC office until the end of May. Come down and see these wonderful creations while you can.

In keeping with all things festive, New Denver May Days is fast approaching and the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre would like to invite everyone to an ‘Admission by Donation Day’ on Saturday, May 18 as part of the community celebrations. The day also falls on International Museum Day – it is a great opportunity to visit or revisit this important National Historic Site in the heart of ‘The Orchard’. The museum will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. We hope to see you all there!

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**Golf Courses**

Nakusp Golf Course - Nakusp
Phone/Fax: (250) 265-4531
www.nakusp.golf.com  nrg@nakusp.net
GREEN FEES: Adults $29.00, seniors $17.00, Jr. 6-13 $12.50/hole
Senior rates - 18% off Juniors 16-18 / $17.10, and 6-13 $12.50/hole

Koie, Malignant: Stavron
Koie is closed, call D FLU STRAIGHT (TWO MOUNTAIN VIEW CIR - Fully licensed restaurant; Phone: (250) 265-3585
Walk on the lake, no reservations required.
Lunch and dinner: Tuesday-Friday 11:00-10:30; weather and weather permitting.
Men's: Tuesday 4:00-6:00 Specials welcome.

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**Campgrounds**

Nakusp Municipal Campground - Nakusp
(250) 265-1051
www.nakusp.golf.com  nacam@nakusp.net

- Open May 15 to Sept 30 for overflow campground
- Open May 1 to Sept 30 for KOA Campground
- Open May 15 to Sept 30 for KOA Campground

Silverton Municipal Campground - Silverton
(250) 354-2472 www.silvertonca.com
At lease and Turner Streets.
35 sites, 26 full power sites and 8 tent sites.
Open May 15 to Sept 30.

Spring Creek RV Park & campground - Silverton
(250) 255-2266 springton@telus.net
Open May 15 to Sept 30, 14 sites, 10 with power and water, showers and a washroom.

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**Services**

Nesika Industrial Memorial Centre - New Denver
(250) 354-7183 350 Josephine St.
The historic site is in Canada dedicated to telling the WWII internment story. Located in The Orchard in New Denver.

Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo
(250) 353-2642
kaslo.ca
kaklo.klassen@shaw.com  (250) 353-2642
This summer, Kaslo offers a variety of events and activities for all ages, including cultural, historical, and sports events.

Woodbury Resort and Marina - Kaslo
(250) 353-7717
The Woodbury Resort and Marina offers a variety of services, including boat rentals, camping, and dining.

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**Things to do**

Hoskins House Museum
200-1033 Lakeshore Dr., New Denver
Tina Metcalfe, Curator
250-265-2777
The Hoskins House Museum is a historical site located in New Denver.

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**Restaurants & Accommodations**

Murphy’s Landing - Nakusp
(250) 265-0520
www.murphy’slanding.net

The Cup and Saucer Cafe - Silverton
(250) 354-7271
200 Lake Ave. Enjoy espresso and specialty coffee, wraps, burgers, ice cream, baked goods, and more. Information and events online at thecupsaucercafe.ca

William Hunter Cafe - Silverton
(250) 354-2584
www.williamhuntercafe.com
103 Lake Ave. Enjoy a wide selection of coffee drinks, teas, fresh-baked pastries, and homemade soups.

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**Services**

Kaslo Hotel & Pub - Kaslo
(250) 353-7714
www.kaslohotel.ca

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**Galleries**

Studio Connection Gallery - Fine Art - Nakusp
(250) 265-1635
200 Fith Ave. NW, Nakusp
www.studioconnection.com

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**Events**

An exhibiton from March 17 to Oct 15, 2010, in the gallery. The exhibit features works by various artists including homegrown artists and international artists.

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**Contact**

For more information, please contact the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre at 250-265-1224 or visit their website at www.nakusp.golf.com.
Nakusp artist Debra Rushfeldt to open Studio Connexion exhibition season

by Art Joyce

Who knew that fine art could come from such humble sources—a pile of bricks, a decaying barrel, and that ever-present Kootenay feature, a stack of cordwood? In the hands of talented Nakusp artist Debra Rushfeldt, all this and more comes to vivid life in her new series of charcoal renderings, ‘Under Box Mountain: A Selection.’ The work will be exhibited at Studio Connexion, with opening night May 17 from 5 to 8 pm. The show will run until June 8.

The work is both a departure from Rushfeldt’s better-known mixed media assemblages and a return to her early training as an artist. She emphasizes that they are not just drawings or simple sketches but renderings. And for good reason—the detail in these images is astonishing, at times bordering on Photo Realism. The series is the result of three years of work, using everyday objects found in her own neighbourhood of Crescent Bay. Rushfeldt approached her neighbours to walk their properties in search of interesting objects to render, searching for the lost, the abandoned—items that once held meaning but are now in decay, gradually being reclaimed by the land.

“It spoke to me about rural living,” she says. “It’s a community of dreamers in a way—things often get started and then abandoned. The charcoal works really well because it’s a bit moody and it conveys the darkness of the rainforest, the layers and moisture. The feeling of the forest encroaching on where you live.”

There are over 30 images in total but the gallery will feature a selection of 15. The larger drawings take up to six weeks to do so Rushfeldt uses photos as reference point. She sees a connection with her mixed media work—wherein in that genre she physically gathered bits of metal and wood, now she’s drawing them. The resulting images reveal deeper layers of meaning—creation/decay, potential/loss, connection/isolation. They raise the issues and values of rural life—privacy, preservation and solitude.

Rushfeldt studied at the Alberta College of Art and Design, Banff School of Fine Arts, and while living in Japan for a year at the Parsons School of Design from New York. She and her husband moved here from Calgary 12 years ago but she took a 10-year break from art while raising a family and helping build up their business. Rushfeldt says now she’s back into her art seriously, and has opened a studio on Broadway Avenue. People can drop in Fridays and Saturdays during July and August as part of the Saturday Art Tour. It’s an event she conceived. Since the ALFA guild closed it has been a way of creating more profile for the arts in the community.

Now in its fifth season, Studio Connexion is Tuesdays to Saturday 11 am to 4 pm or by appointment, with shows running from May to mid-October. Call 250-285-8888 for a visit outside of regular hours. For more information visit http://studioconnexion.com and www.debrarushfeldt.com.

Cool Eaters of the West Kootenays

with Andy Rhodes

What’s in Store? 16 flavours of ice cream, that’s what!

Before we start, here’s a subliminal message for you, whisper this: shhh (homemade waffle cones).

Alright then. In November of 1985, D.J. Janet Quaint and Bradley Bennett had an inspiration to collaborate on creating a store called ‘What’s In Store’ on New Denver’s main street. Their first store was on the north side of the street, and now they’ve moved to the south side into a very cool location and have begun competing with a polar bear named Polar Pete, who, besides being a psychic, is the mascot for Polar Pete snow cones! The common goal is to fill New Denver and the rest of the world with snow cones. However, some say Bradley is channeling Polar Pete and receiving instructions that are bounced off the atmosphere from up north—(homemade waffle cones)

Tell you what, let’s say you have a store where you rent DVDs and sell ice cream cones and snow cones and you also sell 25 kinds of candy, greeting cards and fresh coffee and things like large and small Snoopy Dogs and an exclusive line of solar powered toys including cars and insects. There are helium balloons and funny hats and lemonade and OJ and a lemonade/sherbet combo. Also bottled water and the great health-food drink Coca-Cola. Also ‘In Store’ is jewellery: rings, chains, earrings and other finger jewellery. Don’t forget local postcards. Ok then. You can find all of this at What’s In Store, and that stuff doesn’t take up even half the room on the shelves. There’s also books, small books, tiny books, books for kids and grownups too. (homemade waffle cones). What I’m trying to say here is that if you are a store like that you’re gonna be real busy, and Janet and Bradley and Polar Pete agree.

Now something about Janet. She loves making Polar Pete Snow Cones, because she’s had work experience that has prepared her for that job. You see, the once made her living sliding around on snow in Banff and Jasper, so there’s snow part of her past. She also tended bar and poured many liquids over chopped ice, and this is also how one makes a snow cone—by pouring syrup over chopped ice. Go Janet Go.

Then we have Bradley. He’s had plenty of experience in business. He owned a grocery store, raised horses and cattle, was a bartender too. He’s a tech whiz, and when he isn’t attending séances with Polar Pete, he’s on the internet finding out new and unusual products to sell at What’s In Store.

Both Janet and Bradley smile a great deal.

What else? Large size porcelain dolls take up a whole shelf. Tiny teddy bears hide out here and there. Really cool kaleidoscopes (when was the last time you looked into one of those?). Old fashioned wind-up toys, a whole line of ‘polar bear stuff’ and Smurfs. Tiny bracelets for 5 cents!

So, let’s say you’re planning a birthday party. What’s In Store can arrange a custom order birthday party—any theme you want (200 to pick from) with helium balloons, fancy cake... all of it! By the way, Bradley has also done singing telegram, run a radio station and owned a pub for six months ‘til the staff consumed the stock.’

By now, kind reader, you may have forgotten that What’s In Store also rents DVDs. Selection includes mainstream flicks, foreign films, documentaries, new releases. If you want a movie you don’t have, they’ll get it for you pronto de suite!


They sell salty poppy? Right in the store! I saw it with my own eyes! I’m starting to flip out here.

This place, What’s In Store, just won’t quit. Need some computer accessories? They get ’em. Dog and cat toys, too.

Now get this. Soon, What’s In Store will reveal a product that came to a staff member in a vision. This is no kidding. (homemade waffle cone)

It’s called NACHO WAFFO ICE-CREAM NACHOS. This product is available nowhere else on this side of the Universe. The NACHO WAFFO ICE-CREAM NACHOS come on a round plate. In description it seems to be a pile of nacho chips, little bowls full of guacamole sour cream and salsa. You know what I’m talking about... a fancy nacho plate. The difference with the NACHO WAFFO ICE-CREAM NACHOS is that EVERYTHING is made of ICE CREAM except the nachos, which are made from homemade waffle cones. The little bowls that hold the guacamole and sour cream are made from Belgian chocolate—which you are required to eat. The sour cream, by the way, is actually whipped cream. That’s some VISION alright.

I just can’t get on except to say go to What’s In Store. The place will blow your mind, but they probably have spare minds for sale. If not, Janet and Bradley will order you one.

Fauquier Community Yard Sale

Monday May 18 • 9 am - 4 pm
May 19 • 9 am - 1 pm
Tools, furniture, household items, building supplies, generator, etc.

On Maple Street, follow the balloons!

KITTENS!!!
Paws has kittens!

Please call PALS at 250-265-3792 or email info@pals-online.ca if you are interested in meeting the kittens.

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Polar Pete is back for the summer season with his icy treats, now including BC’s very own ISLAND FARMS ice cream!
ANNOUNCEMENTS


COTTONWOOD ESTATE is now available at Hand & Soul in Silverton. Call for an appointment or more information. The Forgotten Key to Health - 290-358-2469.

PASSMORE PLUCKERS - Abate opening. From 11:30 Lienhard nursing home of chickens and turkeys. Open 29 at 205-2220 www. passmorpullers.com

FREE SAMPLES! from Sophie's Bakery as we start our summer hours. From Saturday May 14, Sophie's will be open Tuesday through Sunday, from 8 am to 6 pm. Drop in and see us on your way to Centennial Park for May Days celebration. 398 Tilden, entrance at the rear. 290-358-2115.

CLASSIFIED ADS

THANK YOU to all our friends and families for their generous support in obtaining a new electric wheel chair for JC. It made a big difference.

JC Robinson and Robert Macdonald

WOULD LIKE TO THANK all my customers for 27 years of patronage. I will be moving to Coalwood at the end of June. My last day with Shaggy Hair Care will be Friday, June 14. I would also like to thank Tracy Smith for all the years of employment I spent at Shaggy and I hope all my clients will continue to support Shaggy Hair Care. I will miss you all!

-Wendy Webster

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

OPEN INVITATION to Celebarte the life of Patricia Bennett (1938 to 2015) - 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 sharing. Donations of snacks would be appreciated. This event will take place at 1:00 pm, on Saturday, May 25 at the Valley Whole, 376252 Slocan River Rd. (right after entering the Passmore Bridge). For more information please contact Judy Sadawoy, 290-358-2245, sadawoy@netidea.com

NEW DENVER COMMUNITY MARKET SOCIETY AGM - May 10th, 7 pm, Hidden Garden Gallery. All welcome.

KASLO LOGGER SPORTS has been SUPER-SIZED! Two action-packaged days of logging competition. Tree Climbing, Log Rolling, Ax Throwing and much more. Saturday, May 18 has Novice and Intermediate Events and Sunday, May 19 has Men’s, Women’s and Open Events. Both days feature Canadian Championship Competitors, 11:30 to 4:30 pm at KASLO’s Vini’s Park. Don’t miss it! ms@kasloiculturesociety.org or call for more info.

DON’T MISS THE HIDDEN GARDEN Gallery’s Silent Auction. Bring donations Friday, May 17 from 12-3, visit the show Tuesday May 21 through Saturday, May 25 from 10 to 3, and place final bids at the party Saturday, May 25 from 7 to 9. For more information contact Ewenny Goodall at 358-2355.

ALZHEIMER’S BC OFFERS support and education for families coping with Alzheimer’s or other dementias. Full day courses offered in Nelson May 24 and in Nelson May 30. $20. Pre-registration required. For more information contact Nelson Kaslo May 29 (fee). Contact Julie Leffler julie.leffler@alzheimerbc.org 1-655-301-6742.

NEW DENVER STRONGSTART & WEST Kootenay CCRP Present - Communication & Co-operation Refining our communication skills with young children. Kendra Finlay, ECCE will provide parents and caregivers with concrete examples of how to positively and effectively communicate with young children. As well, ample time will be provided for discussion on challenges parents and caregivers may be currently experiencing. This workshop will be held at the New Denver StrongStart/Liexier School on May 25 from 2:30-4:30 pm. Cost is by donation and light refreshments will be served. To register or for more information please call Chantelle Alexander at 290-358-2358.

DARK WATER DRAGONS - the boat has been launched! Wed. 6 pm at New Denver marina. New members are welcome. Info 358-2266.

LANGHAM EVENT - "BAD WORDS UNDER MT. LOKI" - an evening of two short Japanese-style literary plays written, produced and acted by some Kootenay. The performance will be followed by Adaptable Asian food & tea. This event is made possible by Columbia Basin Trust and the generous support of volunteers work of the Langham Asian Cultural Heritage Month group. Please join us on

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GATHERING OF EAGLES: Convergence for a Pipeline and Timber Tour BC June 2nd. 1 PM, Castlegar, Brilliant Cultural Center. Speakers, powerpoint. First Nations singers, Dondithoir Choir, displays. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs; Joan Philip, Feastation Band Conductor; Gerald Amos, Haida First Nations; Peter Jaffa Mi Pi http://www.adaknohukoolan.org/kruna/riurna.htm. 250-425-4817 natado@telus.com

MARION BERGIN’S CD Release/ Birthday Party is FRIDAY, MAY 17th at 6:30 PM at Nelson United Church. When Soul Touches Soul is Marion’s third album of original folk music. Featuring Producer / Musician, Rocko Naughton, Admission is $5 or $20 with a ‘When Soul Touches Soul’ CD. Refreshments served. Everyone welcome! Marion@205-354-9577.
RDCK takes the lead on interface fire protection
by Katrina Campbell

Local government and fire/emergency personnel from the Slocan Valley came together in New Denver, May 5 to discuss the problem of interface fuel management.

The meeting was hosted by John Cartaro and Bruce Blackwell, who were hired by the RDCK to provide a long-term strategy on fuel management on the Crown and non-Crown residential areas. (*Fuel* is understorey cover, hazards, trees, branches and other debris which feeds fires.)

Cartaro and Blackwell are meeting with key stakeholders throughout the regional district, reviewing what other areas have done so they don’t reinvent the wheel, and will issue their report in June.

During interviews and conversations, New Denver Mayor Ann Bunka summed up the feeling of municipal governments by saying she was there because “I don’t know how anyone’s way we can make the Province pay for their problem.”

Cartaro acknowledged there was a bigger problem, but said it was a shared responsibility among all levels of government in the province. The RDCK realized there were not enough resources or capacity and is acting now because “it wants to do a better job of keeping communities safe by building a long-term strategy with input from community leaders.

Much of the discussion revolved around cost. Fuel management, or cleaning up the Crown land within two kilometres of a village, costs about $10,000/ha. Only four per cent of identified priority (i.e. extreme or high fire-threat) areas are being treated, and another eight percent are under prescription. Resources to administer the program are limited, and the administrative burden is large.

At present, there is no co-ordinated approach among all the stakeholders; fuel management is not a service (i.e. there is no taxation for it) at the RDCK, there is no secure funding in place and no dedicated staff.

The maximum amount of money available from the Province is $3 million over five years for treatment, and $500,000 over five years for prescriptions, all divided by the 11 electoral areas in the district. Incorporated municipalities have a separate source of funding.

“$300,000/ha [per year] for the entire RDCK is completely inadequate,” said Anna H director Walter Popoff. The only way to work effectively would be to establish a service, which could be seen as a tax on the dollars mined specifically for that service, combined with whatever provincial funding is available.

“The RDCK has no jurisdiction on Crown land. It is their [the Province’s] responsibility, not the Regional District’s or the municipalities.”

There should be provincial funding to get this done. I don’t want to tax people when the Province should pay.”

One way of getting the cost down would be to sell the wood harvested. Unfortunately, DC Tim Sales won’t allow sales of merchantable timber above a set diameter. Blackwell said the highest value for the wood was for heating; they had been trying to get the government to look at biofuels but “it’s totally frustrating because of bureaucracy.”

Stephanie Martinuzzi was there on behalf of SiFCO, the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-operative, which has worked on interface fuel management projects in the valley, helping the Village of Slocan to secure $265,000 for work on 35 hectares east of the village, and treating land between Silverton and Red Mountain.

Martinuzzi called for more cooperation between the various entities concerned with reducing the risk. She suggested, for example, that the RDCK could buy a planter that would work on steep slopes and could be used all over the regional district.

New Denver and Area fire chief Leonard Casley noted that “wildfires have changed. They’re hotter, faster and the ember ten times farther.”

Because of fire suppression in the past, he said, the forest has been left too long to build up fuel capacity, and when it burns, the smoke is so hot it’s sterilizing the soil.

Casley suggested insurance companies could be a major factor in educating people to build more fire-resistant homes, by lowering premiums for those buildings with more fire-resistant materials and less wood siding and shingles.

**New Denver writers’ weekend submitted**

The second annual Convergence Writers’ Weekend happens at the Heart’s Rest Retreat Centre in New Denver, June 14-16. The event, whose theme is “Writing a New World,” will feature talks, workshops, readings by area published authors, and one-on-one writing consultations with featured presenter Alanna Mitchell, author of the bestselling Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis. More information, including registration procedures, is available at www.heartresteret.com/convergence-convergence-writers-retreat.

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**Executors & Estate Settlement Seminar**

You should attend this complimentary seminar... if you have appointed an executor for your estate, or are named as an executor for someone else’s.

**TOPICS:**
- How your executor can save time and money on estate settlement fees
- Pros and cons of joint ownership
- What is probate? Is it wise to avoid it?
- Overview of capital gains tax
- Certification and burial pre-planning
- and much, much more.

**Tuesday, June 4 7:00 PM**

Valley Funeral Home 101 Nelson Avenue, Nakusp
Call 250-265-4316 or email valleyfuneralhome@live.com to register
SEATING IS LIMITED

Hosted by: Valley Funeral Home Ltd.
Wetlands in the Slocan Valley

submitted
June 7-9, join the BC Wildlife Federation and local partners (the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Slocan Lake Research Centre, and Slocan River Streamkeepers) for a two-and-a-half-day, free wetland stewardship workshop at the Hills Community Hall, on Hwy 6 just past Baldwin Rd. Register early, as space is limited.

At ‘Wetlandkeepers,’ you will learn about wetland types and functions, and gain hands-on experience with inventory and GPS mapping, and with wetland soil, vegetation and wildlife surveys. An opportunity to participate in a ‘boodle’ of Hunter Siding wetlands (18 km north of New Denver) is also included. You will leave with a copy of ‘Wetlandkeepers’ and a chance to meet some of the key biologists.

For more information about these free workshops and events, visit: http://wetlandkeepersnewsweek2013.eventbrite.com/ or contact the BCFW Wetlands Co-ordinator toll free at 1-888-881-2293 ext 232 or wetlands@bcwf.ca

Doukhobor history signage dedication and open house

submitted
On Sunday, May 26 beginning at 11 am, two interpretive signage panels telling the story of Doukhobor settlement in the Slocan Valley will be unveiled. The dedication ceremonies will take place at the red kiosk on the rail trail at the north end of Slocan Park, immediately south of the Slocan Park Bridge Road.

The public is invited to join the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, John J. Verigin, Peter Reloff, the Slocan Valley Choir and several dignitaries for the dedications, followed by refreshments and an open house at Slocan Park Hall.

Doukhobors have resided in the Slocan Valley since Peter Verigin visited the area in 1908 to purchase land for settlement. Today, the descendants of these pioneers number in the thousands and are undoubtedly the most successful settlers in the Slocan Valley’s history. Yet, their story is largely unknown.

With this signage in place, it is expected that many more people will come to wonder at the Doukhobor story – how they cleared the land, planted acres of fruit trees, built jam and brick factories, and how they struggled to reconcile their beliefs with the demands of government and Canadian society.

June 7-9, 2013

Get involved in wetland conservation!

>> WELTANDBERES NEW DENVER WORKSHOP

>> A two and a day workshop in New Denver’s wetland restoration mission and tools you need to protect & conserve wetlands in your own community.

>> DROP IN AT HUNTERS Siding on June 9th to participate in a volunteer and learn from experts.

>> For more information contact: space is limited!

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