Alpha YaYa Diallo to play Unity festival in Slocan City

Organizers of the family-friendly Unity Music Festival on Slocan City Beach are excited to add this three-time Juno Award winner — for Best World Album — to the already jumping lineup that is scheduled for July 27 and 28.

Guitarist, singer, songwriter Alpha YaYa Diallo is one of the hottest acts on the current world music scene. Born in Guinea, West Africa and now based in Vancouver, Alpha is a true multicultural Canadian artist performing in French, English and his native Guinean languages of Foutani and Sonso.

Alpha was discovered in the late 1990s by Peter Gabriel’s Real World Records and has earned a matchless reputation internationally for the excellence of his musicianship and the excitement of his live shows. An impromptu, gifted multi-instrumentalist, Diallo is his own compositions, and sings with a supple voice that is pure magic.

The diverse festival lineup includes something for everybody...The Boom Boom, Kryptani, Shane Phillip, Erica Don, Dark Fire Cloud, DSE, Slocan Ramblers, The Turpines, Mzemba Marimba, Carol Street and Bo Coxlan plus many more.

Tickets are only $55 advance ($65 at gate), available at Packrat Annie’s in Nelson, Evergreen Foods in Crescent Valley, Gain Tree Whole Foods in Winlaw and Mercado in Silverton.

A special all ages pre-festival event on Friday, July 26 at the Slocan Legion in Slocan City features Adbam Shakiri and DJ. Tickets are $10 with festival passes and only a limited amount of tickets are available. More info and the complete lineup of artists can be seen at unitymusicfestival.ca. The festival is still looking for volunteers. Sign up and be part of Slocan City’s first beach festival.

Canada Day celebrated in Silverton and Nakusp

Canada Day Youth Award with the Canada Day Youth Award from the Silverton Community Club.

Kalina Sumal presented Mercedes Caayley with the Canada Day Youth Award from the Silverton Community Club.

Nakusp Citizen of the Year. Laurie Page dishes out Canada Day cake, July 1. See story and photos on Page 11.

17th Annual Summit Lake Walk/Run/Bike For Fun

Hosted by Three Islands Resort

Come out and walk, run or cycle the 10 kms around beautiful Summit Lake on Sunday, July 14. Walk begins at 9 am sharp. Registration ($5) begins at 8 am.

Refreshments & Gifts — everybody walks out a winner.

All proceeds go to the Arrow Lakes Hospital with Three Islands Resort matching funds raised.

Visitor Information - Page 13
Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to bring fibre to Kaslo this summer
by Jan McMurray

A faster internet service for Kaslo and area is on the horizon, with the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) – a subsidiary of Columbia Basin Transit – bringing fibre to the Kaslo Memorial Centre sometime this summer. The Kaslo infoNet Society (KIN) will be the internet service provider for the new faster service. KIN Chair Don Scarlett explained the ins and outs of the new system in a telephone interview.

He said KIN hopes businesses and homes in downtown Kaslo would be able to access faster service by the end of this year, with KIN customers outside the downtown area to follow as soon as possible. Existing customers in KIN’s south service area (Johnson’s Landing, Schroeder Creek and south) will benefit from additional bandwidth that KIN will be able to purchase from CBBC.

Here’s how it will work. CBBC will bring the fibre to the Kaslo Memorial Centre and will sell bandwidth to both the Village of Kaslo and to KIN. The Village will enter into an agreement with KIN to extend the Village’s bandwidth from the Kaslo Memorial Centre to serve all Village owned facilities (Public Works yard, water treatment plant, sewer treatment plant, arena, fire hall, etc.) with internet and voice services. Because this is expected to replace its contract with Telsus for ADSL internet and telephone service, the newer, faster service will be neutral or perhaps even money saving for the Village.

KIN will purchase its own bandwidth from CBBC to serve customers in its south service area, as well as in Kaslo and its immediate environs – a new service area for KIN. The CBBC fibre will not reach KIN’s customers north of Schroeder Creek and Johnson’s Landing, so KIN will have to purchase more bandwidth from Telsus to improve service to its customers there.

KIN’s plan is to run fibre in downtown Kaslo, but it will be possible to have fibre connected to downtown businesses and homes. Initially, KIN will send the signal wirelessly from the Kaslo Memorial Centre to its office in the Kootenai building and distribute it wirelessly from there to customers in KIN’s south service area. After fibre has been installed in the downtown area, KIN will use it to get bandwidth from the Kaslo Memorial Building and will begin planning to extend faster internet service to other parts of Kaslo via fibre or wireless.

The price KIN will pay for the bandwidth from CBBC is considerably higher than the price the Village will pay, as CBBC’s primary mandate is to bring the fibre to municipalities. Then, once the Village has agreed to pay CBBC enough for the new service, as income from new customers covers the cost.

Starting this summer when CBBC brings the fibre to the Kaslo Memorial Centre, the Village will have to start paying CBBC $750 per month while still paying for its Telus contract, which expires in approximately two years. To eliminate this extra cost to the Village, KIN is offering to pay the Village 3% of the total number of registered KIN subscribers until the Village has been reimbursed for the total ‘extra’ amount it has paid over the two years. During the period of the contract, i.e. the 2 years, KIN will set up the voice system (VOD) for Village facilities so it is ready to use when the Telus contract expires.

KIN will also pay the Village 1% of its gross revenues from KIN subscribers in exchange for the use of the Kaslo Memorial Centre for an undefined period. Both Telus and Telsus pay the Village this ‘grant in lieu of taxes’ based on the same formula. KIN is currently negotiating with FortisBC for the use of its poles for the downtown fibre build.

Marijuana and smart meter laws may go to September 2014 vote
by Jan McMurray

British Columbians may be going to the polls again in September 2014 – not for a general election, but to vote on amendments to marijuana and smart meter laws.

Bill Vander Zalm’s successful HST initiative petition has inspired two groups to use the same process for their issues. Sensible BC wants to decriminalize the possession of marijuana, and StopSmartMeters.ca wants to stop the installation of wireless smart meters.

If these two initiatives get far enough through the necessary process laid out by the Recall and Initiative Act, British Columbians could be going to the polls on September 27 of next year to vote on them. Initiative voting days have been pre-determined, and come around only once every three years.

The first step in the process is to submit an application to the Chief Electoral Officer for an initiative petition, and include a copy of the proposed law in the form of a draft Bill. Sensible BC has already written the legislation it wants passed. It’s called the Seizable Police Act, and will stop police from searching or arresting people for possession of marijuana. It also demands that the federal government repeal marijuana prohibition by removing it from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and mandates the BC government to come up with the rules needed to put a legal marijuana system in place in BC once the federal government allows it.

StopSmartMeters.ca has not yet submitted its petition for an initiative vote, but is looking at an amendment to Section 17 of the Clean Energy Act, which mandates BC Hydro to install smart meters.

"The key point is it does not mandate them to install wireless smart meters, it does not ban them either," he said. Vander Zalm is looking at specific wording that will amend that particular section in the Clean Energy Act, said Jim Smith of Sensible BC.

Both groups are gaining public support for their proposals at the moment, because huge public support is needed for the success of these initiatives.

Sinitax Nation takes new legal tack in Perry Ridge protest
by Jan McMurray

While there is nothing new about protests against logging activities on Perry Ridge, the Sinitax Nation is taking a different legal approach this time around.

Instead of going to provincial courts on our side this time,” said Bob Campbell, Sinitax head man, in a telephone interview.

Campbell reported that the Sinitax Nation has received international help with this new legal strategy, and with the writing up of a Cease and Desist Order. The newly filed to BC Timber Sales on May 9 and served to a BCTS representative on June 10.

They are asking human rights groups to join the Sinitax Nation in the International Criminal Court,” said Campbell. “Any human being who can prove they had traditional land and did not sign it over has a right to their land.”

Campbell has said the Sinitax have been in contact with the KLH administrator on January 23, 2013. “At that meeting, the only commitment the administrator made was to have signage created so the tribe can easily distinguish emergency equipment from other people’s equipment,” said McGauley. “She also contemplated installing a phone to assist visitors looking for patient room numbers, which would alleviate some of the confusion. But five months later, neither the signs nor the phone have been put in place.”

At the coalition’s June 11 meeting, the coalition met with the KLH administrator on January 23, 2013. “At that meeting, the only commitment the administrator made was to have signage created so the tribe can easily distinguish emergency equipment from other people’s equipment,” said McGauley. “She also contemplated installing a phone to assist visitors looking for patient room numbers, which would alleviate some of the confusion. But five months later, neither the signs nor the phone have been put in place.”

There are many reasons why things are being delayed, including the following: Ingrid Hancock of HII suggested that the new $13.8 million KLH emergency room had a “bad design,” more appropriate for a trauma or burns facility with more nursing staff. HII suggested HII would initiate a study to streamline the work process in the ER and would review the decision to integrate emergency patients with other patients and visitors. “But she gave no assurance this would happen anytime soon,” said McGauley.

Meanwhile, a patient and his family have made a formal complaint regarding a critical incident that happened in April, is still waiting for an investigative report. “They keep getting new deadlines and excuses, showing little accountability and leaving the impression that there was no issue because there was no death,” said McGauley.

HII has welcomed input, and encourages residents to contact the representative from their area: Trail/Rossland – Candy Purrilla 250-355-6296; Kaslo – Cheryl Nickele 250-365-6178; Nelson – Peggia McGauley 250-229-4223; Kaslo – Mary Ballon 250-355-2317; Nakusp – Marilyn Benwell; Slocan Valley – Walter Popoff.
Terry Taylor thrilled to be superintendent of School District 10 Arrow Lakes

by Jan McMurray

Terry Taylor has been with School District 10 Arrow Lakes for 30 years and is thrilled with her recent appointment as superintendent-secretary-treasurer.

"I wasn’t seeking the opportunity, but when the opportunity arose, I realized it was a good fit for my skills and former position in building a team to make an excellent district even better," she said in an interview.

Terry said she did not apply for the job last year when former superintendent-secretary-treasurer Walter Posnikoff retired, because she was happy with the work she was doing as District Principal of Learning. During this past school year, Terry was appointed acting superintendent-secretary-treasurer when Posnikoff’s successor, Denise Perry, was on holiday and then when she was dismissed. "So I had the experience to know what the role actually was, and to know I was quite competent and capable of doing the role and doing it well," she said.

Terry started off in the district in 1983 as a teacher and counsellor at Nakusp Secondary, and then moved to Lumsden School in 1996. She started teaching in the district in 1981 and her children graduated in 1986. At the age of her many hats, she was District Principal of Learning, principal of Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School (distance education), and Lumsden School English and Writing teacher and counsellor.

Terry continued teaching and counselling until January of this year, when "I love the kids and I love teaching. I think it is important for vision of building a team to make an excellent district even better," she said. In an interview.

Terry Taylor in the new superintendent of School District 10 (Arrow Lakes).

Archaeological open house at ancient Lemon Creek pithouse village

Submitted by Jan McMurray

Students from Hamilton and Selkirk Colleges are at the important Slocan Narrows archaeological site carefully excavating in one of the oldest and largest pithouses on the Interior Plateau. Radio-carbon dating of a piece of charcoal recovered from this pithouse in 2009 indicates that it was burned down about 2,750 years ago. To put that date in perspective, that makes habitation of this pithouse contemporary with the founding of Rome by Romulus and Ramaus in 753 BC. But - except for its unusually large size - that is all that is known about the pithouse at this time.

Under the direction of Hamilton College's Nathaniel Goodale and Alissa Nauman, the 11 students and two teaching assistants have been on site since June 10. This is the fourth field school to be held at this site, the others taking place in 2000, 2001 and 2011.

Excavations this year are intended to expose a portion of the floor to search for clues to how many people might have lived in it and what activities took place inside the house. Was the pithouse occupied only once, or was it rebuilt several times?

The open house takes place between 11 am and 2 pm with new guided tours beginning every 20 minutes until 1:30. This event will be very interactive with lots of opportunity for you to ask questions. A suggested donation of $10 will cover a BBQ lunch provided by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society. Proceeds will go to cover interpretive signage and other enhancements along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

To get to the site, take the Slocan Valley Trail Route 10 at the Slocan Valley Trailhead; Road to the top of the mountain. Allow 15 minutes from the time you park to walk to the site. For further information call 250-355-2397.

FCL provides $5 million gift to children and families

Students from Hamilton and Selkirk Colleges are carefully excavating the remains of a pithouse near Lemon Creek.

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), on behalf of local members (including the Slocan Valley Co-op) that make up the Co-operative Retailing System, knows it is important to do what's possible to make children and families feel at home while in hospital. That's why FCL is making an historic gift of $5 million over five years to the five children's hospital foundations in Western Canada. The gift is also the first time that the foundations have received a single donation to be shared.

For nearly a century, co-ops have built their reputations on being the local business that cares about people and communities - those that hold similar values in support of causes that matter to each of us, says FCL CEO Scott Banda. Of the $5 million, BC Children's Hospital Foundation received $525,000, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation in Calgary, $825,000; Slocan Valley Hospital Foundation in Edmonton, $250,000; and The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, $1,800,000. The money was divided using a formula developed by FCL to allocate fairly regional-wide gifts of this nature, and was agreed to by all parties.

In response, the five Children's Hospital Foundations thanked FCL and retail co-ops for their generosity. Teri Nicholls, President and CEO, B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation, said, "FCL and retail co-op's support for our foundation will have a direct impact on children and families in every community in British Columbia."

During the ceremony, children and parents shared their personal stories and experiences with their local children's hospitals and foundations. Penticton Karen Calhoun of Edmonton, Vince Fowler of Calgary, and Eric Vignod of Victoria, along with 12-year-old Nadya Koeun of Saskatoon and 10-year-old Ksenia Andriukho of Winnipeg also thanked FCL, its employees, members and customers for their support of the five Children's Hospital Foundations.

Passed planning power improvements safely at Nakusp helipad

by Jan McMurray

After the planned power outage in the Nakusp and New Denver areas on July 5, helicopters can safely land on the Arrow Lakes Hospital helipad. The outage on July 5 from 7 am to 11 am, affecting customers from Nakusp to New Denver, was necessary in order for crews to install mural balls on the hydro lines by the Arrow Lakes Hospital. This will allow helicopters to land safely on the Nakusp helipad when providing emergency medical services day or night in various weather conditions.

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Control our tax dollars

How could our tax dollars be better spent in the Central Kootenay and Boundary area? There is a combined population of approximately 90,320 in the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, which includes all the cities, towns, villages and rural residents.

There are 17 municipal councils with a combined elected representation of 97. There are two Regional District governments with 33 elected representatives equalling 130 elected and paid. Within these districts, there are four school districts with a total of 30 trustees elected and paid.

All these elected to represent 90,320 people. These elected bodies were needed in the early 1900s, as this area was the economic engine of the province with the early mining and timber industries.

Could we combine some of these responsibilities to reflect the size of the population the elected represent and control our tax dollars?

Robert Barkley Trail

Open letter to BC premier

Could you or anyone from your office explain to me how you can be the premier of this province when the people in the riding you ran in this last election voted for somebody else. They rejected you! Shouldn’t you pack your bag and go home like any other person who lost his or her seat on May 14? To carry on as premier as if you were still the winner in this last election is just not right anymore.

The honourable thing for you to do would be to let someone who actually won his or her seat be the premier of the Province of BC. Maybe that would restore some trust in people in our electoral system and bring them out to the polls in greater numbers.

And now BC taxpayers have to shoulder the cost of a by-election because you’re not accepting defeat! The Province desperately needs to change these rules.

Herschel Hunter

Canada Day in Nakusp

WOW! Nakusp has always done well celebrating Canada Day but this year was exceptional. The effort, time and energy spent planning and pulling off the activities and celebrations was above and beyond.

And the response from our residents and our visitors is why all those volunteers do what they do.

The July 1st issue of Time Magazine states on the cover, “Service can save us.”

There was a time volunteerism was called service and it still should be. So many people volunteering to serve our community and make a special day fantastic. Wouldn’t it be great if those acts of service happened every day. But wait… they already do. We see this every school day where teachers, our local hospital and hospice foundations, our Minor Hockey Association and other sports organizations in Nakusp. Not to mention our Village council and so much more.

There are many ways to volunteer and give service to our community. And you know what? Every organization could use more volunteers who have a bit of time or expertise to help better their communities. If you have a chance to read through that Time article, just do it. It takes the extreme of soldiers who suffer post traumatic stress and tells how service really can help to heal. But service enriches the lives of everyone who tries it. And when we focus on service beyond our own needs, it can be inspirational. It can open doors and shut out nightmares.

July 1st saw a lot of volunteers in Nakusp focusing on “service above self.” But we need a whole bunch more.

Bill Tbery

President

Nakusp Rotary Club

Interior Health = Inferior Health?

I am writing this letter to highlight what I believe to be the biggest crisis that Kelso faces: the debacle of the poor health services provided by Interior Health that is causing suffering in our community.

No, I’m not going to talk about 24/7 emergency services, but rather the general incompetence that directly results in atrocious working conditions for our health care professionals.

We need to start facing the facts. We have attracted some brilliant doctors to our town. They came here for the same reasons many of us did: to escape the city, and for the beautiful lakes, mountains, etc. However, they quickly become jaded with the overwhelming inefficiencies and leave. If they do stay, they won’t commit to any long-term or full-time arrangements.

I do not believe this to be because we have “lazy doctors,” but rather because trying to practise medicine while dealing with an inferior health system is an all-too-time basis in a recipe for frustration and burnout for any physician. Physicians are so bogged down with so much bureaucratic nonsense, the time they can spend on patient care is minimal. Kelso doctors risk losing their skills because they have too much administrative time and energy on trying to resolve inefficient processes. They are unable to do what they have been trained to do — patient care — the very reason they entered the profession of medicine.

Talking to physicians, they tell me they are expected to fulfill tasks that doctors should never be expected to perform — including administrative and even cleaning duties (such as having to clean their own examination rooms between and after consulting with patients).

Receptionists are so overloaded with work that they are physically unable to do what receptionists would do in other clinics to support physicians. Physicians tell me they have asked multiple times at many different levels over several years to have these processes improved. With their requests falling on deaf ears, the situation has slowly been sliding down into the abyss. This would be a morale killer for any professional.

Hospital and clinic staff at all levels tell me that they experience a lack of support and recognition from their employer. Staff suggestions to improve matters are largely ignored and complaints never amount to any improvement of processes.

I have heard many people repeating the same phrase over and over: “Do they want our health care to fail?” One cannot help but wonder if it is even possible to have such a mess if the aim is not failure.

Here is a quote from the IH website: “At Interior Health you matter. We listen. We support. We act. Your impact will be felt. Interior Health is unique in that way. We thrive as a direct result of good management and strong, forward thinking leadership.”

Now let’s ask our local IH employees if they agree with their employer’s quote. I’m sure the answer will be a resounding “NO!”

I get frustrated when I hear about community meetings to work with Interior Health to fix the problems. Interior Health is the problem! I love this town and I know that we deserve better.

Hence I will applaud and support any physician(s) who sticks his/her neck out to set up a private practice. Don’t be confused, private practice does not mean the user pays, it simply cuts Interior Health and its inferior system out of the equation. The result would be a successful clinic that is run like any other business… efficiently!

Ward Taylor, BSc, BSc.

Kaslo Community Pharmacy

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The Valley Voice

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Perennial gardens at Slocan Community Health Centre in jeopardy

The memorial fund to maintain the perennial gardens at the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver has run out. Due to funding limitations within Interior Health, plans are the latest in a series of low-maintenance lawn and shrubs.

As a nurse at the health centre, I see on a daily basis the joy the gardens bring to our residents, patients and families. Many of the garden was originally planted in memory of community members who have passed. Interior Health is very supportive of keeping the perennial gardens if we can find a way as a community to maintain them, and have agreed to delay the transition for the time being.

I am seeking volunteers willing to assist in weeding and pruning and would like to organize a work party through the budget of record books and long-term fundraising is also needed to ensure sustainability. Please contact me for more information at 250-240-2093, andreas@riverw.at

Andrea Smith
Slocan Community Health Centre

Call for support for chicken bylaw in Nakusp

Many communities in BC and elsewhere have amended their bylaws to permit having chickens within village, town and even city perimeters. Some time ago, a young student proposed an amendment to Nakusp’s current animal bylaw that would allow keeping a number of chickens. Most communities that have allowed this have restrictions on the number of chickens and often don’t allow roosters. I believe that most people in Nakusp who might be interested in keeping chickens within village limits would not have a problem with these regulations.

I would like those who are like-minded to contact the Village Office and express their support for chickens to be permitted in town. I have done so and have been told it is still on the agenda. If more people contacted the Village, the process might be expedited.

I find many others feel that securing our own sources of food is essential in today’s world.

Please make your voices heard.

Hans Sparrboe

Nakusp

Open letter to Slocan Valley residents

We are writing to you in advance of our September AGM to ask you to consider joining the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society board of directors. The board’s Nominating Committee will be putting forward a slate of names for the new board at the AGM. Could your name be on that slate?

The current board has faced many challenges during the past year and has accomplished much towards bringing good governance to the society, looking after the society’s assets and ensuring Passmore Lodge is a pleasant place for our seniors to live. Our present board is comprised of eight members with an average age of 70 years and several are dealing with serious health issues. At least half of our board members have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM in September 2013. Yet our bylaws require a minimum of five directors to continue to function.

To keep the society running and able to meet new challenges that continually and often unexpectedly arise, the board in acceptance of the needs of individuals who are dedicated, energetic and have the skills and passion necessary to help manage the society and Passmore Lodge. Are you a person with these qualities? Admittedly, some tasks can seem daunting, but working together as a team to solve them is rewarding. Please think about joining us in this important role.

We believe that all of us, as a community, want to help our seniors live out their golden years comfortably in peaceful surroundings. This is why the society’s work and Passmore Lodge has always held such a special place in the hearts of the community. So come join the board as a director to help keep Passmore Lodge a cornerstone of our facility for our seniors now and in the future.

If you would like more information, or are interested in volunteering on the board, please email rsewnion@outlook.com or see the new board at the AGM on Tuesday, Sept 3.

A board member will get back to you.

Board of Directors
Slocan Valley Seniors’
Housing Society

Dem DAMS – we don’t need to Drown our Children campaign

There has been a lot of talk about Columbia River Basin treaty renegotiation and public process (or lack thereof) around it. Why are the biggest elephants in the room and their human costs never mentioned?

If we residents of the Columbia Basin are to have any real say, serious activism and protest may be required and may not be enough. While some may view portions of this letter as alarmist, it is hoped that The Papers will test some experts who will present a different perspective on reiterating scientific content rather than spin.

Local residents in the Canadian and US jurisdictions are probably aware that the federal government and the ‘Canadian Entity’ (BC Hydro) will be the only Canadian players really heard at the table if the liberals/conservatives and Americans have their way. The ‘American Entities’ are the Bonneville Power Authority and the US Army Corps of Engineers, both agencies of the American federal government.

Process of renegotiation is played on a stacked playing field with formidable players. I expect that most British Columbians understand that the federal government and the ‘Canadian Entity’ (BC Hydro) will be the only Canadian players really heard at the table if the liberals/conservatives and Americans have their way. The ‘American Entities’ are the Bonneville Power Authority and the US Army Corps of Engineers, both agencies of the American federal government.

They may not have our best interests at heart either. Renegotiation will be a frustrating exercise for those naive enough to think that our safety should be a major issue. Regional interests like ours must be exceptionally strongly represented and media circus publicized to have any affect on the 5-based renegotiation process.

BC Hydro, “the Canadian Entity,” is of course a major concern to many residents. Some think a rogue consortium corporation with a 50-year history of acting contrary to public interest and little demonstrated accountability, even when under court challenge, is a fair business partner. The Donald Waterfall books clearly document the possible abuses of a half century ago. The Auditor General, respected economists and the balance sheet document recent possible abuses to public purse and future generations caused by HC policies. Many of the ten BC Hydro board members may be beholden to industry. Recent publicity showing 35 Hydro and Powerex employees earning over 30,000, dubious contracts and the massive privatization of ‘public power’ and a heavy hand with smart marks may be symptomatic of a lack of BC Hydro responsiveness to the wishes of Columbia Basin people.

Yes our rates are going up, and we hope our rates’ rise are going through the roof, rather than our kids going through the roof. BC Hydro has a vested interest in treaty renegotiation to meet their needs, not ours, and in mounting cheap operations and low maintenance at a time that these aging facilities (dams and spillways) need big work – maintenance, engineering or removal.

Historically, transparency may not have been the norm with BC Hydro. Their information is usually very handily held. We must make freedom of information a demand in the name of safety. Basin residents must mount a serious and aggressive campaign and that campaign must contain an ornamental or ‘advisory role’.

It is clear that the current Libby and Duncan dam inadequacy to manage potential failure is the most pressing issue in our community. The specifications are also a major safety issue for the whole Columbia system. Most observers admit that another couple of days of rain last year would have brought us to an extremely serious flood situation on Kootenay Lake. Duncan Dam had been full and irrelevant for weeks. After repeated Canadian requests, Libby and the Army Corps of Engineers provided another much needed foot of storage to prevent extensive Kootenay Lake flooding last year.

While closely related issues is the unacceptable current status of Libby Dam under CTR. Libby effectively controls Kootenay Lake levels at peak and are determined to keep lake level above those while other dams are managed under supposed joint benefit. I note multiple Canadian legal challenges over Libby flow regimes and the unacceptable of the current Coordination Agreement.

Our strategic initiative is for Canada to seek parallel status for Duncan and Libby, which could perform same roles in an upgraded system. This would require much needed upgrades to safety and capacity at Duncan and provide opportunity for Columbia Power to partner in creating generation at Duncan to the public benefit. Failing upgrade, the Duncan facility should be deactivated as a public safety initiative. A relentless push for DLC on US side and an open Columbia Basin residents will have no real reason to separate out the nominations that will inevitably be made in the interests of others. Is our safety at issue? The Johnson’s Landmark report has shown ‘experts’ quantify risks. Powers That Be, we deserve some serious science rather than a PR bluff on this one, please.

Jan Fraser
Kootenay

Watching the weather in New Denver

When you first drive into New Denver from the north, you will pass by the welcome sign and large ornamental planting, or if you look a little to the left of the sign, you can see what looks like a white bird house on a post in a well kept front yard.

This in fact is the site of New Denver’s Environment Canada weather station, which has measured both precipitation and temperature for the past 98 years, with written records available from October 1941 to the present day. My neighbour, Louise Wilson, is the current monitor, checking data each morning and evening, seven days a week.

The station itself has migrated around town to several locations as monitoring was done by different individuals under various agencies. During the early 40’s, a Mr. Johnson took notes, followed by Jeffrey Irwin from 1947 till July 1965. Danny Law carried on from there to a remarkable 45+ years, leaving the book to Louise a couple years back.

I do some odd readings if Wilsons are away, and had a chance to comb through the book recently. Random samples of weather can range from 1972, when annual snowfall was 125” and rainfall was 30”, with a low temperature of 4 and high of 95°. The one I remember was December 31, 1978 at 25°C and only a high of 14 for January 1979.

Anyhow, the plan is to submit the temperature and precipitation extremes and totals at the end of each month to the Valley Voice for the interest of readers, and perhaps to settle the odd friendly argument about this ever present and always changing weather.

Peter Rebulson
New Denver

O P I N I O N / A N A L Y S I S

July 10, 2013 The Valley Voice

5
Silvertown Gallery calls for responses to regional survey on gallery use

by Art Joyce

Do you remember when... at the Silvertown Gallery? The first time you heard a concert there by a favourite musician? The time you laughed so hard it was like a play or visiting comedian? The time you heard a stunning poem or short story by a local writer? The Silvan Lake Gallery Society is calling for responses to its regional survey of Silvertown Gallery use, included in this issue of the Valley Voice.

The society, which operates the Silvertown Gallery, is currently facing a financial crisis related to building maintenance and upgrading issues. Last year the Village of Silvertown and the provincial government contributed to the Ken Butler conservation study, which determined that the building needs about $225,000 worth of infrastructure work. Part of this is required to meet new building codes and part of this is related to water damage on the south wall that needs repair. During 2012, the village spent about $5,000 rebalancing the fire extinguishers and installing alarms. But much more remains to be done.

Recent federal and provincial funding outlays continue to put many BC arts groups into a state of crisis. The irony is that economic studies of the arts industry show the industry returning over two dollars to local economies for every dollar spent on the arts by funding agencies. That’s better than most sectors.

But municipalities too are being hit by funding cuts to transfer payments from higher levels of government. For Silvertown, Mayor Kathy Provan commented in council recently. “We’re both blessed and cursed with public buildings. Silvertown is the only small town in the region to own a small tax base to maintain them. Many of our taxpayers are on fixed incomes.” This makes it difficult to maintain a reserve fund for building infrastructure. Except for a small annex built in 1999 for the interpretative centre, it has been over 30 years since any major work has been done by the Village on the building.

Meanwhile the gallery board remains active, points out gallery director Pamela Stuart. Always a favourite performance space with musicians, actors and writers, the gallery has upgraded both its lighting and sound equipment. The gallery now has the capacity to record artists with a state-of-the-art digital sound station. This is a capacity so unmatched by other community halls in the region. The upcoming sound engineering workshops will be fully booked.

The gallery also remains a popular choice for workshops for kids and adults alike, where courses will be held on silkscreen printing, sculpture, painting, drumming and other skills. And popular live events continue to be held at the gallery, such as recent performances by musicians Dirty Grace and comedian Lucas Myers, both to packed houses. Community-wide family events such as Christmas by the Lake and the Vaillala Summer School of the Arts continue to be held here.

Like many other community organizations, the gallery has faced the challenges of an aging population. There has been a general trend of younger volunteers not being replaced by other or younger volunteers, often leading to burnout among members. The survey is an opportunity to get a sense of just how wide a support base exists for the Silvertown Gallery. Once this data is collected, the society can use it as a basis to approach regional or even provincial funders for capital funds to complete the infrastructure work. It’s also hoped that the survey will help stimulate interest in gallery membership.

In the 10,000 since the last ice age, rivers have eroded ice age sediments in the valleys and deposited that sand and gravel as river plains or deltas along rivers or lakes. Silvertown. New Denver and Rosedale are all built on cettis.

The Stuff Memories Are Made Of

Hence the question: Do you remember when... at the Silvertown Gallery? It’s a way of stimulating memories connected to the gallery over the years, from the fun to the sublime. And it’s a good reminder that for 35 years, the gallery has been far more than just a gallery for art. It has been a cultural and social focus for the community. Besides the economic benefits, I interviewed several people who have such memories. But in the late 1970s when Silvertown’s heritage schoolhouse was first receiving its transformation into an art gallery and performance space, it was decided to start a camera club. In those pre-digital days, that meant building a darkroom for processing film and prints. Leah Wait, now a Silvertown city councilor, recalls those exciting early days. “My big memories though are of playing the coffee house. It was great!” Others will recall with a smile Kevin Murphy’s hilarious coffee house routines.

Paul Walls, who arrived here about that time, was a young mother living in semi-isolation in Hills. Walls decided that joining the council would be a great way to get to know her new community. “I didn’t know very many people here so it was an opportunity to socialize and fraternize with like-minded people.” Walls, who editing the local arts council newsletter actually helped set her career path as a writer and led to work with the Kootenay Lake Summer School of the Arts in Nelson. Judy Malitz, a past president of the gallery society, says she can never forget a study of the musical Annie at the gallery, directed by Hank Hastings and Wareeta Storms. “The rights had been obtained by an early Sunday morning call to the original New York producer,” Malitz recalls. “He was so thrilled that a tiny community was mounting such an ambitious production it arranged to charge the bare minimum of licensing fees.” Starring Sarah Rais as Annie and Marianne Vanish as Miss Hannigan, the cast featured 58 members and the crew of 15, with Malitz and Jane Daigle as accompanists. “One would wonder if there was anyone left in town to be in the audience but all six sold out with people attending from Nelson, the Lower Lake, Kaslo and Nelson.”

Now that’s the stuff memories are made of. Feel free to email the gallery your fond memories of the Silvertown Gallery through the gallery website.

Donations to the gallery can be made through Canada helps at silvertowngallery.ca. A link to the online survey at Survey Monkey can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCY2YN9N.

RETURN SURVEY BY AUGUST 11TH, 2013 PLEASE!
Artists paint landscapes threatened by the Enbridge Pipeline

submitted

Over the course of a year, Winlaw’s Peter Corbett and Glen Clark from Penticton travelled across northern BC, painting landscapes that will be affected by the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Slocan Lake Dance Camp is set for July 25-28

submitted

The countown is on! The Slocan Lake Dance Camp is set for July 25 through 28 in New Denver. Choose from 31 daytime workshops in Latin, including Argentine tango, smooth, swing and country dance styles. Two evening classes offer instruction for working folks and a chance on Thursday night, Friday night’s infamous polka dot party and Saturday’s dike and dance provide a chance to show off your moves.

Now in its ninth year, the dance camp brings together folks from around the region and others from further afield on the dance floor. It’s a fun opportunity to visit this region, take a little hike, visit the beach and relax, as well as the chance to hone your dance skills.

HGG presents Food for Thought talk

submitted

The Healthy Community Society and The Hidden Garden Gallery are co-sponsoring the next Food For Thought talk on Sunday, July 21, 7:30 pm at Knox Hall. Admission is by donation to benefit the gallery.

The talk is called ‘Deconstructing Dinner for Resilient Food Communities’. Jon Steinman deconstructs a common meal to reveal the systems which brought that food to the plate. Upon deconstructing the food, a new path forward emerges — one which considers health, local economies, culture, the environment, and well-being. The presentation celebrates the food culture of the West Kootenay and proposes a vision for what might be ahead.

Steinman is the past host/producer of Kootenay Co-op Radio’s ‘Deconstructing Dinner’ and is currently working on a television/web series of the same name to launch in September. He is also a director of the Kootenay County Store Co-operative and has been involved in many regional Food system initiatives, including the languages which led New Denver to be one of the first municipalities in Canada to declare itself free of genetically engineered plants and trees.

Don’t Miss Valhalla Fine Arts ViSTA Theatre

Peak Dance and Music Explorers

Saturday July 13 7 pm
Silverton Memorial Hall

Eco Art Weeks
Week One July 8 - 12 (Ages 6-8)
Week Two July 15 - 19 (Ages 9-12)

Wild Water Weeks
Week One July 22 - 26 (Ages 6-8)
Week Two July 29 - August 2 (Ages 9-12)

Adventure Weeks
Week One August 6 - 9 (Ages 6-8)
Week Two August 12 - 16 (Ages 9-12)

Call us at 250-355-2484 or toll free 1-888-358-2484 for more information on summer camp.

Day Camp, it’s time for Summer Fun!

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan
P.O. Box 50, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0

Request for Proposal 2013-14

JANITORIAL SERVICES: ANNUAL CONTRACT

The Village of Slocan invites proposals for: Janitorial Services for the Village Office and the Slocan City Health and Wellness Centre
503 Slocan Street and 706 Harold Street respectively.

The Village of Slocan reserves the right to extend the agreement for an additional two (2) years provided the agreement is mutually agreeable to both the Village and the Contractor

The Request for Proposal is available on the Village of Slocan website, www.slocanicity.com and at the Village Office.

A non-mandatory site visit is recommended. Phone 250-355-2277 to make an appointment for viewing.

Proposals will be accepted no later than: 2:00 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2013

Proposals may be faxed, mailed or emailed. Please note that the Village will not be held responsible for fax transmission problems or other errors that could occur.
To: Chief Administrative Officer Village of Slocan P.O. Box 50 Slocan, B.C. V0G 2C0 Fax No: (250) 355-2666 Email: cao@villageofslocan.ca
Nakusp council, June 25: Council explores joining CBT broadband initiative

by Art Joyce

The Village of Nakusp is seriously considering signing onto the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation’s (CBBRC) fibre-optic broadband network. Richard Wolfe, chief technical officer at CBBRC (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Columbia Basin Trust) attended the council meeting to talk about the monthly costs and benefits of joining the broadband initiative.

"In the past, due to the capital costs, it was prohibitive," said Councillor Linda Tyukan, "but now it’s looking more affordable." Wolfe said without doing a full engineering study, it’s hard to accurately cite a figure for council but that Village buildings could be connected in a local area network for about $750 per month. The CBT is covering capital costs and would include its Nakusp office in the broadband network.

"Once you get that connection into Nakusp, it enables others to utilize it," said Wolfe. "For example, the Chamber or other groups. I think fibre optic is superior to wireless in many ways." Wolfe is willing to help the Village investigate cost-saving measures. Staff was directed to provide an up-to-date figure for current internet expenses.

Guy Duchaine appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Hillside Club, an auto race event held and Dr. DeSanfilippo are exploring for Nakusp. The proposal is to bring the event to the village in September 2013 on the hot springs road. Duchaine asked council for support in principle. Council offered support subject to a staff report, as it will involve closing the hot springs, which is still in business in September.

Council received a response from BC Hydro regarding the proposed Foothill Creek Power Project. The Village had informed BC Hydro of its support for the project’s transmission lines to come through Nakusp, as this would provide back-up power for the Nakusp-Silverton line. Darcy Fear of Foothill Creek Power came to council in April to explain that the Nakusp route was not feasible due to prohibitive costs imposed by BC Hydro, so he was looking at taking advantage of BC Hydro’s transmission lines to Penticton. The response from BC Hydro states that the project might provide only limited back-up capability for the Nakusp-Silverton line. Councilor Moeller said one of the things that come up in the Business Retention and Expansion survey was the frequency of power outages. Council voted to write BC Hydro alerting them that the power outages are a major concern and a potential deterrent for new businesses. Council agreed with the staff recommendation to modify the original plans for the roof and emergency exit stairs in an order to reduce the cost of the project. Tyukan reported that an engineer from 90read is working on an assessment of the roof and has indicated that a partial roof replacement of section of the rooftop will be sufficient, at an estimated cost of $55,000. However, this has not been confirmed. The modified plan will be brought to council for emergency to repair them instead of replace them.

Council directed staff to move forward with ice plant repairs as per the two-year plan put forward by Wendell Marshall Consulting Ltd. The estimate for the 2013 retrofit is $13,900, but does not include total costs for compressor servicing. The compressors must be tested before a firm quote on servicing can be provided. The 2014 retrofit is quoted at $390. The heat recovery project is estimated to cost $10,000, and will be paid for from grant funding. The loan authorization bylaw for $375,000 for the arena repairs and upgrades was adopted. Debt servicing on the loan is about to be $27,500 per year.

In the CBO report to council Tyukan noted that there has been "lots of clutter in the community about the fact that the dock at the boat launch doesn’t work." Mayor Huntley and the CAO met with Columbia Power, which has a plan to rectify the situation with new cables and wheels that could be used to move the ramp when necessary. The length of the gangplank will also be doubled. These modifications have been successful in other parts of the province.

CAO provided January to May figures for the Nakusp Hot Springs. "This is the first year in three years that attendance and revenues are getting better," she said. "But we know we need to get to 2011 and it’s a positive trend." The grand opening for the new hot springs bridge was confirmed for August 9 and 10.

Pastel artist Sharon Bamber exhibits at Studio Connexion

by Art Joyce

Most of us probably remember using pastels in grade school, but few retain the mastery of this art form that the way Sharon Bamber has done. Her breathtaking portraits of wildlife reveal an almost imperceptible mastery of the medium. She transforms the subjects. Bamber’s current exhibition, The Wild Side, can be viewed at Studio Connexion between July 16 and August 3, with the opening reception on July 19, 4-8 pm.

Bamber, an Arrowhead resident, says she finds inspiration for her work right on her doorstep. Though she says she’s lived “quite happily” in large cities, she finds a sense of deep contentment and peace living so closely with nature. Bamber’s wildlife images explore our emotional bond and kinship with other creatures.

“Because it’s the emotional connection that attracts me,” she is not interested in highly rendered detail of fur and feathers or accurate rendering of animal colour and markings. Instead, she prefers to depict animal subjects in a more emotive and gentle fashion, with light and colour transformed to convey a stronger sense of mood and feeling.

Indeed, looking at her paintings evokes the imagery and gestures of bears, cows and other creatures common to the Kootenay landscape, it’s as if they're blending right into the landscape – literally a part of it. Which of course they are. One is tempted to ask: Where does the animal end and the land begin? And vice versa.

But why pastels? Most painters these days seem to be working in acrylics or watercolours and some with oils. Bamber has tried other painting media but finds having to stop and start colours on the palettes interrupts her spontaneity. She prefers the immediacy of contact with the feel of a pastel in her hand, something she doesn’t experience the same way with brush.

"I love just everything about soft pastels," says Bamber. "The rich colours, the soft texture, the fact that I can blend and change shape, and with them, they are pure pigment and I know that any mark I make will remain exactly the same colour and texture for hundreds of years..." she has to say better staying power than oil paints. I love that I can blend or create broken colour or combine the two for a result that just shimmers with depth and character."

The Village of Nakusp targets community living employment

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10 am - 4 pm
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The annual general meeting of the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation will be held at 7 pm on Monday, August 12, 2013 in the hospital cafeteria.

Elections will be held to fill Director positions. 3 for 3 years in order to vote at the Annual General Meeting, new members need to obtain their $1 card from a Director or at the hospital front desk before July 12, 2013.

For further information, write to Box 284, Nakusp or call Mike George 250-265-3515

The Village of Nakusp has done an amazing job in helping us move forward. Hats off to the Village of Nakusp!

For more information, contact Tim Sandner at 250-265-1471 or nakusp@colubria.net.
New Denver council, June 25: Parks Canada grant for Nikkei Centre denied

by Karine Campbell

• Councillor Nadine Raymonds provided an update on the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. She met with the summer students and said they helped clean up the park. Mayor Ann Banka reported on the recent bus tours at the NIMC, where she had a “meet and greet” with visitors. She invites members of council to attend the Otono Ceremony on July 7.

• The Village’s request for a grant from Parks Canada’s National Historic Sites cost-sharing program was refused. The money would have been used for work on the gardens and grounds at the Nikkei Centre. Councillor Raymonds asked for a letter to Parks Canada from the mayor and council saying the site is wonderful and needs funding. She acknowledged the Village would likely only get a form letter in return, but wanted it on record.

• Banka attended a meeting of the European Cultural Society (ECS) to discuss the RDCK, where they received a report on wildfire strategy. Seven recommendations came from the report, intended to reduce the risk of interface wildfires. The RDCK board is submitting a resolution to the Central Kootenay Memvership for the BC Municipalities asking it to petition the province to allow ICBC to sell homeowners’ insurance, because “several legal opinions” confirm municipalities have amalgamated to restrict consumers’ competitive choice and have proposed reducing the distance from fire engines which they provide lower premiums.

• Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on activities in Public Works and Water. The assistant CAO is updating a sidewalk policy; staff wants to establish an inspection schedule and forms for the inspections. The crew also suggested raising the cost of the for the older line they are replacing.

• The swim floats are in but they need a diver to find the anchor. The end of the wharf was damaged in the storm and has been set for repair; the post tops will be covered to reduce rot.

• Dangers trees have been removed, and the amount of money left, which had been allocated for tree maintenance, will be used to remove fruit trees from public property. The department is looking at a day permit by the recycling bins, by the huge puddle von Krogh dobbed “less Slocan Lake.”

• Council discussed the condition of the wharf, and asked that Public Works check it on occasion and fix any damage from wave action.

• Councillor Raymonds called for strategic thinking about the Village’s buildings, citing a need for a plan to manage and maintain them. Mayor Ann Banka said she met with Lynda Lafleur from CBT to discuss accessing funds for assessing Village-owned buildings. Raymonds noted the cemetery is moved weekly and suggested staff look into the cemetery contract with the RDCK to make sure it is revenue neutral and be referred to the fall budget process.

• A request from the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to receive $25 of each business licence fee, rather than the 80 percent it now gets, was referred to committee.

• The Lucerne School breakfast program asked for budget funding for the fall, and it was agreed to apply for grants. Council said it is not part of its mandate, but offers its support in principle and staff would help them to find other sources of funding.

• Council debated whether the Village could ban genetically modified seeds. They decided it was not feasible to enforce, but agreed to put a statement in the Official Community Plan supporting the planting of non-GMO seeds.

• Councillor Heather Fox reported on her attendance at a Green Energy workshop in Nelson. She said the technology to use biomass (waste wood) to heat buildings was “credible.”

• The July 23 and August 27 council meetings have been cancelled, as is usual in the summer.

New novel by Andrea Wright explores food, activism, love

by Art Joyce

Passions run deep in first-time novelist Andrea Wright’s novel Greenstone Rising, released this month in Nelson. Wright launched the novel at a private event held in Silverton June 20 with friends and supporters.

Wright has been a lifelong resident of the Columbia basin on both sides of the border and her passion for the environment is central to the story. The plot focuses on main characters Stella Mishke, a daughter Aberdeen, whose personal and political lives in small-town Montana are suddenly recharged by the infusion of activists from Canada. Activists Gitta and Elliot are in Greenstone to organize resistance to a planned dam expansion for Sweetgrass Grazing — echoes of real life 50 years ago with the dam network on the Columbia River. Stella meets Lawrence, a wildlife biologist whose worldview matches her own, and whose expertise will come in handy. But there’s more than just activism going on here — a romantic kindles like matches on a hot brick. Her daughter Aberdeen, seriously injured in a car accident that killed two of her high school buddies, is literally jumping back into her life. As one of the participants Canadian activist Elliot, she too finds herself falling in love, galvanizing her out of grief and into action.

Appropriately, given that the author was owner of the popular Wild Rose Restaurant for 20 years, food is definitely a character in Greenstone Rising. In fact, there’s an easy-to-follow mouth-watering recipe section at the back of the book. Food in the novel is used as a kind of emotional alchemy, bringing the new relationships together and helping to solidify them. It’s a definite plus to the story, giving it a sense of realism.

The characters are all well-drawn and believable, quickly making you care about what happens to them — a

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VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Council of the Village of New Denver wishes to advise residents of the village that regularly scheduled Council Meetings will be held on July 6, 2013 and August 13, 2013. The July 23, 2013 and August 27, 2013 Regular Meetings are cancelled.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer

New Denver novel! Andrea Wright reads from her book Greenstone Rising

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**COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS**

The Kootenay Kilkie Pipe Band marches in Silverton’s Canada Day parade.

Kiera Fike and Owen Leeson’s cardboard vessel, the SS Minx, took first prize for creative design. Unfortunately, the boat proved unwieldy, sinking early in the first heat of the day’s races.

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Nakusp celebrates Canada Day with panache and style

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s Canada Day Celebration was a huge success this year, with quite a crowd out to enjoy the many things going on at the park and the beach.

There were 29 teams in the Bunsock (Game of Bones) tournament, 13 teams in the Bocce tournament, and at least 10 entries in the cardboard box boat race. The Rotary Club’s concession was hopping all day, and the United Church pig roast sold out at 150 tickets. Local DJ Matt McKee entertained the crowd all afternoon, and Out of Order, a Kelowna band, played at the gazebo in the evening. The spectacular end to a spectacular day was of course the fireworks on the waterfront.

The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce did a fantastic job of organizing the event. President Dawn Devlin reported that it was a very successful fundraiser for them. Overwatai donated the proceeds of its bike raffle to the Chamber, and the beer garden and sale of 800 Canada Day buttons brought in a nice sum. Funds raised will go towards a re-design of the Chamber website.

Prize winners

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TALES FROM THE FISHERMAN’S MARKET: FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE RUSH

We all have certain events happen in our lifetime of historic value that we will always remember with amazing clarity. Where we were at that precise moment in time, and what we were doing, is etched into our memories forever. I don’t remember where I was when the Canucks lost game 7 in 1994, (although I do remember crying) and I cannot recall what I was wearing as Joe Carter hit a walk off home run to win the Blue Jays the 1993 World Series. I do however remember this one like it was yesterday. It was 2010 and I was in the middle of a sockeye salmon bonanza.

In 2009 fewer than 1.5 million salmon came down the Fraser River to confuse and disappointed everyone involved in the fishing industry, this was the final straw in a run of bad numbers that left everyone worried about the future of our industry both locally and globally. I remember I had been selling salmon for years and the going was getting tougher and tougher as prices remained high and doubts remained justified.

Then in the late summer of 2010 a bomb hit the West Coast like All Hail Fonneran and it came in the guise of a natural disaster. A reported 25 million salmon came down the river that year and it took the commercial fishing industry by storm. We have all heard weeper fish tales before, but I kid you not, you could walk across the river on the raging backs of the majestic Sockeye salmon.

I was in the city of Vancouver and there was an aura of excitement that could not be explained. It was everywhere. It was like walking through the mall at Christmas, but this mall was paved with wooden planks and shock with the sounds of sockeye salmon flogging their waves. The Stevenson docks were all battered and bombarded and the Granville Island market was lined up for miles. Every restaurant had salmon on the menu and every family had it on their barbecues. Sure there were deals to be had but it was more than just price, it was being part of something big. I think about this as the Fisherman’s Market gears up for their whole sockeye sale this July. We deal with Sockeye salmon fresh off the boats from the Skeena and Nass River, and believe me, there is nothing like it. Not even the sockeye of the mighty Fraser River would come close.

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The Valley Voice July 10, 2013

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Kaslo council, June 25: Airport Development Working Group to meet with SEDS

by Jan McMurray

The ad hoc Kaslo Airport Development Working Group requested a meeting with council to discuss the possible opportunities at the airport. The group will be invited to attend a Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee as a delegation.

An estimate for airport road design from Bill Sproul was accepted as presented, not to exceed $12,000. The job includes the survey and design of a two-lane gravel service road on the north side of the airport, including 1,600 feet of taxiway and 600 feet of road and approximately 800 metres in forest-covered land.

Quotes to paint the hangar on the Kaslo airport runway were received from two firms. The quote from Aardvark Paving Mailing Services for $4,650 was accepted.

Recreation Island, Kaslo and Area D Youth Committee, in a letter to council that NKLCCS received the CBT grant to make improvements to the youth centre building. Planned upgrades include changing the windows on the east side, a new kitchen floor and a new stove. Council approved the upgrades, subject to Public Works viewing the structural plans after approval.

Don Scarlett circulated a draft summary of KIN’s proposed ISP (internet service provider) agreement with the Village. The Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee is working with KIN on this.

A City Hall grant application to Padre Pio and Notenboom Historic Site Cost-Sharing Program was rejected. This is the fifth application for this program for City Hall restoration that has been denied.

• Transfer of the land for the fire hall to the RDCK is underway. Intermountain Engineering’s quote to do the subdivision plans for $2,500 was accepted.

• Councillor Lang reported on the activities of the ad hoc Fire Hall Committee. The group will be meeting with FireArchitect to discuss both additions and deletions to the plan. Any costs the Village incurs over and above subdivision costs will be paid by the RDCK. Bonding is still an outstanding issue, but TILMA is a non-issue.

• Wheelchair access to the picnic area at Vanny Park has been improved. As requested Roberts and Peter Hober, Public Works has created one more opening in the looped chain fence, providing a short and level route from the road to the picnic tables. Another opening in the fence close to the skatepark is on the crew’s project list.

• John Eckland announced to ask, “Whether the firehall might be built on Water Street.” In summer 2008, after being told that Water Street was a “very high priority,” Eckland donated $7,000 worth of plastic pipe so that storm drains could be put underground. Mr. Eckland will be advised Water Street is the municipality’s first priority for paving and his donated pipe is stored in the Public Works yard.

• Jeremy Behin of Institutions of Change asked permission to occasionally host music workshops in the main hallway at the Kamloops Community Centre on weekends, and live music outside on the front lawn. He also asked for a sandbox on the main sidewalk in front of the building. His requests were referred to the Development Services Committee for approval.

• Council will consider a five-year lease for the Avis fire hall for the Victoria Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society for the thrift store, and the society will be advised that the annual fee structure will be unchanged.

• A business license to operate Koosney Horse & Carriage was granted.

Kaslo Life Writers group launches new anthology of local, family history

by Art Joyce

Murder, Suicide, Miracles, Scandal.
Not the stuff you’d normally associate with a bunch of seniors writing about their family history, but all of it is in a new anthology of writing published by the Kaslo Life Writers Group. The Ancestors Whisper and Shout, released this year, includes more than 30 stories from the group’s launch events scheduled for Kaslo and New Denver. Clearly, local history is anything but dull.

The Kaslo group is the brainchild of Kaslo resident Debra Barrett, who continues as its host. It all started five years ago with two well-received workshops on writing stories about family history. The group decided it was time to hold a regular writing group. For the first three years they met weekly and are now meeting about twice monthly at the Kaslo Seniors Hall. At each meeting the group choses a theme to prompt discussion. That leads to a quiet period of writing and then readings. Although typically the members are older, Barrett says what she calls ‘new seniors’ – people entering their 60s – are finding that the group focuses on local and family histories as well as individual stories of personal material.

“She laughs a lot,” she says.

This is the second anthology produced by the group. The first, published in 2011, was titled In My Life: Community Connections, focusing on family stories from the Kaslo area. Barrett came up with the idea and encouraged group members to submit stories on theme. In The Ancestors Whisper and Shout there are 25 contributors, writing on the theme of honouring past generations in both prose and poetry.

“We define the ancestors as anyone who’s not with us anymore,” says Barrett. “There’s no price in the book about radio ancestors, those people who used to live in the province a hundred years ago. One story includes a memoir from Barrett’s own family, who emigrated to the US from Ireland around the time of the Great Famine, an essay about the 100,000 British loyalists who emigrated to Canada, a Dookerab story, and many others.

I went to put up a poster at Abbey Books and was asked why I was selling so many scads in the book. So I went home and thought about all the potentially scandalous things in it. There’s famine, poverty, a gypsum fortune teller, ghosts in Kaslo landmarks, dead bodies under the sof a, suicides, a miracle...”

She says she told readers they’d have one of two responses. Some would say, “I don’t want to be reading that kind of thing,” and “To those people I say join the group right now.”

The other would be those who might say, “I could do better if I had someone to help me get started,” and “I don’t know how to do that.”

And to those with a critic sitting on their shoulders, Barrett adds the critic to take a nap. The point is writing is for everyone, not just ‘great’ writers. People who have lost their lives last year with ours.”

Barrett says the group is a place to meet and people interested in meeting in their own lives.

“It’s just one way of having people live their lives with another writer,” Barrett says.

Younger people aren’t excluded.

Kaslo City Hall Committee receives good news from building inspector

by Jan McMurray

The chief building inspector, John Soutam, had some good news for Kaslo’s City Hall Committee at its June 26 meeting. The plaster and lath in the top floor courtroom can stay, and the proposed wheelchair ramp is not required.

The committee has been struggling with perceived conflicts between meeting building code requirements and retaining the building’s heritage characteristic. Keeping the building’s character-defining elements is important to the building’s status as a National Historic Site.

There was a question whether the plaster and lath in the top floor courtroom, an important character-defining element of the building, met fire safety standards. Soutam told the committee that because the building has a sprinkler system and the top floor does not have to be finished, the plaster is an acceptable wall and ceiling covering.

Soutam also advised that although disabled accessibility is important in its construction, it is not necessary in this case because this is a heritage building that has never had a wheelchair ramp, and the use of the building is not changing.

Also on the agenda for the June 26 committee meeting was the project to re-build the widow’s walk on the bell tower. Funding had been approved for this through the CBT Community Initiatives program ($2,570) and the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society’s granting program ($2,500) from the group. In fact, they stand to gain a valuable skill.”

“I’d say that writing is a great means of resolving things in your life. It’s also a great way of connecting with a family member who has died. You can past the chatter to meaningful discussion.” She encourages others to consider forming similar groups and is working on another group.

Kaslo City Hall is off for the summer but will begin meeting again in September. Anyone interested may contact Debra Barrett at debrahearan@hotmail.com.

A Luncheon event will be held in New Denver at Kaslo Hall on Thursday, July 19 at 7 pm.

The book will be available at Sunnydale Naturals in Kaslo or the Kaslo Seniors Hall for $15.

Kaslo City Hall Project Manager Chris Temple is working on a budget for this project.

With the disappointing news that the Parks Canada grant application was unsuccessful once again, for the fifth time in a row, the committee is working hard to control costs.

Staff was asked to create a promotional package that can be used to raise the profile of the project and to assist with fundraising efforts. Once the cost is truly established, the committee will request donations from paint companies; painting the exterior of the building is a priority project.

Oversight closures at Kaslo Victorian emergency department submitted

Interior Health is advising Kaslo and area residents that due to limited playfield hours, the Kaslo Community Health Centre emergency department will be closed:

• 5 pm Monday, July 15 to 8 am Tuesday, July 16

• 5 pm Thursday, July 18 to 8 am Friday, July 19

Outside these hours, the emergency department will be open. In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1. Visit the emergency department at Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson. For urgent needs, visit a walk in clinic in Nelson. Note that there will be no holiday hours at your local pharmacy/store, and ensure your prescriptions are up to date. Call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1 (24 hour service). If you are unsure about your needs go to the go to the emergency department.
Winlaw artist wins fine art awards

Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery in Florida says it has been most fortunate to have the fine art figurative artist Franziski Stroehl from Winlaw in the gallery’s third annual Figurative Art Exhibition. Stroehl provides a unique perspective and style in his artworks. Recently, he received a Special Merit Award for his work titled ‘Encounter with the Unknown’ and a Special Recognition Award for ‘Hannah and the Butterfly’ and a 35-year veteran Kaslo Mountie, Doug Robinson, retires June 30

A familiar and popular member of the RCMP in Kaslo has left the force, as of June 30. Constable Doug Robinson, a 35-year veteran, will retire to Vernon after his final posting in kaslo, where he has served with some distinction for the past two years. Robinson was born and raised in Kentville, NS and joined the RCMP in 1978. Residents of kelowna, sechelt, sooǏta, Ft. Nelson, Vernon, Nakusp and kaso all came to know him well. His duty, through his many years of service, was all in uniform policing. Robinson retires to a home he bought in Vernon while stationed there in the 80s. As the conclusion of his years of service, the avid motorcycle says he plans to “go riding.” He has two grown children living in the Okanagan, is well remembered in the Vernon area and Kaslo’s loss is clearly Vernon’s gain.

He established himself as a “no BS cop” in Kaslo, sometimes to the chagrin of some superiors but with the full support of most of the people. His reputation gained him particular respect with the kids in the village, which in itself was no easy accomplishment. Just one shining example of Robinson’s career was a comment made by an older of the SooǏta First Nation during his time posted to the tiny inland community: “He is not a policeman, he is a Peace Officer.”

Electric-assist bikes at Slocan Valley Rec

submitted

Thinking about getting an electric assist bike, but not sure if you want to make the financial leap to get there? Want to find out if this form of travel is as much fun as it looks? Slocan Valley Recreation currently has two adult electric-assist bikes available for the public to try out on a day-use basis. The bikes belong to the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society which is partnering with Slocan Valley Recreation. There is a male and female model to help maximize ease of use. The bikes can get up to 50 km on a charge and make the riding experience much more enjoyable, especially for those with some degree of mobility challenges. For a small donation you can take the bike out for a ride (the rail trail is an excellent location) and see how it feels. Several people who have used the bikes in the past have gone on to purchase their own and credit getting a chance to try out a big help in the decision making process. So why not give Judy or Denise a call at Slocan Valley Recreation, 250-225-0008, and try out a bike this summer? Go with a friend. Ride up or down the rail trail and see how beautiful it looks. It could make you see the world in a totally different way.

SLOCAN LAKE ARENA SOCIETY would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported and participated in the Silent Auction on July 1st in Silverton.

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In accordance with Sec. 227 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of Silverton is giving notice that it intends to adopt a Permissive Tax Exemption Revitalization Bylaw No. 482

The main objective of this bylaw is to encourage revitalization of the core commercial area, stimulate development in the town center, improve tourism, and assist in the provision of affordable housing.

Copies are available at the Village office for public viewing and will be presented for adoption at the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2013.

Bob Laffeur, CAO
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ACCELERATION OF LIFE for Bill M. Tyler McCrory October 1, 1954-January 6, 2013. Please join us at the Silverton Day Park August 3, 2013 at 1:00 pm. Refreshments to follow.
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The Valley Voice July 10, 2013

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OBSITUARIES
George Matthew Klein
September 9, 1760 - June 25, 2013
George Klein from Whitewater, Yukon
was taken from us suddenly in a noble
tragedy on June 25, 2013, at Woods Lake,
Okanagan, BC.
George was born September 9, 1970,
to Hugo and Betty Klein of Edgewood,
BC. He grew up as a country boy who
learned to trap, fish and hunt at an early
growth. His love of the outdoors led him
to work as a hunting guide in the Arrow
Lakes and eventually took him northward.
George married his high school sweetheart,
Tracy Flintoff on June 21, 1997. They
shared 14 wonderful years together and
celebrated 16 years of marriage. George
was an excellent hunting guide for many
years and was trained at the Northwest
Taxidermy in Whitehorse in 2005, where
he could be close to his family. Winter or
summer, they often went camping, hunting
and fishing as George took pleasure in
spending quality time with his family.
He will be remembered as being an amazing
dad totally dedicated and loyal to his
wife, family and friends. George was our
sunshine, the kind of guy who would help
his son, brother, and uncle, most hopeful to be
We will all miss his great sense of humor and
touching smile.
George is survived by his wife Tracy
Klein (Garrett), (Anita), (daughter
Ruby June (Klein), mother Betty Klein,
father in-law Mike and Louise
Flintoff and siblings Andy (Sylvia),
Martin (Teena), Pam (Paula), sister in-law
Angie and numerous nieces and nephews. He
is predeceased by his father Hugo and niece
Sarah.
A gathering will be held Saturday,
July 6, 2013 at 3 pm in the park across
from Flintoff’s residence in Edgewood,
BC to celebrate George’s life. Please bring
your own refreshments, snacks and chairs
to share food memories with family and
friends.
For our Yukon family of friends, there
will be a similar gathering on Saturday,
July 13, 2013 at 4:00 pm at Tracy and George’s
dock on Coach Road.
In lieu of flowers we are hoping to
fulfill George’s dream of continuing their
hunting adventures. There is a joint account
set up for the Klein family at Whitehorse
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Upcoming shows at the Hidden Garden Gallery

Judy Wapp and donna Shaw both return to the Hidden Garden Gallery July 15, with a combined show titled "Imagination Boogie" featuring collage and mixed media. Information is detailed as "restitution, renovation, renewal."

Their reception will be Tuesday, July 16, 7 to 9 at noon with music provided by Hide-Bothum and Friends. Wapp grew up in Minnesota and submitted.

RCMP investigating Stoney Creek break-ins

The Slocan Lake RCMP is asking for the public's help in regards to several break-and-enters and thefts that have occurred in homes and businesses in Slocan City. These crimes are being investigated and are not believed to be linked at this time.

Anyone with information about these break-and-enters or thefts is asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Food hamper program is swinging

On Saturday, July 20 the New Denver and Area Food Hamper Program will sponsor its second golf tournament at the Slocan Lake Golf Club to raise funds to fill hamper's for local people in need.

Even if you don't golf, join us for the happy hour at the 9th hole or the draw of an Eric Renk framed picture, 50/50 draw and other fundraisers. Tee off is at 9 am with the silent auction and raffle going all day. The entrance fee is $30 per couple plus a donation of a non-perishable food item.

"The program has been running for over 20 years," says coordinator Sue Davies," It was started by Donen Brengoff when she was in charge of the Homemakers Program. For many years there was just enough money to provide hampers at Christmas. Thanks to generous donations from the community as well as the annual Toy Run, we now can provide a better service for those who need it.

RDCK board, June 20: Transit services amalgamated

by Jan McMurray

• Changes to the West Kootenay transit system made effective July 2. The system is designed to connect the Kootenays to Kimberley if/why or call 1-855-593-3100 for more information. Six of the RDCK's eight transit services were amalgamated to allow for a more efficient operation of the nine routes.

• John Cafaro and Bruce Blackwell attended as a delegation to discuss a community wide fire prevention program strategy. The group would like the RDCK to work with local governments to contribute financially to the program.

• The RDCK will submit a resolution at the UCBC convention recommending that the Province allow ICBC to issue property owner's insurance. The reasons behind this are that fire insurance rates have increased dramatically by 30 percent; for the last few years, the insurance companies have proposed reducing the distance from fire halls for which they provide insurance rates and several large insurance companies have amalgamated to restrict consumers' competitive choice.

Area A

• A Community Works grant of $91,260 was approved for the Kootenay Community Hall Energy Efficiency Upgrade project. This leaves Area A with $383,111 in the Community Works fund.

Area K

• Recreation Commission No. 4 grants were approved for the Saddleback Community Church ($1,000) and the Nakusp Ski Club Association ($1,000).

• An application for an amendment to the Areas K OCP and zoning bylaws by a property owner on Whatshan Settlement Road was not approved. The application requested a change in zoning from Open Space to Agriculture 2 to allow for construction of a house on the property. Water issues on the property make it unclear if a safe building site is possible.

Area D

• At the June Central Resource Recovery Committee meeting, staff was asked to contact the Village of Kaslo to discuss the concept of relocating the Kaslo transfer station to the east end of the airport runway. The move, an electrical generator with computer, printer and voice over internet telephone will be installed at the Kaslo transfer station.

• The board passed a bylaw allowing for a $900,000 loan for the Kaslo fire service. Director Shadowlock explained that they can borrow up to $1.5 million, but are approaching only $590,000 now to pay off the $350,000 debt and start on building the new fire hall.

• A Community Works grant of $100,000 was approved for the Kaslo fire service.

• The Luskin Valley Community Center will receive a $2,000 grant for a water pump. The installation of the pump will allow the centre to be a free base camp by agreement with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

• The camping fee at Glaciers Creek Regional Park was set at $10 per night for out of service area visitors and $5 per night for service area visitors, with a special rate established for volunteering by the Glaciers Creek Regional Park Commission and RDCK staff.

• Camping at the park has been free in the past but now the park needs to make money to maintain the park and purchase a satellite phone and administrative supplies. Camping fees will help offset those costs.

July is a month on the course so remember to stop by the restaurant to stock up on beverages before (and after) your round.
Kaslo couple seeks to save cheetahs from extinction

by Jan McMurray

Three years ago, Earl Pfeifer and Carol Plato embarked on a journey to help save cheetahs from extinction. Now, their journey may lead them back to Kaslo.

In a year or so, they hope to have two to six cheetahs at their Kaslo House property in Upper Kaslo, and to offer educational programs to the public.

They are also considering securing a secondary, larger location in the area. “We hope to get people excited about helping these magnificent cats,” said Pfeifer during his June 28 presentation at the Kaslo Legion to introduce the idea to the community. “They will be extinct in 10 years, unless major efforts are made immediately.”

He explained that farmland in Africa is growing, wiping out cheetah habitats. With no hunting grounds left, cheetahs kill the farm livestock to survive, and the farmers end up shooting them. “Their only future lies in captivity or captive reserves. They have nothing in the wild,” said Pfeifer.

In order to bring the cheetahs to Kaslo, Pfeifer and Plato will go through an approval process with the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA). Pfeifer said they will probably be required to double fence the property with high fencing, and each cat will have a separate enclosure on the grounds, with a common play area. The enclosures will be heated in winter.

Programs in Kaslo would include an opportunity to walk the cats, to pet them, and to watch them chase a moving target. Pfeifer and Plato also plan to take the cheetahs to schools to teach the students about them. Pfeifer said there are similar programs in Africa, but this would be the only one in North America with all four proposed programs.

“We chose cheetahs because they are great cats to work with,” he said. “They are not as hard to work with as lions. They are not as nocturnal.” He added that the ancient Egyptians tamed cheetahs to keep as pets, and that experts say there has never been an incident of a wild cheetah killing a human.

The couple owns two cheetahs, which are currently boarding at a zoo in Ontario. They have been working on socializing the pair, Robin and Anou, for the last three months, and will continue to do so for the next eight months. Pfeifer showed slides of he and Carol interacting with the two cheetahs almost as if they were pets.

People at the meeting were concerned about the small size of the Kaslo House property, the climate, and how the cheetahs would react to the domestic and wild animals that they would encounter in Kaslo.

In response, Pfeifer said the cats do not need a large space as long as they can get out for exercise every day in the form of a walk or a run. He said they would establish a five-kilometre route, perhaps on the Kaslo River Trail, for the cheetahs to walk every day. “This is comparable to the exercise they would get in the wild,” he said.

He was very confident that there would be no problems with dogs on the trail. “They won’t chase dogs — in fact, they ignore dogs,” he said.

Pfeifer said they accommodate very well — they are fine in the Toronto Zoo, where they have heated winter enclosures. They also coexist very well with the other animals in the zoo, so Pfeifer believes there would be no problems with encounters between the cheetahs and other wild animals.

Nikkei Centre at the Friday Market

Friday, June 28, the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC) made its debut appearance at New Denver’s Friday market. Summer students on the courses of Bret J. Jinnaka, Keita Matsumura, and Yuko Nakamura have been sharing and promoting their cultural experiences and knowledge at NIMC.

Osan is an annual Buddhist ceremony dedicated to commemorating one’s ancestors. According to legend, ancestral descendants visit the ancestors’ graves return to the world of the living for three days to reunite family members, living and deceased. During this time, families visit their ancestors’ graves and present food offerings to welcome them back to the world of the living. On the final day of Osan, family members hang lanterns outside their homes to guide the spirits back to their graves.

Last Sunday, the NIMC was fortunate enough to have Reverend Miyakawa of Kibouwa’s Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple officiate a public Osan ceremony at the Centre’s shrine. Ono reflects three major Japanese value systems: Buddhism, Shintoism, and Confucianism. Thus, the ceremony provided attendees with valuable insight into three of the traditionally dominating schools of thought in Japan.

This year’s Osan ceremony happened to coincide with a major Japanese festival, Tanabata. The festival celebrates the reunion of two lover deities who, according to Shinto legend, are only able to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month. During Tanabata, it is customary to write a wish on a slip of paper and tie it to a branch of a special tree in hope that the wish comes true. At both the Friday Market and the Osan ceremony, the NIMC had a bamboo branch on display for people to hang their wishes on.

In an effort to extend its reach from New Denver to the world at large, the NIMC is also working on a massive digitization project. Through the assistance of the federally funded Young Canada Works grant, two of the summer students are working to catalogue the NIMC’s entire archival and artefact collections via an online database (nikkeimuseum.org) in collaboration with three other pre-eminent Japanese-Canadian organizations: Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby; the Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum and Archives; and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, Ontario.

For more information about the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre and its summer schedule, please refer to its Facebook page at facebook.com/nimmune.