Johnson’s Landing landslide report released – compensation still elusive for landowners

by Jan McMurray

Ten months after the devastating landslide in Johnson’s Landing on July 12 last year that killed four people, destroyed five homes and evacuated 12 people, the people of Johnson’s Landing are extremely frustrated with the lack of adequate compensation.

This message came through loud and clear at a public meeting at Argenta Hall May 23, where the much anticipated landslide hazard and risk assessment report was presented. In attendance were the authors of the report and representatives from the RDCK, Ministry of Transportation and Emergency Management BC’s Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Last year, the RDCK told residents that until the landslide report came out, the evacuation order would remain in place and all decisions about rebuilding would be on hold.

Now that the report has come out, residents were told at the meeting that the evacuation order would remain in effect “for a few more months” while the RDCK formulates land use regulations for the hazardous areas.

The report rates 18 private properties in whole or in part at very high hazard (five properties), high hazard (nine properties) or moderate hazard (four properties) from landslides in future. Also in hazardous areas are the community hall, the public beach, the Argenta-Johnsons Landing Road at the Gar Creek crossing, and Houston Road.

The report concludes eight recommendations intended to reduce the risk of loss of life. An RDCK committee will go through the recommendations over the next several months and make recommendations to the board on how to address them. The RDCK committee includes Area D Director Andy Shadrack, Chair John Kettle, Vice Chair Hillary Elliott, and CAO Brian Caruthers.

Discussion at the meeting turned quickly to compensation concerns.

The only compensation so far has been Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA), which is designed to help people get back on their feet, not to fully compensate. So far, about $300,000 of DFA funding has been distributed, and DFA reps at the meeting said another $300,000 would be forthcoming as a result of the findings in the report.

One resident asked about the possibility of the Province appropriating the land in the high hazard areas and providing compensation that way. Dawn Attope of the RDCK responded, “My information at this point is there is no appetite to expropriate.”

“You’re asking people to own this land, pay taxes and insurance on it, and not be able to do a thing on it. This is unbelievable,” said one resident to applause from the audience.

Director Shadrack said he and RDCK Chair John Kettle have raised these issues with the ministries. “We needed to have the report,” he said. “We have to work with the MLA and the government to try to get that. The people who have to be convinced are the cabinet.” He said in cases where the Province felt they had some liability, there is compensation, but in this case, the Province had no liability, “so we have to find a creative way to work through that.”

Although residents acknowledged that the Disaster Financial Assistance team has “beat over backwards” to help them, they pointed out the shortcomings of the program.

DFA provides 80 percent of the assessed value of the house only, not the land or the outbuildings. This legislation doesn’t work very well in rural communities. We don’t live in one house on a small lot. We have large parcels and several outbuildings that have never been compensated for. We have farming, agriculture, animals. The Province has to listen. The Province has said the legislation doesn’t work very well. That’s like asking us to suck air,” said one resident.

Another resident pointed out that many Johnson’s Landing property owners had fallen through the cracks.

“A lot of us are completely out of the box. It’s hard to fit into boxes, so we’re not being helped effectively.”

She said some people are not eligible for a single penny of DFA because their Johnson’s Landing home was not their principal residence or for some other reason. “Out of eight homes, five can’t be helped. This is disgraceful for BC,” she said.

One woman said she has not been able to live in her home and she lost her farm, so she has had no income for the last eight months. She will receive 83 percent of the assessed value of her home and nothing for her land.

“It’s hard to move forward,” she said and suggested that the Province make some crown land available to her in exchange for her land, which had effectively become crown land.

One man said he is still the legal owner of his property even though it is worthless. “It used to be worth $200,000 and now it’s worth nothing. But that’s not the worst. The worst is I am still the owner and I am liable if someone goes on there and gets hurt. I get sued. And I’m still paying taxes. I would like some relief and maybe you could work on it.”

Another voice spot for the residents is public access to the beach. Hugh Eberle of the Ministry of Transportation told the residents that the lower portion of the road to the beach will not be rebuilt or maintained by the ministry because it is in a very high hazard zone and the ministry’s mandate is to provide safe access to the public. He indicated that he was willing to work with the residents on a solution that would work for everyone.

Residents pointed out that in the event of a forest fire, the road to the beach is the escape route to boats. They also pointed out that Hwy 31 north of Larder is hazardous but is maintained and open. “In North Vancouver and in Squamish, you spent millions of dollars, so you fix it in some places but not here where there are not enough of us.”

One of the DFA reps reported that a total of $1 million had been spent on the Johnson’s Landing emergency. One man observed, “I don’t see people’s situations getting any better for the $1 million spent. Why doesn’t the government help us out here? Government involvement is making it worse, not better.”

Another resident announced that a fundraising campaign has been launched online on Indiegogo. “Send it to everyone you know. Maybe that way we’ll get the million dollars we need,” she said.
Valley residents convince regional district to consider cell tower concerns

by Art Joyce

Claire Kelly and Allison Lang appeared as a delegation at the Regional District Board meeting May 10 on behalf of Slocan Valley Citizens for Safe Technology. An earlier Rural Affairs Committee (RAC) meeting had decided to proceed with cell tower approvals prior to hearing the group's concerns.

The group is asking that the Regional District not waive its right as the local land use authority to have its own public consultation process for cell tower siting.

RDKC Chair John Kettle spoke before Kelly and Lang's presentation, stating that the "pace changer" for some directors was being told by Telus that the highway cell service rollout in the entire region could be put on hold for a year due to opposition in the valley. In her presentation, Kelly told the board that Kettle's reputation "took a huge hit in our community because we thought we were going to have input and suddenly we didn't have any.

Kelly explained that the impacts from cell towers would affect not just the Slocan Valley, but the entire region. Many valley residents are concerned that there will be negative impacts on local businesses, many of which trade on the area's reputation as a pristine refuge. Among businesses or institutions potentially impacted are bed and breakfasts, agencies, the Whole School, and health practitioners focusing on holistic or naturopathic practices.

"Good policy saves stakeholders time and money by getting it right the first time with the best coverage and minimal exposure to residents," said Kelly. "This is what we choose for our own tax money -- the one billion dollars for this contract with Telus. We feel local government is the right place for this siting to proceed to happen.

New principals and vice-principals at SD10 schools

by Jan McMurray

New principals and vice-principals have been announced for every school in Arrow Lakes School District No. 10 for the coming school year.

All positions are being filled by the district -- except for Nelson School's new principal, Drew Neilson. According to a press release issued by the school district, Neilson "brings a wealth of principal experience from his service in Port McNeill to his new position at Nelson."

Current Nelson principal, Natasha Miles, moves to the position of principal at Nelson Secondary School, with Nicol Sohr as vice-principal. "We would like to recognize Mr. Nicol Sohr, who has served so well for the past two years as president of the Arrow Lakes Teachers Association and will make a fine vice-principal at Nelson," she added.

New Denver Citizens of the Year: Lora Lee Brekke, Colin Moss and Mercedes Casley

New Denver Citizen of the Year Awards were presented to three people at May Days this year: Lora Lee Brekke, Mercedes Casley and Colin Moss.

Lora Lee Brekke serves as a school board trustee and is a coordinator of the New Denver Ambassador Program. She is a core member of the KSCU team that prepares and serves free monthly breakfasts to local students. She also volunteers at the Slocan Lake Arena Society's monthly bingo. She was a member of the Women's Institute and has also been a member of the United Church, and has volunteered for the Cancer Society.

Mercedes Casley is a Girl Guide leader, a member of the Boys and Girls Club and a junior member of the New Denver Volunteer Fire Department. She helps out with the New Denver Ambassador Program, Movie Night at the Bosun, and has served at the Anniversary Dinner and many other events. Mercedes has been volunteering in the community since she was a small girl. She is in her final year of high school and holds two part-time jobs.

Colin Moss is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Silvery Slocan Historical Society. He has recently become a member of the Hospice Society, completing his training as a hospice volunteer. His nominators describe him as helpful and pleasant, and note his appreciation to have the opportunity to contribute to our community.
Storm brings power outages to the valley and a landslide to Highway 6

by Jan McMurray

Stormy weather throughout the region on May 21 brought prolonged power outages in the Sicamous Valley and a debris torrent that closed Hwy 6 between Burton and Faquier for a day.

Some southern Sicamous Valley residents in the FortisBC service area were without power for 73 hours. Northern valley residents in the BC Hydro area were not as harshly hit, with power out on Tuesday night for three hours in Nakusp and for 10 hours in New Denver-Silverton.

In the north valley, the outage was caused by a 60-foot fir tree taking down a span of line from the New Denver substation.

In the south valley, the storm brought many trees down onto power lines and damaged power poles. The power went out at about 4 pm on Tuesday, May 21 and repairs were not completed until Friday, May 24 at 6 pm, affecting 5,000 customers at its peak. “The outages were concentrated primarily in the Patermo area, but outages took place from Traill to Wenis and from Grand Forks to Salmon,” reported a FortisBC representative. Diane Morrisi, who lives on Upper Paradise Valley Road, was driving home when the storm hit. “Suddenly it was like a tornado swept across the section of Paradise Valley Road I was driving towards. I backed up my car to park in a safer place and ran into a field away from all the trees and power lines falling around me. It was a very scary situation to be in,” she said.

FortisBC had about 50 personnel working to restore power through a combination of crews, contract crews and support staff. They brought in three of their crews from Kelowna, South Okanagan and Cariboo, and one contract crew from Kamloops. Meanwhile, in the Arrow Lakes Valley between Faquier and Burton, a debris torrent occurred overnight May 21-22 and covered a 100-metre length of the road with debris.

Wednesday, May 22

A debris torrent came down onto Hwy 6 between Faquier and Burton overnight May 21-22, closing the highway until the evening of May 22.

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NEWS

Community Calendar

Wednesday, May 29
Nakusp Secondary College
7 pm - 8 pm
Burns Lumber Co. story
Pampero Lodge
7 pm

Friday, May 31
Dances With Family Dance
Silverton Memorial Hall
TBA
Laura & Paul Lindberg
Raincourt Ball, Pampero
7 pm

Saturday, June 1
Unicorn Steakhouse and Cabaret
Unicorn Steakhouse
1 pm
Lacuna Gourmet Cakes
Lacuna Gourmet Cakes
1 pm

Bottle Drive (WCB WLP)
Silverton Civic Hall
8 am - 4 pm
Bottle Drive (WCB WLP)
Silverton Civic Hall
8 am - 4 pm

Burger, Eagles & Duel Sale
5645 Dunkirk Rd., Burton
10 am

Hobbit Hole, Kootenay Delta Project
Nakusp Public Library
8 pm

Jazz Tables
Silverton Gallery
7:30 pm

Yard Sale
240 Silverton Rd., Burton
9 am

Sunday, June 2

Outlaws of Eagles
Unicorn Cultural Centre
1 pm

Arrow Lakes Arts Council AGM
701 3rd St. NW, Nakusp
2 pm

Tuesday, June 4
Carnival & Fireworks-Sunday Pillars: Union Rhythm Band
Silverton Civic Hall
1 pm

Nakusp Everybody Club AGM
701 3rd St. NW, Nakusp
2 pm

Wednesday, June 5
Canoe & Karette: Presentation and Demonstration
701 3rd St. NW, Nakusp
2 pm

Nakusp Secondary College
7 pm

Rooster Country Singers
Robberst Station, Nakusp
8 pm

Nakusp Secondary College
7 pm

Saturday, June 8
Nakusp Graduation/Commencements
Anna
1 pm

Sunday, June 9
Couple's Fun Tour
800 Lakeview Dr. (B) 10 am

Monday, June 10
Nakusp Council
Nakusp council chambers
6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 11
Nakusp Council
Nakusp council chambers
7 pm

Nakusp Council
Nakusp council chambers
7 pm

Fusion, Mixed Choir
Kootenay Delta Project
7 pm

Sunday, June 16

Nakusp Secondary College
7 pm

Mountain Bike Skills Semiclub
Silverton Civic Hall
10 am - 4 pm

Silverton Civic Hall
10 am - 4 pm

Nakusp Secondary College
7 pm

South Okanagan Trust
Kootenay Delta Project
7 pm

Silverton Civic Hall
10 am - 4 pm

Silverton Civic Hall
10 am - 4 pm

Silverton Civic Hall
10 am - 4 pm
Voting is important
This is an open letter to all those adults eligible to vote but didn’t. Shame on you. The act of voting is essentially a non-political act, a right given to you as a citizen of Canada. By not voting, not only are you not voting for a political party, which you have every right to do, but also you are voting against democracy. If you don’t like democracy, or think it does not work, perhaps you can explain to me a system which is better. Democracy is not perfect, but all we have got. To have no system is merely.
I worked all day at the New Denver post station and it was a delight to see everyone come in to vote. There was no reason not to. There was advanced voting, absentee voting. The polls were open 12 straight hours. A station was even closed so that it could move outside to accommodate a voter who had extreme mobility problems. There were no storms, no snow. The highlight was seeing four first-time voters come to exercise their right to cast a vote. Even if they chose to spoil it.
The largest single voter block is now the non-voter. Just imagine if you all decided to vote for the same person.
Tim Sande
Hills

Rosebery-Summit Lake trail
On behalf of the North Slocan Trails Society, I would like to respond to the article on the Rosebery to Summit Rail Trail application for tenure in the previous issue.
The application submitted by the North Slocan Trails Society is not a new application as stated in the article, but rather an application to FLNRO (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations), Recreation Sites and Trails, to designate the CP Rail right of way as a recreational trail. As part of the successful application process, the North Slocan Trails Society would come into an agreement with the Province to manage the rail trail for non-motorized use. This would allow the trail society to raise funds, develop short- and long-term plans for the trail, work on the trail legally, mitigate water damage, build bridges, post signs and create awareness of the unique and sensitive nature of the trail. A public input meeting will be scheduled in the near future. I encourage interested community members to attend, help determine the trail’s future, tell their stories and voice their opinions.
Like many of you, I have developed a strong connection to the rail corridor. I vividly recall my first experience on the trail in the early ‘90s. I was in awe. That special day led to many more visits and was a prime factor in our decision to move to New Denver in 2008.
You might say we are still in the honeymoon stage compared to seasoned locals, but in talking with long-time residents and trail users. I am impressed with the passion and respect that they have for the trail. SSLS surveys and the OCP have indicated that the community values recreational trails. The Rosebery to Summit Rail Trail is a perfect opportunity to act on what is important to us.
Mike Koolen
New Denver

Be prepared on outings
In last week’s Valley Voice, there was a letter from Sue Edge, who had a small迷失 adventure and was upset that her cell phone could not work from her location.
Two aspects of her letter leave me perplexed. First, as a Telus customer, you must realize that the signal from the lakeside tower in New Denver is low powered and cannot travel great distances, particularly up narrow back valleys. The coverage is shown on a map at the Telus kiosk in Nelson and is continued to local main valleys.
Cell towers can’t happen on mountaintops because of the distance from phone users in the valleys here, and it also makes good sense to have an installation put on an existing tower (CBC Radio 1) which has electricity and easy access. The term “cell” refers to the small geographic area that any one tower can reach. For this reason, the planned towers down the valley simply do need to be near communities.
I don’t currently have a cell phone though I rarely understand their value and range. And I don’t own shares in Telus corporation, I just know they’re in business.
Anyhow, to me, the more important aspect of Sue Edge’s complaint is that she and friends set off on a trip where they perhaps were not well prepared and assumed that a phone cell could be helpful in their situations. Even with charged batteries, there’s always the chance that if you did contact someone, the message may be too hard to decipher and the guest might be made that there’s been an accident and nobody got hurt bad!
It’s too easy for calls to be garbled, slow relayed with growing unacquiescence and a full-blown emergency rescue undertaken by people and agencies when the matter may be only inconvenient or uncomfortable. Your cell phone is a great thing to use around home and town but best to take the age old advice of the Griz Guido and be prepared. Carry a well-stocked pack, use a half-decent reliable vehicle, and wear some wise comfortable walking shoes.
Peter Robinson
New Denver

Message from Joseph Hughes
The free citizens of Kootenay West, I owe you thanks. From family and friends to the thousands who made their voice clear on the election ballot, thank you. I chose to step forward to represent you and the support I received was amazing.
The calls, emails and talks on the street were so empowering. This community has a fantastic trait; that is the support for neighbours that inspire. Nothing makes a community stronger than the desire to see each other reach goals and dreams. I am so honoured by the words of support before and after the election. Through this roller-coaster adventure, it was those words that helped my family rise again from the challenging lows.
To those who contributed money. Wow. I have never considered sending money to someone looking for election. To be given hard earned money to go forward and fight for our rights and representation against such odds is again such honour! I hope I gained your support.
The task was insurmountable and I truly would not have attempted it if it wasn’t for the support I felt this community had. My wife Carlee did more in the last month than I knew a person could, and my children went along the whole way. Hard and Crystal Spiece – few know of your connection to this community. Through your passion for the Columbia River, I have gained an understanding of the incredible change this valley has endured. I will owe you thanks for the work you give to this valley and surely will in time to come.
‘Lack, full of diverse life and beautiful’ are words that once described this valley. Few can remember the potential that was sacrificed for energy. In the 1980s, the voices of the people were not listened to. Since then, the valley has received a pinata for what was sacrificed. This process is beginning again, and soon it will be 2024. Emily feel water, not power, will be the primary interest in this debate. Show the government how we value grown since the ‘90s and that we need to look to the future with the knowledge of how vulnerable our environment is. Because we live here, it’s our fight. If not us, then who?
Please do not forget these elections mean for all of us. We are asked once every four years who shall represent our voices. I challenge all to be more involved in government actions that concern us. If we all gave a fraction of our time to issues that speak loud to us, we could start creating the changes we want to see. Be conscious of the consequences of what we buy. Look out your window and ask yourself if this valley is worth speaking up for, if our province is sustainable and if our country is the nation you wish it to be. Though the election has ended, the momentum has not, and the conversation must not.
Joseph Hughes
Nakusp

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.
Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.
Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.
We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.
Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
Nakusp-Summit rail trail meeting decides on multi-use

by Art Joyce

Maybe we can learn to get along after all. A meeting hosted by the Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society at the Legion Hall May 22 was a cooperative response by individuals from various rail trail user groups represented. The consensus that emerged was that rather than competing the Nakusp to Summit Lake section, will be shared or multi-use trail. A committee will be formed to develop standards of user etiquette and to negotiate user rights. The meeting was facilitated by Lara Piga and society president, Barb Chwacka. Justin Dexter, Recreation Officer with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations office in Nelson, was present to answer questions. Dexter said that the ministry through his office has issued permission under the Forest and Range Practices Act for the society to administrate the trail, subject to community input and participation. The meeting was a first step in that direction. He explained that the ministry no longer has the funds to administer these trails so such community partnerships are vital. Dexter has investigated the possibility of conflicts with private landowners and so far has found none. The government routinely issues trail management group liability insurance to cover potential claims. The authorization issued by his office allows members of the public under the society’s direction to legally work on Crown land.

Members of the audience were invited to share their concerns about the trail. One person pointed out that as long as user groups were in opposition it would continue to be a “dilemma.” Dexter said this kind of conflict is common across the province but that there were many examples of groups reaching a workable compromise through a memorandum of understanding. Councillor Zelenik pointed out that there has also been notice given by the Kinannah First Nation of their interest in the trail. A meeting is scheduled with tribal representatives for the end of June.

Ernie Knecht and Jerry Van Immerzeel read prepared statements. Knecht, a longtime user of the trail for horseback riding, now uses it for ATV riding. He stated that, “this rail corridor must be developed in such a way that all members of the public can continue to have access and shared use. A major objective must be the encouragement of safe, responsible and respectful use by all community groups.” He added that there are no models available for trail etiquette, such as that developed by ATV BC. Examples of successful co-existence include the Tobac Mountain recreational area in Prince George and an agreement signed by 15 regional groups in the Boundary district. Knecht said that the Arrow Lake ATV Club has successfully applied for access to over 300 kilometers of trails in the region. He said the rail trail is a vital part of this circuit.

Van Immerzeel’s statement pointed out the wide variety of users on the trail. This goes far beyond the usual recreational uses that come to mind including firewood cutting, mushroom and berry picking, dog walking, bird watching, nature photography and other activities. Like Knecht, he stressed that “users of this trail must be informed, educated, develop an understanding, appreciation and respect for each other. Following trail etiquette guidelines will allow the greatest amount of latitude and harmony between non-motorized and motorized users.” He added that such a project is needed to deal with high replacements they need the option of ATVs in order to continue enjoying the trail. He stressed the need for motorized users to have proper protection and safety gear. Van Immerzeel urged temporary suspensions of motorized traffic for annual events such as the Summit Lake Walk and frog migration.

Other concerns raised included a proposed industrial park that could impinge on a section of the trail and the continued ability of Box Laka Lamberto to cross the trail for hauling. Chwacka said this is a commercial use that will have to be negotiated. Another issue mentioned was having a standard of maintenance that will allow continued motorized support on bridges or crossings. Dexter said that with engineered structures, the work must be done under the close supervision of the ministry. Others expressed a desire to have the trail be multi-use all the way to Rosbery. Dexter said there had been some mistakes in the surveying of the trail and that the project will be corrected. Eventually he agreed that extending shared use to Rosbery is a possibility.

Dexter commented for the audience’s interactive cooperation: “I’ve been to a lot of similar meetings in small towns and it can get heated sometimes—we have to be in mediators. You guys did really well.”

Help Inform the Future of the Columbia River Treaty

The Province of British Columbia invites you to a Columbia River Treaty Review consultation workshop with information on future treaty options. Find out how your interests may be affected. Want your input on the future of the Treaty.

Join the Province’s Columbia River Treaty Review Team and other speakers on June 15 at Faquier Community Hall.

The workshop will be from 9 am to 4 pm.

For more information about the workshop and the Columbia River Treaty Review visit:

gov.bc.ca/columbiatreaty

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PETER JULIAN, MP

NDP Critic for Energy and Natural Resources

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with

Michelle Mungall, MLA

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Hosted by Alex Atamarenko, MP, and the W K EcoSociety

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COMMUNITY

Danika Hammond wins prestigious Lorain Award

by Jan McMurray

Danika Hammond of Lucerne School in New Denver has won the prestigious Lorain Award, worth up to $8,000, over four years of undergraduate study at university.

Danika will be studying Political Science at UBC in Vancouver.

This year, there were 3,700 applicants and just 30 recipients. The website states that the “Lorain Scholar selection process is the most rigorous in the country.” The scholarship is offered on the basis of character, service and leadership potential.

Danika is understandably ecstatic about receiving the Award. “I did not foresee myself being recognized nationally!” she said. “I applied for the Lorain Award because I think it’s important for graduating students to give themselves all the opportunities they can. Take risks and apply. So I took the time and effort to allow for the possibility.”

Danika says the most appealing aspect of the Lorain Award is that “it isn’t just a money award. The organization is invested in me and wants to see me growing and more gaining useful out of university.”

The scholarship provides tuition, a $9,000 annual stipend, access to up to $5,000 in interest-free student loans, career counselling and professional development opportunities in Canada and abroad, a week-long orientation expedition at Algonquin Park in Ontario with all 30 Lorain Scholars, a one-on-one mentorship program, and participation in the community of Lorain Scholars.

As part of the application process, Danika was asked to write four essays on specific topics. Her essay on addressing an unmet need in the community was about her contribution to creating the New Denver Youth Centre.

In her essay about a time when she struggled to lead a group and how she overcame it, she described her experience leading Grade 6 Horseback Riding. “Some days it was hard to trust and inspire the students, but by finding creative activities and being flexible, we accomplished a lot.”

Her “personal challenge” essay was about her trip to Quebec for a five-week French immersion program. “Before I started I was excited to go, but after a while I was bored to death. I learned the language and generally had a bad attitude about it. But during my time in Rivière-du-Loup I was able to participate and enjoy French with a positive group of friends,” she said.

Danika’s essay on her most important volunteer contribution was about her year as Minis New Denver in the ‘Mary Queen Ambassador Program. I did over 100 hours of volunteer work in that program, including not limited to calling bingo numbers.”

Redfish School of Change brings 13 university students to New Denver

Saturday, June 1, 2013
1:00 PM
Everyone is welcome to attend
Celebration tea following ceremonies

Redfish School of Change brings 13 university students to New Denver

Submitted by Jan McMurray

You may have seen a fistula of canoes arriving in New Denver from Wsee Sandy Bunch. It wasn’t an invasion; it was the Redfish School of Change. By bicycle, by canoe and by foot, 13 university students from places like Toronto, Victoria, Halifax and the Yukon travelled through the Slocan Valley and beyond this May as part of the Redfish School of Change.

Founded in 2008 by New Denver resident Nadine Raynolds, this experiential university field school is a unique partnership between GreenLearning Canada and the University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies. Each year, students from across BC and Canada, interested in social and environmental change, design and employ different ways to effectively create positive change at a community level.

As a four-week intensive field school, the program includes workshops, field trips, community dialogue, wilderness expeditions, service learning, mentorship, and one-on-one support for six months as students develop their own community action projects. Upon completion, students get credit for two 300-level environmental studies courses.

The program is intentionally held in a region known for its natural beauty, unique ecology, and social innovation.

Last year, we focused our entire semester in the West Kootenay and absolutely loved the experience,” said Ryan Hlippe, program director and instructor of The Political Ecology of Mining, who led that trip during the semester. “This year, we are so excited to once again place community service at the centre of our program, to see some of our previous graduates strengthening and expanding, and to visit the friends we made last year during our stay here.”

The four-week canoe trip on Slocan Lake, Redfish students assisted the Kootenay Community Bat Project by conducting a roost count. They also received training on the identification and classification of wildlife trees, and are documenting important habitats along the lakeshore, contributing findings to a mapping project spearheaded by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society.

Redfish students hosted three tables as well as the Kids Zone at the May Days market on Monday. They partnered with the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society in creating a ‘Lake Stories’ booth, which collected and digitally recorded 38 stories from visitors about their experiences on the lake. They also hosted a wildlife tree educational table with Bear Aware (soon to become Wildlife BC).

Redfish students and some volunteer students from Lucerne Secondary School helped the Kootenay Community Bat Project to build eight bat houses to provide to local bat conservation groups to help improve bat habitat on their property. At May Days, they hosted a table where visitors could learn about bats, and one lucky family even won one of the bat houses in a raffle.

‘Our visit was such a great experience, once again. Students always comment on how welcoming the New Denver community is, and we’re eager to extend our thanks to all of you. One time there was a real highlight of the program for all of us — it felt so special to put our learning in real use,” said Ryan Hlippe, program director.

After leaving New Denver, Redfish students cycled to Nelson via the Slocan Rail Trail, spent three days speaking with community leaders in Nelson, and finished with a service project at Tahi Camp on Kootenay Lake.

The school’s service work is supported with a grant from CBT’s Environmental Initiatives program, and with support from the Edmonton Community Foundation. The data gathered and educational materials developed will be made available to local organizations which can benefit from the work, Redfish students complete.

For more information about the Redfish School of Change, visit www.schoolofchange.ca

SLOCAN LAKE PUTS ON AND SUCH

Three weeks into the season and the golf course is off to a great start. Our opening round on May 19th was well-attended, with some 300 golfers walking away with top honors for women’s net and Terry Everett winning for the men. We followed that up with a May Days Tournament that was very well attended. Due to generous sponsorship by Silverton Bldg. Supplies and Rethmier Logging there were enough prizes to go around for all. A win for the women’s net category and Dennis Morgan in the men’s.

The clubhouse is busy with Rick Holmes and his crew serving up tasty homemade meals and craft beer all day every day.

May 25 was the start of our Couples Fun Tourneys. The next, Couples Fun Tourney will be on Sunday June 9. It’s an alternate shot 9 hole mini Tournament. We’ve reduced the green fees on this one, so $15.00 gets you a lot of fun and maybe a free meal. If you’re single or your partner doesn’t golf, grab a friend or neighbor or just drop in and see who else is looking to ‘couple’ for a round. If you’ve thought about golfing and just don’t know where to begin, in early June we offer our free Basic Golf School.

This course is designed for the adults who have never golfed and will cover everything from golf etiquette to how to get the ball in the cup! It’s absolutely free and we’ll even supply the clubs, so now’s your chance to learn why millions of people change that little white ball. Please phone the clubhouse at 255-2426 to register and find out more. If you would like your child (aged 7 and up) to learn how to play this lifelong sport please phone the clubhouse and sign them up for our free junior clinic also coming in July.

We’re looking forward to a busy season and hope to see many new and returning guests.

RDCK board, May 16: Kootenay Energy Diet introduced

by Jan McMurray

• Patricia Dehnel of FortisBC introduced the Kootenay Energy Diet, which will be rolled out this year to Kootenay communities in the FortisBC service area. She said they were working on bringing in Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton as well.

• The program helps people to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

• “Helps us on its way for managing emergency events. The RDCK chair is a member of the Kootenay and Boundary Fire Management Committee and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Districts of East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary for joint disaster planning and management of emergency events.”

This was initiated to alleviate the kind of pressure experienced by RDCK staff in 2012, a particularly difficult year for emergencies in the region. Staff fell well behind in their regular work while managing the Emergency Operations Centre.

The MOU was developed in consultation with Emergency Management BC, which will ensure reimbursement for all eligible expenses for the participants once the agreement is activated.

• Staff will review the policy for allocating funds to the Ministry of Forests to offset tipping fees associated with the clean up of illegal dump sites.

• The board passed a resolution stating that medical marijuana grow operations are a permitted use on all agricultural and ALC lands in the RDCK. Although some directors felt it was too soon to pass this resolution because the federal government has not finalized the new regulations, others agreed it was important to make it clear to people where they can set up medical marijuana grow operations. “We’re inundated with applications,” commented Chair Ristle.

• The RDCK will urge the Province to formally recognize the contributions and sacrifices of all volunteer firefighters. The Province has unveiled a BC Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial that recognizes only career firefighters. Nearly 75 percent of firefighters in BC are volunteer, and 67 volunteer firefighters have died while in the line of service.

• Funding of $125,000 for the Nakusp arena heat recovery project was approved. This comes from Area K’s Community Works Fund (gas tax) allocation. The project will reclaim heat from the operation of the ice plant to heat other areas of the arena building.
New Denver council, May 14: Council considers forest interface, smart meters, carbon funds

by Art Joyce

Stefan Martineau of the Slocan Integrative Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) appeared as a delegation before council to outline forest interface services his group provides. Denver’s past funding, he said, has been targeting Crown land around the Villages of Slocan and Silverton.

Martineau explained that there is generally a three-phase approach to forest interface planning. The first phase involves an assessment of urban interface lands followed by an assessment and prescription phase and finally completion of the work itself. The council brought up plans to show the areas of proposed treatment, which would include crown lands between Silverton and New Denver. The initial assessment is provided free of charge, with the prescription phase costing about $15,000 and the Village covering about $3,000 of that cost. Without the current funding, Slocan from the Province, about 90 percent of the total project costs would be covered. Mayor Buika said that given the current staff shortage and the lack of knowledge of the staff, it’s unlikely there would be staff available to do the paperwork. Martineau said he estimated only two to five hours would be required. He added that if this goes forward, the Village would only be required to act in a consultative capacity. Mayor Buika reiterated, “I don’t see us doing that this year because we’re absolutely buried and short-staffed.”

• Mayor Buika’s report, the noted that the Orostechia landfill will soon be accepting some contaminated soils in limited amounts. The Regional District reserves the right to refuse soils. Because of the size and approval is required. Contact the RDCK office in Nelson.

At the Parklands/Trails Commission meeting, Mayor Buika reported that the boundaries of the Parklands are being reviewed and might be expanded for the new Kehr-Morrison at the Rosebery trailhead has begun and quotes sought for new brochures. Mayor Buika further reported that the Regional District is prepared to move ahead on a guidance plan for Slocan Lake based on data gathered by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLS). The plan will cost $10,000, with Slocan Silverton and New Denver contributing $2,500 each and the balance covered by Area H. Council passed a motion to allocate the funding.

• A request from the StopSmartMeters.ca Society to support a request for an Initiative Petition (similar to that used for the HST) was discussed. The Village, along with 83 other municipalities, has already supported a call for a moratorium on the implementation of the BC Hydro smart meter grid. StopSmartMeters.ca Society President James Smith in his letter noted that this is the next logical step in the process. Councillor Voin Kroyk said if council could support the petition in principle, since many New Denver residents support that the petition. Councillor Voin Kroyk said he thought it should remain a private, non-municipal, process. Mayor Buika said as far as she was concerned, the Village had taken the only action it could by endorsing the call for a moratorium. Council decided to take no action.

At a council discussed a letter from a Carbon Neutral Kootenays with regard to the purchase of carbon offsets. Councillor Fox noted that there has been some question as to whether the Darkwoods land conservation project (Nature Conservancy Canada) meets the criteria. Mayor Buika said her concern was that the Pacific Carbon Trust is a competitor to the Nature Conservancy. Councilor Fox said both organizations are being scrutinized by the Office of the Auditor General in light of problems with the program. “If we don’t give our carbon money to Darkwoods we have to create a carbon neutral fund,” she explained. “I’d be quite happy to have our carbon money benefit Darkwoods and let the dust settle where it may.” Council voted to allocate its funds to Darkwoods.

• A request from the Healthy Silverton council, May 21: Residents to be surveyed on community halls

by Jan McMurray

A questionnaire on the Silverton Gallery and Silverton Memorial Hall will be included in tax notices. Currently, both buildings are being subsidized by taxpayers. One of council’s priorities in its two-year plan is to create a plan for the use, maintenance, management and maintenance of its facilities. Public input is paramount to the development of this plan. Other priorities in the two-year plan include developing bylaws and policies, downtown revitalization, the highway corridor, and economic development.

• Council agreed to take on the selection of the Volunteer of the Year and the presentation of the award starting in 2014. The Silverton Community Club will continue to organize the event, taking on the responsibilities of advertising, hall rental and refreshments.

• Lee Hammond attended a workshop, “Getting ready to grow a Food Charter.” Many communities, including New Denver and Kaslo have done so. He provided council with a copy of the Kaslo Volunteer Manual based on Kaslo’s. He said local food and local food producers can stimulate the economy and provide a real service to the community. Council agreed that this is an important discussion for the community, and referred it to the June 4 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Met and Gayle Swanson were awarded the campground contract. The Swansons will operate both the New Denver and Silverton campgrounds this year.

Community Society to partner with the Village in a funding application for the New Denver Food Program was discussed. Mayor Buika said she likes the project, “but not this year, we’re behind on our workload as it is.” Councillor Voin Krong said his concern was depending on grant funding to sustain the project. Councillor Voin Krong said the project has been allocated in this year’s budget and was meant to make funding elsewhere in order to contribute to the project. Councillor Fox said food security is an issue of great concern to her and referred to it as council liaison with the society.

Council passed a resolution stating that it would not be able to participate in a joint funding application but that Councillor Fox was willing to act as council liaison to the society.

• A request from Hank Hastings to replace the barrier to the green space at the south end of Josephine Street adjacent to the hospital property was discussed. Illegal parking and camping has been occurring there since a log barrier was ‘temporarily’ removed for maintenance some years ago. Council voted to replace the barrier.

• Council voted to grant the request for a grant-in-aid to cover the cost of customs insurance for the Silverton Historical Society.

• Councillor Voin Krong reported on the progress of the refurbished washrooms at Centennial Park, which opened to the public recently.

An ancient rule runs down the length of Slocan Lake. The two plates haven’t moved since the last glaciation, 10,000 years ago.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society slocanaleks.com

This is a non-alcoholic event.

OUTDOOR SUMMER FUN SALE

OUTDOOR CARPET

ALPHA RIB GREEN CLIMBING IVY • 12 FT WIDE $6.49/SQ YD

BUDGET TURF • GREEN • 12 FT WIDE $8.95/SQ YD

KANGA HYDE CARPET “TORTILLA” • 12 FT WIDE $15.99/SQ YD

EXT LATEX DECK STAIN SOLID • 4 LITER $29.95 EA

TABLE/CHAIR BISTRO SET WICKER/METAL • 3 PCS $67.99/SET

ROUND PATIO PAVERS EXPOSED AGGREGATE • 20” $7.99 EA

RECTANGULAR PAVERS • 3” X 12” X 16” $4.20 EA

2-PACK BLINDLESS STEEL SOLAR SPOTLIGHTS $12.95/PACK

BBQ LIGHTER BASS FISH • BUTANE $12.95 EA

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May 31, 2013

Slocan Lake Area Society is hosting a Upper Dance.

Slocan Memorial Hall Come celebrate with Cyndie, Danika, Margaret, Marlwa and Mercedes.

All girls will be dresses in their finery!

Music by Snow Board Instructor, Matt McKeen.

Everyone is welcome! Donations to the Society Annual Gifts, a tax receipt will be issued. The Society is insurance approved.

The Festival of Wine and Spirits a small donation. This is a non-alcoholic event.

OUTDOOR CARPET ALPHER RIB GREEN CLIMBING IVY • 12 FT WIDE $6.49/SQ YD 

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arrange a meeting to discuss the terms of reference for a fire hall working group. Mayor Lay said he was not prepared to discuss the project for the new fire hall unless the construction cost could be significantly reduced, and stressed the importance of council having input throughout the process.

Councillor Lang said he was in support of the project to build a local fibre optic network for connection to the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation regional network. Moving forward, an agreement between the Village, Kaslo Infonet and CBBC was in the final stages. "It will be cost neutral for the Village in the short term and there will be nominal revenues coming to the Village in the long term," he said, promising more information at the next council meeting.

The application for a permit under the Heritage Conservation Act to alter the boat launch site was prepared by Tipit Mountain Eco-Cultural Services Ltd. The measure was in the hands of the permit, with Tipit Mountain doing the field work.

The three bidders for the airport gravel pit lease will be contacted and asked to make a proposal prior to noon on May 22 for inclusion in the May 28 council agenda. They will be advised that if no proposal is received, council will proceed to consider each original proposal separately.

Patrick Malleck said council would have to ask about $47,500 for airport expenditures in the 2013 budget. He will be advised that these funds paid for the airport grass cutting, and the need for improvement on the south side of the airport, air plan review, painting and a new windsock location.

John Elder of the Kaslo Hotel emailed the Village to complain about the lack of washrooms facilities at Front Street Park, as this results in heavy public use of the hotel washrooms during the Saturday Markets. His correspondence was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

Council decided to deal with carbon offsets by establishing a Climate Action Reserve Fund. The Village will contribute $25 per tonne of local carbon emissions, with the money going to fund, its CARIP grant (Climate Action Reserve Incentive Program). The Climate Action Reserve will support local projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create energy efficiency. Discussion on possible projects will be referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

The budget and tax rate bylaw was adopted by the council for 2013 is $1,657,278. 12 percent of revenues come from property taxes ($345,739). 12 percent comes from user fees and charges ($348,419). 15 percent comes from grants ($550,120) and 58 percent comes from "other sources" ($1,252,552). Capital projects add up to $1,157,742.92 and include broadband infrastructure ($165,000), whale construction ($21,375), streetlight upgrade ($28,500), boat launch improvements ($20,553), City Hall renovation ($140,400), roads ($23,750), sidewalks ($5,700), waterworks improvements ($71,900). The residential tax rate for the municipal portion of taxes is $2.96 per $1,000 of assessed value; the business tax rate is $7.25 per $1,000.

Several Kaslo businesses with line of credit accounts were sent to small claims court for collection. These seven businesses have not paid their business license fees for three years or more. CAO Sawyer stated they had been sent multiple letters.

Another $1,485 in delinquent business license fees was written off as uncollectible, as the businesses owning had closed or moved.

Kaslo council was directed to proceed with the Stormwater Management Plan at a cost of $7,700.

Council is looking for focus group members for the Integrated Community Sustainability Initiative. The process, being facilitated by the Fraser Basin Council. Mayor Lay reported on IHA's interest to come as a delegation to a future council meeting. Kaslo council will focus on community health and the steps the community can take to improve health outcomes.

A Kaslo Golf Club five-year financial plan was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

Friends of Kootenay Lake launch water quality monitoring program submitted

The Friends of Kootenay Lake are working with citizen-scientists and municipalities to monitor the water quality of the lake. The three-year program is designed to help Kaslo and other municipalities gather information and to encourage a broader and deeper understanding of the lake's ecosystem.

The program has a two-pronged approach. Fifteen people are taking weekly temperature and water clarity readings from 15 different sites while a more ambitious project is gathering baseline monitoring by monitors by 12 times between April and October for temperature, clarity, turbidity, chlorophyll, local coliform, organic nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, organic carbon, total phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and nitrite, and ammonia.

The Friends are looking for volunteers to get involved, whether by taking weekly temperature readings or getting in the end of your dock, taking water clarity readings from your boat, or joining us out on a chartered boat for a day to try your hand at this important research work.

Get involved with the lake you love by contacting our program manager at: info@friendsofkootenaylake.ca or at 250-247-0077.

A special thanks to our funders the Columbia Basin Trust and the Real Estate Foundation of BC for making this research possible.

Breaden mandate of WKBRHD board

About 10 years ago, I attended a West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD) board meeting and listened to the directors express frustration with their limited mandate.

On May 22, 2013, it was déjà vu when I attended a WKBRHD board meeting, held in Kaslo, and listened to the directors express frustration with their limited mandate.

The board’s mandate is basically to rubber-stamp Interior Health’s annual plan for capital expenditures at health care facilities in the West Kootenay Boundary region.

The WKBRHD provides 40 percent of the funds for the capital projects, and IH provides 60 percent. That means the taxpayers of the West Kootenay-Boundary contribute 40 percent, while the remaining 60 percent is shared by all taxpayers in the province.

So, in addition to approving the IH plan for capital expenditures at health facilities in the region, the WKBRHD board is tasked with setting the tax rate for West Kootenay Boundary taxpayers to ensure payment of their 40 percent share every year.

The board consists of RDCK (Regional District of Central Kootenay) and RDKB (Regional District of Kootenay Boundary) directors.

The directors’ constituents often incorrectly assume that the WKBRHD board has some influence in the way health care services are delivered in facilities in the region. For quite some time now, the board has been frustrated because it has no influence over operations at the health facilities.

At the May 22 meeting in Kaslo, two matters concerning operations at health facilities triggered the déjà vu discussion. One was a letter of complaint from an Nelson couple about the extremely poor service they recently received from the emergency department at Kaslo Lake Hospital. The other was a suggestion to strike a committee to prepare a presentation on the need for more nurse practitioners, to be made to the Minister of Health at the upcoming UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) convention.

The board took no action on either matter, not because they didn’t care – they really do – but because these things are not within its mandate.

Unfortunately, for the same reason, the board stopped Director Lay from giving a short presentation on the Whiffen’s efforts to obtain in 24/7 service. This appears to be the main reason that I had a handful of Kaslo citizens attending the meeting. But, it is not within the board’s mandate to hear about such efforts.

At that point in the meeting, this mandate thing was getting a little old. But ten years later, this issue has not gone away.

This discussion has been going on way too long. Either the Province needs to broaden this board’s mandate, or the board has to find some other vehicle to provide input into operations at the health facilities.
VictorWalk raises funds and awareness for child sex abuse survivors

submitted

A VictorWalk was held in Nakusp on May 24, organized by Shawna Logore. The VictorWalk Orange Movement was created to help raise awareness of child sexual abuse and promote advocacy and healing for victims. The walk was completed in over 60 cities and towns throughout Canada.

Theorem Fleury, retired NHL player, completed the inaugural VictorWalk from Toronto to Ottawa on May 23. The mission of the walk was two-part: to raise funds for Little Warrior Charity, a national organization committed to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of child sexual abuse, and to deliver to Ottawa a petition with thousands of signatures asking for stiffer punishment for the abusers.

Fleury has been an advocate for the healing of child sexual abuse since going public about abuse he endured as a child, abuse inflicted by his junior hockey coach Graham Jones. Fleury wrote about it in his 2009 book Playing with Fire.

One in three girls and one in six boys will experience an unwanted sexual act before they turn 18, according to Little Warrior. Child sexual abuse is something that touches everybody’s lives, whether they realize it or not.

Victims often go on to live a life full of unresolved pain, too often suffering in silence. Many experience mental health issues such as depression, low self-esteem, and addictions such as drug and alcohol and gambling. Some commit suicide.

Throughout the country there are dozens of therapeutic centres dedicated to the rehabilitation of child rapists, but not a single long-term treatment facility devoted to the damaged victims they’ve left behind. The Little Warrior charity is determined to change this by creating the Brave Ranch, a treatment facility to help children and their families cope with the devastating effects of child sexual abuse by healing the mind, body, heart, and spirit of the child and the family.

The ranch’s mission is to provide children who have experienced the horror of sexual abuse a safe place to heal; to provide families affected by child sexual abuse a place to deal with their emotions; girls, guilt, and profound anger; so they are able to support their children; to provide those in relationships with sexual abuse survivors a place to learn about symptoms, prevention, and how to understand the long-lasting effects. The VictorWalk will be an annual country-wide event.

As a victim and a survivor of child sexual abuse, Shawna Logore has found it to be a very therapeutic and healing experience to take part in the VictorWalk. It has empowered her and given her a voice, no longer having to suffer the pain in silence. She hopes more women will come next year to the VictorWalk in Nakusp, and sends a big thank you to those that supported this year’s walk.


Laughter and bodily fluids come to Nakusp Public Library

submitted

A collection of tall of long hours, camaraderie, and bodily fluids — along with a healthy dose of humour — comes to Nakusp Library on Friday, May 31 at 7 pm with a presentation by author Jennifer Craig.

Yes Sister, No Sister, is a funny, engaging memoir of the author’s life as a trainee nurse in the 1950s in Leeds, England, delivered with Craig’s trademark Yorkshire humour.

The book made the London Times bestseller list and has sold in excess of 100,000 copies.

In Yes Sister, No Sister, we meet Craig and her colleagues: warm-hearted yet naive girls who must endure strict discipline, long hours, and yes, those ever-present bodily fluids. But we also see the friendships that develop in seakled trips to the cinema and mischievous escapades with young trainee doctors. The harsh conditions prove too much for some girls, but the desire to help her patients keeps Jenny reaching for compassion and humour to pull her through.

Last year Jennifer Craig’s Yes Sister, No Sister was shortlisted for the Kootenay Library Federation’s One Book, One Kootenay. She was so popular that the KLF arranged this current tour through the Kootenays.

The Nakusp Library is thrilled to be part of this tour. Please join us for a wonderful evening with a talented and engaging author.

Dementia caregivers’ workshop tomorrow

submitted by Marilyn Boswell

A one-day intensive course for family members who are caring for a person with dementia takes place at Selkirk College (Nakusp) on May 30 from 9 am-4 pm.

Currently perceived as a retirement community with an older-aged population, Nakusp and the surrounding area hamlets are called upon by an increasing number of resources to provide direct service or supportive information.

This Family Caregivers’ Education course is directed toward individuals, caregivers and families on the subject of Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. It will cover understanding dementia, communication, behaviour planning for the future and self-care for caregivers.

The series of workshops is designed to help participants learn more about the subject including the importance of early planning and developing practical coping strategies.

“This is a really wonderful course which won’t come to the Nakusp area again for another year,” says organizer Julie Leftfear.

Register at Selkirk College now by calling the Nakusp campus at 265-4077. The $20 workshop fee includes lunch. For more information contact jleftfear@alzheimerbc.org.

Annual Strawberry Shortcake Sale

Wednesday, June 5th
Noon to 2 p.m.
Robertson United Church
$3.00 each or two for $5.00

These delicious desserts come in bowls with lids, ready to eat or to tuck away in the freezer for future enjoyment. Stop by and put them to the taste test!

For orders call:
June Brown 265-3123
Agnes Finch 265-3369
Heather Maxfield 265-7240

This is our annual fund raiser; 2/3 of the funds raised stay within this valley — last year $7000 was donated locally. The remainder raised goes to purchase materials for the free post surgical care givers we make and provide to cancer patients; to support Cancer Research and for various scholarships.

Martha Chapter No. 24, Order of the Eastern Star thanks you for your support!

East Friends and Donna Moorhouse read the Sootsers’ Act Certificate of Incorporation for the Arrowmen Senior Citizen’s Society, bearing Moorhouse’s signature, from February 1st, 1967. East Friends presented Moorhouse with a plaque for outstanding achievement following 46 years of continuous dedicated volunteer service to the Arrowmen Rotary Villa.

The Maypole Dance is performed every year at May Days celebrations in both Kaslo and New Denver. This photo was taken in New Denver.

Ron Sorberne shows off his Sidecar Bonneville Land Speed Racing at Kaslo’s Show ‘n Shine. He’s hoping to break the record (167 mph) in this category at Bonneville this year.

Jacki Howard won the city’s Chop at Kaslo Logger Sports.

Ciff and Dorothy Tipping celebrated their 60th anniversary at New Denver May Days with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They have been coming to New Denver May Days for years. Cliff’s mother (Helene Cockbain) grew up in Saynerin and married Roy Tipping from Sicamous.

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May Days bike events set fast pace

submitted

North Slocan Trails Society volunteers organized two events for this year’s New Denver May Days. On Sunday, 19 participants in the 29th annual Summit to New Denver Bike Race assembled at 9 a.m. and departed in good weather conditions. The pace was faster than previous years’ events as a group of riders from Nakusp put the hurt on the New Denver regulars. Jaidi Nestfield

‘Geezer Fish’ winner announced

This year’s Geezer Fish contest, in conjunction with the May Days fish derby, has found the largest fish was also the oldest fish. This is not always the case, as many factors such as food supply, water temperature and, of course, genetics play a role. Paul Wilkinson of Vallican was the Geezer Fish winner with a rainbow trout approximately five years old. The age was determined by counting rings on the fish’s scales. There were 11 entries in this year’s Geezer Fish contest. The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society would like to thank Brittany, Dennis, Mel and Gail Swanson, Deb Koutnik and Richard Ashby for attending “scale detail.” Van Kreibich for scientific counsel, the Luzerne School and Rick Barnard for instrumentation support, and of course, the May Days Committee.

To our customers:
We “THANK YOU” for your ongoing support and with that, we are able to continuously grow.
We are listening and with your patience, we are growing & improving, to become “YOUR” hardware store.

Adding a lumber yard in our first year was beyond our wildest dreams and we could not have done it without you. Who truly knows what is next.
Please come help us celebrate our first anniversary so we can say Thank You in person.

Beth & Darren

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Chance to WIN up to five
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Food & Beverage available
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Kevin Murphy and Dani Parkerson show off the apron they received for competing in the May Days Backyard BBQ.

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for self-hosted site owners
registration deadline: June 14

For details on to register, please visit: futures.bc.ca or
call Community Futures Central Kootenay at 250 352 1933

A partnership of CFCK and bigbrowneyes.ca
Slocan council, May 13: Silvery Slocan Hall renovations delayed

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• Council discussed the Legion’s request to renovate the Silvery Slocan Hall. The proposed renovations would enlarge and improve the kitchen and enclose the fire escape stair.

• The Village has recently recommended that the Legion receive $7,000 from the CBT Community Initiatives Fund for this project. In addition, Mayor Perriere and CAO Richardson met with Legion representatives about these plans and both the mayor and CAO were in favour of Village approval. Despite all this previous support, council defeated a motion to approve the project. Councillors McGreal and Lunn were concerned about the stairway encroaching onto the road allowance and wanted to see blueprints. Council will meet with Legion representatives and then reconsider the matter at a Committee of the Whole meeting to be held within two months.

• Residents may no longer use credit cards at the Village office. This will save the Village both time reconciling accounts and the cost of fees for processing the payment. Last year the Village paid $1,977.10 for credit card fees and the year before $1,388.24. Bills may now be paid with cash, cheques, and debit cards.

• The Village will hire two students for 13 weeks, starting June 3, at $11 per hour. The Canada Summer Jobs program will contribute $5.13 per hour for wages of one of the students and the Village will pay $7.00 to cover the rest of the wages.

• The Village has asked the Negro Creek River Park and Campground to be expanded to account for October hours. In addition, the Village will pay $750, up from last year’s $500, towards costs such as business licencing fee, WCB fee, etc. The contractor, Helma Rainey, says her liability insurance alone has increased by $300.

• The Village will contribute $2,500 to the Slocan Lake Shoreline Guidance Document project.

• The Village considered a request from Shaugy Milligan on behalf of the Kootenay Skateboarders and Tenacity Sk8 Park for Village staff to help install light standards at the skatepark. Council voted to reply with a summary of a letter they sent in 2011 and also to inform the group that in the future, correspondence and requests are to go to Holly Jack, WEG Community Service Coordinator. The 2011 letter confirmed that there were no objections from surrounding residents to lighting the skatepark. It did not say anything about Village assistance in installing the lights.

• Council considered a request from Brenda Will to place a beach with a plaque commemorating Daniel Goudsmit at the beach. Council had concerns about this because the beach floods and there is no policy on beaches in the Village. Council directed staff to prepare a report on this.

• Michelle Morelli requested that some of the rare books and local historical books held in a storage room at the Slocan Community Library be transferred to the archives room, where they would be better protected. Council directed staff to write to Morelli suggesting the library meet with the historical society to discuss this.

• Jessica Lunn reported on a Slocan District Chamber of Commerce meeting that she attended via Skype in 2014. Sufficere will be a more regional event and the Slocan council considered how to become part of it.

• Anoop is spearheading a regional tourism plan, which includes the Revelstoke, Nakusp, Kaslo, and Slocan District Chambers of Commerce. She said Slocan needs to be part of the conversation.

• Councillor Elliott reported that amalgamation of the region’s transit services is moving forward. The other councillors noted that Slocan has a much higher tax rate for the service than any of the other areas. Councillor Elliott reminded council that these rates had been agreed to previously by council and then had been passed in an RDCJ bylaw. She said it would be "politically challenging to open up the bylaw" but that it could be done.

• Final adoption was given to the 5-Year Financial Plan bylaw, the Tax Rate bylaw, and a bylaw to establish a Climate Action Reserve Fund.

• A proposed Special Events Bylaw was given much scrutiny. CAO Richardson had discussed legal aspects of this summer’s ‘Festival in Slocan’ with Stewart MacDonald Stuart, a law firm in Victoria. Councillors were not happy with the special events bylaw the firm had recently proposed for another municipality. In the end, council voted to discuss the matter at a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. In the meantime, staff is to develop an agreement with the Unity Festival organizers.

• Council voted to consider a proposed Wharf Bylaw at a COW meeting in the next month. The draft bylaw forbids boats moored at the wharf between 9 pm and 7 am, with some stiff penalties for offenders.

• Council will discuss two draft policies, one on the donation of gifts to the Village and one on the use of Village facilities at a COW meeting.

• Mayor Perriere reported on the library and fitness centre. Joanne Ellis has formed a group that is working on establishing a non-profit society to manage the library. No one made sure that we do this.

The historic Burns Lumber Company: presentation tomorrow submitted

Decades ago, the Burns family ran a large sawmill and lumber operation at Passmore that drove the economy of the Slocan Valley. Today, only a few chunks of concrete foundations and scrap metal on the Passmore flats identify where the Burns Lumber Company once proudly stood. A recent subdivision and new housing is beginning to cover the site and soon, all signs that this industrial giant ever existed will be gone forever.

On Thursday, May 9, at 7 pm at the Passmore Lodge, the public is invited to attend a Slocan Valley Historical Society meeting where well known logo-mer, tracker, environmentalist and story-teller Gary Burns share the history of his family’s amazing enterprise. Gary has a large collection of photographs to show and his overview of the history of the Slocan Valley’s forest industry is second to none.

Anyone who has pictures, documents or information about the Burns Lumber Company operation at Passmore is encouraged to bring them to the meeting. Information about the historical society and the new Slocan Valley Archives will be available at the presentation. For further information, call 250-355-2236.
Ravencourt returns with more music magic

submitted
Ravencourt Bed and Breakfast, an eclectic straw-bale house located at 4615 Upper Passmore Road, will once again host a series of house concerts over the summer in the inner courtyard. Admission is by donation and all proceeds go to the musicians. Refreshments will be available.

The season begins May 31 with an intimate concert by well-known musicians Laura and Paul Landsberg. Laura is a jazz singer and music instructor whose latest CD, ‘A Simple Twist’ has been receiving rave reviews. Paul is an accomplished jazz guitarist and music instructor, who returns from a tour of Europe just in time for this performance.

On July 5, classical pianist Donna Noton and violinist Rebecca Schellwien will journey from Alberta to play everything from Brahms to Canadian fiddle tunes. Next up, on August 2, Attila Vural, a classically trained jazz guitarist from Switzerland, willstrum his talents in the courtyard. Then on August 23, pianist Maria Rapp and violinist Anke Steinmetz visit from Germany to perform. There may even be a performance in September.

Ravencourt B&B (www.ravencourtnbnd.com) is run by Dorothea Schlichting and Peter Fimmers. Turn Off Highway 6 at Passmore, cross the bridge and follow the signs to pure musical enjoyment. For more information phone 250-326-7801.

Submitter: The BC Coroners Service has confirmed the death of a man who died in a scuba diving accident in Kootenay Lake near Kaslo on May 18. He is Shane Man from Trail area presumed drowned in Little Wilson Lake

submitted by RCMP

A man is presumed drowned after his canoe capsized on Little Wilson Lake near Rosedbery.

Slocan Lake RCMP officers went up there the evening of May 25 after receiving a third-party report of the possible drowning. The presumed drowning victim had been one of three men from the Trail area who were camping together. Two of them were fishing when the canoe capsized.

One man was able to swim to shore, but the other is presumed drowned. Neither was wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) at the time. There was no PFD or safety equipment in the canoe. Alcohol is also believed to have been a factor in this incident.

Search and Rescue along with RCMP personnel have been involved in the initial and subsequent search. The RCMP Underwater Recovery Team and RCMP Air Services are currently continuing efforts to locate the missing person.

RCMP: ATV stolen from Hills

On May 9 the Slocan Lake RCMP Detachment received a report of a break-and-enter and theft that occurred on a rural property in Hills. Based on the information currently available, police believe the offence occurred sometime between May 7 and May 9. At about 0600 on a Grizzly ATV was taken from the property. Police are continuing with the investigation and are requesting that anyone with information on this incident contact the Slocan Lake Detachment at 250-358-2223, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

CORRECTION

In our May 15 article, ‘Weaving aboriginal education into Arrow Lakes schools,’ we incorrectly reported that the June 20 National Aboriginal Day event will be held in Burton. In fact, it will be held at Nakusp Elementary School.


drumerboy Enterprises:
EAT WELL-LIVE WELL

Brian Udal is a multi-faceted dude who is not only a professional musician and professional dance instructor, but he also owns and operates Drummer Boy Enterprises, a business that delivers food to your doorstep.

Many years ago Brian began playing percussion in a number of bands. His father had told him “If you want to be a drummer, be versatile.” Brian has played country music, rock, jazz, and various other styles all over BC, Saskatchewan, Palm Springs, the Okanagan and at one time a month-long stint in India.

In 1985, Brian decided to try his hand in the food business. He created Drummer Boy Enterprises, which offers his customers “Service Right To Your Door!” And this service includes all kinds of fish, beef, poultry, pork, shellfish and more. He began his one-man show by going door to door and offering his products directly to the customer right at their doorstep. Over the years he’s developed a large clientele, many of which have become lifelong friends and customers.

Brian says: “I guarantee my products. I make sure every customer is happy. If anybody’s unhappy with any product, I guarantee they’ll get a credit for it towards something else, and there’s a lot to choose from. My food is competitively priced, and there’s no waste—all the fat and bone is taken off, then it’s frozen and individually vacuum sealed for easy thaw and convenience. This will keep the food fresh for over two years without freezer burn or shrinkage. I bring products that you might not find in local supermarkets. Mostly I use the food I talk about the food, I just sell it.”

Impressive! He goes on to say: “I do my best to provide people in their homes. I am honest, and that is how we win the business. I have a lot of pressure. I just tell them when I’ll be back again, and when I’m back I’ll call them. People appreciate that.”

How does he transport his product? Brian has what must be called a “walk-in showman’s van.” I’ve been in it. There are three freezers, very clean, bright and welcoming. He has it wired so the freezers can be on 24/7 whenever he’s on the road or stopped somewhere for a day. I was very impressed with the cleanliness of this vehicle. The van is immediately inside and out. This guy really looks after his customers in every way he can.

And what will he bring to your front door if you order from him? OK, here we go. How about fish? Try halibut, salmon, trout (oh yes!), sole, snapper, cod, and morn. By the way, all Brian’s products are federally inspected and certified. What about beef? Bacon, chateaubriand, New York steak, rib eye and top sirloin. Barren of beef and prime rib roasts. Beef patties, breakfast sausages, meatballs, and ginger beef. Poultry anyone? Chicken breast, chicken, chicken, polynesian, boneless breasts, garlic wings, chicken souvlaki, and lots more including one of my favorite things, stuffed Cornish hens! This might make me faint. There’s plenty of pork too. Lasagne, beefaroni, baby back ribs. All the GOOD stuff. Shellfish too. Basically…you name it.

Other delights: lamb (N.Z. aged), Dara Sam, assorted appetizers.

Simply amazing if you ask me. Look at the phone numbers below and call this guy now.

A little more about Brian. He started taking dance lessons in 1997, and in 2004 he became a certified Master Dance Instructor and began teaching dance. This kept him busy and gainfully employed.

I asked him how he keeps the dance business and food business going at the same time. It goes something like this: For eight weeks he teaches dance, then for four weeks he’s on the road selling food with a few dance lessons along the way. He’s a busy guy.

Brian will be at West Kootenays next between June 4 and June 11. He’s back again every 3 months. People do not need to order his food in advance. All food is sold on a supply basis depending on supply that day. He’s the only and only representative of Drummer Boy Foods and there are no other salesmen.

Now, back to the food. If you want to try Brian’s high quality foods (or ask him about dance lessons) simply give him a call (cell/call) at 1-604-541-1313, or try him at 604-220-8256.

By the way, I’ve spoken to several very picky “foodie types” who regularly buy from Brian’s Drummer Boy Enterprises and they are full of praise for his products. His prices are competitive, he has thorough integrity and has an intense drive to keep his customers happy. Try this guy out, he can keep you fed and may be even teach you to dance.

Submitter: Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andy Rhodes

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Brian Udal

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1-604-541-1313
Cell Phone:
1-604-220-6256
email: drummerboyent@shaw.ca
Paula Rogers recognized for her work on Nakusp Public Library board
by Evelyn Goodell
Paula Rogers was awarded with a Super Trustee Award from the British Columbia Library Trustees Association on May 24. Library board chair, Barb McPherson, presented her with the award.

Paula Rogers shepherded the Nakusp Public Library through profound changes during her nine years of service on the board and as chair from 2007 to 2012. The Nakusp Public Library was transformed under Paula’s leadership. In 2006, the Nakusp Public Library’s long-held (15 years) dream of expansion and remodelling came true. The library tripled its space, welcomed new furniture and shelving, and made almost entirely by local carpenters using local materials, sported new paint, and never had to close a day! The Nakusp Public Library went from a crowded space of 1,000 sq. ft. to 3,000 sq. ft., from one small table to four tables, from two chairs to more than 10 chairs, and added lounging chairs and two sofas, etc. To top it off, the project came in more than a few thousand dollars under budget. In the following years, the doors and windows have been replaced, and fine tuning has resulted in a beautiful, welcoming, and restful while stimulating space that draws people of all ages and interests.

The growth of the library during Paula’s tenure is also evident in good old statistics. In 2004, Paula’s first year on the board, the library circulated 28,490 items to 1,783 registered members. In 2012, when Paula was forced to resign from the board according to the British Columbia Library Act since she has served for nine consecutive years, the library circulated 37,259 items.

Wetlands in the Slocan: Why they matter and how to get involved
submitted

Often overlooked and incorrectly viewed as “wastelands,” wetlands can provide immense societal benefits. They increase flood protection, improve air quality through carbon storage and oxygen production, provide clean drinking water through water filtration.

Recharge streams and aquifers, and serve as excellent green spaces. From a biological perspective, wetlands are the most productive land type, being used by over 600 species of plants and animals in BC alone. Despite the importance of wetlands, they have been historically degraded and destroyed in low-elevation areas of the West Kootenay region by large-scale developments (such as hydro-electric production, agriculture, dikes, construction & transportation networks) as well as residential growth. Federal and local governments have targeted the risk of degradation from human activities such as sand-baggng and spread of invasive plants. Local residents can be proud that the Slocan Valley is a gem in the area, its wetlands largely intact. Completing a BioBlitz is one way to understand the staggering biodiversity in these ecosystems. Part educational event, part scientific endeavour, a BioBlitz is an attempt to catalogue as many species as possible in a given area during a 24-hour period. Specialists in various disciplines like entomology (insects), ornithology (birds), herpetology (reptiles and amphibians), and arachnology (spiders) collaborate to raise public awareness and gather key information for furthering conservation efforts.

On June 7th, join the BC Wildlife Federation and local partners, in a FREE wetland stewardship workshop at Birch Bluff. On Sunday, June 9th at 1 pm, the public is invited to an interactive open-house at the Hills Community Hall (also, weather permitting, the BioBlitz site). Register for the WetlandKeeper Workshop at: http://wetlandkeeperdenver2013.eventbrite.com For further information contact BCWF Wetlands Coordinator toll free at 1-888-881-2293, ext 232 or wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca

IBM makes second grant to Slocan Library
submitted

The Slocan Community Library is the delighted recipient of a second grant from IBM. The library received a grant of $1,000 in 2011, and has now received a second grant of $3,000 for the 2012 grant period.

Yvval Hager, a library IT volunteer who works for IBM from his Slocan home, made it all possible. As an IBM employee, Yvval was eligible to apply for an IBM Community Initiatives grant to benefit the community in which he works, and applied on behalf of the library. As there are thousands of applications and not every application can be funded, library volunteers are surprised and pleased to have received a grant for the second year in a row.

Yvval, and volunteer co-ordinator Sue MacCuiga, worked on the proposal to develop a new media room for the library. IBM’s first grant in 2011 of $1,000 was used to purchase shelving for the room. The $3,000 grant of 2012 will purchase materials to put on those shelves. The entire amount will be spent on non-fiction DVDs and talking books on CD.

The library’s media acquisition policy has emphasized purchase of non-fiction DVDs on local and regional history, do-it-yourself instruction, arts and crafts, geography and travel, exercise and nutrition, social issues, and environmental concerns. An important component consists of educational media for children and teens on bullying, drugs, suicide, family breakdown, and peer pressure. There is no other source in the Slocan Valley that sells or makes this important material.

Yvval Hager, a library IT volunteer who works for IBM from his Slocan home, made the grant possible.

Shirley Lipsack named Kaslo Volunteer of Year
submitted

Defining community spirit can be a challenge if not for those that exemplify it on a daily basis. This year’s Kaslo Citizen of the Year defines community spirit through her actions and her personal journey. Shirley’s generosity, compassion, commitment, and genuine love for Kaslo and its residents was demonstrated time and again. Those who took the time to nominate Shirley for the award noted her inspirational attitude. She was always positive and selflessly helped those in need.

Shirley was known as a committed volunteer for a variety of community organizations and a contributor to many charities. Her work with St. Andrew’s United Church and job at the Kaslo Drug Store gave her the opportunity to spread her uplifting spirit throughout the community. She was an ambassador that made our village an even more special place to live.

It is for all these reasons and more that we award her with the 2012 Citizen of the Year. Although Shirley left us in December of 2012, her memory will live on in Kaslo and will continue to be a better place because of her presence.

Shirley Lipsack’s Volunteer of the Year Award was accepted by her daughter, Tracy Lawton.
by Jan McMurray

Two unusual camper vehicles, both with licence plates from the Netherlands, were parked on the main street of Done on last week. The Dutch people travelling in the vehicles are on extended trips – Petra Albrecht is driving around the world and is on her way to Alaska. Erik Van Boheemen and Michel Schipper are on their way to South America for a year. They did not know each other in Holland, but have a mutual friend there who helped them meet up recently in Yellowknife Park. They are travelling together for a couple of weeks before going their separate ways again.

Even though the vehicles are very expensive to ship, this is how they like to travel. Driving around the world in her own “home” has been Petra’s dream for 25 years. Erica and Michel prefer their own vehicle because they are travelling with their dogs.

They all loved the New Denver area, and had just seen their first bear on the New Denver-Kaslo Highway. Don’t be surprised if you see Erica or petra in the area again. Petra says she would love to live here.

**Museums**

**Silvery Scone Museum – New Denver**
[250] 358-2203 The old bank of Montreal building at the foot of New Denver’s main street, restored to circa 1901, Special tour times. 250-358-1201 or 250-358-1565 for further information. Hope to see you!

**Nikkel Internment Memorial Centre – New Denver**
[250] 358-7288 306 Josephine St., The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the WW II internment story. Located in The Orchard in New Denver, open July 1 to Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sandon Museum & Visitors’ Centre – Sandon**
[250] 358-7920 www.sandonomuseum.ca
Open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Nov. 1 to mid-Dec. of New Denver, 200 blocks in historic Silverton mining ghost town. Collections of mining photographs and fascinating artifacts including the famous “two-story mounting” tambourine. Admission (Cash only): $5 & over $3.50, children 6 and under free. Family (4) $11.25.

**Lardeau Valley Historical Society Museum**-Meadow Creek
museum.lrhs@gmail.com 13453 Highway 312 (13 1/2 corner of Lardeau Valley Hall property) Meadow Creek RD, Visit the UMI Museum in scenic Meadow Creek and experience the history of the “Lardeau.” Housed in the historic Newland Hotel, the museum collection immerses you in the rich and colourful past of people and places of north Kootenay Lake and the Lardeau and Duncan River Valleys. Open weekends during July and August.

**Things to do**

**HOUSEBOAT RENTALS**
**The Kaslo Shipyard Company – Kaslo**
www.kasloshipyard.com 250-353-2866 1-800-554-1857
Kaslo, B.C. and explore scenic Kootenay Lake from the comfort of a houseboat. Enjoy the quiet hidden coves, sandy beaches, and super free freshwater fishing. Choose from our custom built, spacious cruiser vessels, all fully furnished with spacious wheelhouse, hot tub, galley, full bathroom, and complete cooking facilities. 1st night free – 6 or 8 people.

**KAYAKING**
**Kaslo Kayaking** – Kaslo
www.kaslokayaking.com 250-353-3925
35 ft A large, fast, well equipped, all purpose, covered, air cooled, shelter. Doors & windows, bath, galley, and full day or multi day adventure. No experience necessary. Kayaks, Canoes & SUP rentals available.

**SPORTS/OUTDOOR SPORTS**
**Valhalla Pure Outfitters – New Denver**
[250] 358-7755
At the end of main street towards Skoki lake in New Denver. Come for the fun! Come for the history! Come for the adventure! High performance clothing & gear. Open 3rd weekend in May. Close Thanksgiving weekend in October. Open 7 days a week, 10 am – 6 pm.

A New Edition of the Sandon Postkast has been published, and is available at the Sandon Museum.

**Restaurants & Accommodations**

**Murphy’s Landing - New Denver**
Crestline & Lakeshore Drive & RV Resort
[250] 358-0020 www.murphysholdingland.com
1200 Lakeshore Vacancy, Murphy’s landing, Kootenay Lake, BC, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fully equipped accommodations, kitchen, water, telephone and Internet access. Please call 1-866-999-4528 for reservations.

**Nuru Coffee Bar - New Denver**
[250] 358-7271
Little Hole. Enjoy espresso and specialty coffee, wraps, burgers, ice cream, bagels and more. Information and menus online at www.thenurucafe.com

**The Cup and Saucer Cafe - Silverton**
[250] 358-7273
New Silverton location. Enjoy espresso and specialty coffees, wraps, burgers, ice cream, bagels and more. Information and menus online at www.thenurucafe.com

**William Hunter Cabins - Silverton**
[250] 358-2567 www.williamhuntercabins.ca
303 Lake Ave, Silverton – We have lovely log cabins divided into a total of 6 double suites. All suites feature a gas stove, free firewood, kitchenette, beds, sofa bed for child, grill, picnic table and fire pit.

**Kaslo Hotel & Pub – Kaslo**
www.kaslohotel.com 250-353-7714
The Kaslo Hotel is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Enjoy guest rooms and apartments, all with private bathtubs. Rebar in our pub, dining room, and all with spectacular lake and mountains views. Free shuttle to the main attractions and fully equipped dining, kitchen, and living areas.

**Lemon Creek Lodge - Lemon Creek**
[250] 355-2403 info@lemoncreeklodge.com 1-877-970-8900 www.lemoncreeklodge.com
Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo. Lemon Creek Lodge is centrally located downtown Kaslo.

**Valhalla Riversides Vacation Condos - Susan Valley**
[250] 250-726-7712
www.valhallacondos.com
Prepare your high quality standards, these four luxury vacation suites nestled between the Lemon Creek and Rail-trail. You’ll find comfort and convenience in your private, view apartment with full kitchen, with patio, hot tub, deck, patio, swing, shared BBQ & hot tub. Economical prices with trails and feetsteps out your door. Weekly rates are the best. Wheeler access 412.

**Galleries**

**Studio Connexion Gallery - Fine Art - Kaslo**
[250] 353-8888 205 Fifth Ave. NW, Kaslo
250-353-8888 Art exhibitions from May 17 to Oct. 12 in this gallery. Affordable quality art available at all prices. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 17 to 19.

**Langham**
[250] 353-2661 www.thelangham.ca
647A Avenue, Kaslo. Two art galleries with shows from Thursday-Sunday, 1-4 and a theatre with performances from Thursday-Sunday. 1-4. All venues are located within walking distance of each other. Located near Kaslo, Kootenay Lakeshore Drive & RV Resort, Murphy’s Landing, 1200 Lakeshore Vacancy, Murphy’s landing, Kootenay Lake, BC, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fully equipped accommodations, kitchen, water, telephone and Internet access. Please call 1-866-999-4528 for reservations.

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Phone/Fax: [250] 265-4531 www.nakuspgolf.com nkc@nakuspgolf.net
GREEN FEES: Adults $22.00/9 holes, $34.20/18 holes
Senior rates: 20% off seniors 18+ $17.00/9 and $25.10/18 holes
Discounted punch card available.
Manager: Al Riddie
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The MOUNTAIN VIEW CAFE – Fully licensed restaurant; Phone: [250] 265-3938
The only bar in town open 7 days a week.
Jr. kid’s nights: Tuesday 1-900-6:00 Guests welcome.
Adults’ nights: Thursday 4-600-6:00 Guests welcome.

**Golf Courses**
Slocan City sees top Canadian musicians kick off new store

by Art Joyce

The old song With A Little Help From My Friends took on new meaning when top Canadian musicians provided the musical fare to help Johnny Tomato Pettigrew launch his new business, the Slocan City Trading Company, on May 1. A respected musician in his own right, Pettigrew hosted an evening concert at Slocan’s Legion Hall featuring Canadian blues legend Big Dave McLean and Kelly Jay of Crowbar. They were joined by an impressive array of musicians for a full-on blues and rock ’n roll.

As Johnny Tomaro, the formerly Edmundston-based musician has toured Canada with the Dutch Mason Blue Band as well as with his own band the Stem Riders. He hosted locals and musician friends throughout the afternoon at the Slocan City Trading Company, supplying a generous buffet. A cake cutting formalized the opening, with McLean, Jay and business partner Pedro Montoya there to help dish out the angel food. Gene Greenwood, currently filming McKey Crie on tour, was on hand to record a bit interviewing friends for a TV segment called Storytellers Corner. When the Crowbar veteran learned that a Times reporter was present, he turned the tables and interviewed Joyce. Jay was impressed to learn that the Voice is one of the last independently owned newspapers in Western Canada.

Others interviewed included Slocan Valley resident Darrell Crisafulli, a blues harmonica player who was inspired by Johnny Tomato to come out of retirement to perform again. Steven Drake, whose impressive array of talents includes playing a mean lap steel guitar as well as studio engineering for the Tragically Hip, was among the musicians whose cameras rolled. Drake had his own band The Odds and his brother Adam, who was also present, was a drummer with the Powder Blues Band and Art Bergmann. Originally from Topanga, California, the Drake brothers grew up in the valley and Drake Road is named after their parents Tom and Sally Drake. Kelly Jay managed to get his interviewers to reveal their best stories of the road or of working with stars like Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters and other legends both living and dead.

That same point of friendship was abundantly evident at Saturday night’s concert at the Legion Hall. Besides Kelly Jay, other musician friends who offered their services included McLean, the Drake brothers, Kenny Ray Alden, Cecil Jay Alden, Claude Godin. Slocan drummer Brian Waller and Silverton pianist Alf Donovan. Johnny Tomaro’s band mates Adam Drake on drums and Tim Steinrock on bass formed the core rhythm section. Having so many world-class musicians on the same stage was bound to be a thunderous climax. McLean’s vocals are pure blues – a whiskey-steeped growl that at times recalls the late great Howlin’ Wolf, though his musical mentor was Muddy Waters. Slocan Valley resident Kenny ‘High Pocket’ Giles joined McLean for soulful duets of blues harmonica. Giles had performed with harp legend James Cotton, who gave him his stage name due to his lanky frame. Steven Drake’s Tony kicks on the top steel were endlessly inventious, adding a bittersweet touch to every song. Slocan Valley guitarist Rob Moore acquired himself well with crisp, soaring leads on the Stratocaster.

Johnny Tomaro says he’s here to stay on the Slocan Valley scene. A full range of music and movie memorabilia can be found at the Slocan City Trading Company, and of course musical instruments. Business partner Pedro Montoya, who creates jewelry, leatherwork and art, says he’s looking forward to living in the Valley of Lost Souls.

Q & A with the Crescent Valley Fire Department

What does the Crescent Valley Fire Department do? The CVFD fights fires. We also provide food assistance and medical aid through the voluntary First Responder program and provide fire safety education and emergency preparedness presentations in the local schools. And, our volunteers put on an annual fireworks show at Halloween.

What area does the CVFD protect? CVFD’s fire protection area includes South Slocan Village, Crescent Valley, Kootenay, and New Settlement, and extends along Poo Creek Road to Spar and up Hwy 6 to the top of Kosianic Hill.

Who can join? Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and hold a valid driver’s license. Beyond that, anyone who is able bodied and can work as part of a team is welcome.

Are there any prerequisites to joining? No. All training is provided within the hall, but any previous experience with equipment operation and/or first aid is a valuable asset. Members in good standing have the option to be trained as a medical First Responder if they’re interested.

Food For Thought series begins season with ‘Art & Film’ ten of her favorite, which will be available for rental at What’s in Store. A slide show will accompany the talk.

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.
Unity Music Festival coming to Slocan in late July

The Valley Voice May 29, 2013

submitted

The Unity Music Festival 2013 will be held at the beautiful beach in Slocan July 27-28 with a pre-festival event July 26 at the Slocan Legion. This is the third year for the family festival, and organizers say they look forward to working with local service groups and the Village in this cultural celebration.

“We had the opportunity to have the festival by the lake and we took it,” said organizer Felicity Cerving.

The festival site will have two stages, kids’ zone, workshops, live art and the beautiful swimming beach of Slocan City along with the breathtaking views of Valhalla Park.

A partial line-up has been announced and includes such exciting acts as The Boom Bocos, Kytrani, Ashkon Shahb, Shane Phillips, Enzi Dee, Dick Free Cloud, Von Butcher and DSE a.k.a The Wolfpack. More additions to the line-up are still being confirmed and will be updated on the website.

Organizers are looking for more accommodation and camping sites in the immediate area and are asking residents who may be interested in renting out their houses or tenting sites for the weekend to contact the festival. The festival is still looking for more volunteers and vendors. More information, contact info and applications are online at www.unitymusicfestival.ca. Volunteer sign-up sessions are happening at Full of Beans Coffee Shop in Slocan City every Thursday morning at 8 am.

The festival is run by The Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance, a non-profit society dedicated to promoting music, art, dance and culture in the valley. Profits are donated to children and youth groups in the area.

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‘I, Claudia’ to play in Kaslo and Silverton

submitted

Four characters, one actor, four masks, formidable theatre – I, Claudia is a poignant look at life’s struggles as seen through the eyes of four delightful characters, especially those of 15-year-old Claudia.

The award winning one act play written by Kristen Thomson and performed by Lynn van Deursen, tours the Kootenays. It will be at The Langham May 31 and June 1 (tickets available at Sunnyside and Willoe Interiors) and at the Silverton Gallery June 15. Tickets are $12 at the door and the show starts at 7:30 pm.

The play will also be at Crawford Bay June 7, The Rossland Miners’ Hall June 8, and LV Rogers in Nelson June 14.

Claudia is an official pre-teen, still reeling from her parents’ divorce.

Her father is getting re-married, she has a science fair project coming due, and she is in the physical and emotional throes of puberty. Finding refuge in the basement of her school, Claudia discovers the pain at the centre of her bruising child’s heart. Some important adults in Claudia’s life – her grandfather, her father’s new girlfriend, and the school counsellor, help shed light on her situation.

Portrayed by a single actor the four characters are brought to life with the help of four distinctive masks beautifully hand crafted by Robin Wiltse. This charming one-act play blends the humorous and the painful aspects of life’s struggles.

I, Claudia” was the winner of the 2001 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play.