FortisBC workers escalate strike action across West Kootenay

by Art Joyce

FortisBC workers across the BC Interior are on the picket lines and have been locked out since the company obtained an essential services order in April, affecting some 225 workers. The union representing the workers, IBEW 213, started with work to rule action in the workplace but since May 16 have been escalating into a full strike. Pickets have recently gone up at offices and dam sites throughout the West Kootenay.

“The essential service order allowed us to engage in limited job action and we did that for five weeks before we were locked out. We were trying to get pressure on the company without affecting customers,” says union representative Rod Russell.

The union is seeking a three percent pay raise over three years and the addition of the new Provincial statutory holiday Family Day to its vacation time. A counter offer was made by the company but was rejected by union membership. Russell says labour regulations allow the company one opportunity to make the offer directly to union members. Over 90 percent responded, with 88 percent voting against the proposed settlement.

“We did get an offer but we feel was a market competitive increase to wages and did not ask for any changes to benefits,” says Joyce Wagenaar, FortisBC Director of Communications.

The union is also seeking to be included in the formulation of job descriptions. “Our proposal gives them that but there’s a consultation process they’d have to go through that’s part of our final offer,” adds Russell.

Wagenaar says the company prefers to leave the details of negotiations “at the negotiation table,” but says workers did observe Family Day this year, which was held for the first time on February 11. The collective agreement provides flexibility to allow float days that can be used for newly proclaimed provincial holidays.

FortisBC has applied to the Labour Relations Board for an amended essential services order, with a hearing likely for this month. Russell claims the company has not fully complied with the terms of the existing order, forcing the union to escalate strike action.

Among workers affected are power line technicians, electricians and system power dispatchers. There has already been some attrition of the FortisBC workforce, with about a dozen taking other jobs and a few terminating their positions with the company. Workers cite a deteriorating relationship with company management as a factor. The loss of power line technicians places a strain on staff because currently there’s a high demand for this trade.

Kaslo Jazz Fest named in Top 10 outdoor music venues

by Art Joyce

The Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival has recently been named by USA Today among the Top 10 outdoor music venues in the world. The floating stage nestled in Kaslo Bay with the picture perfect view of Kootenay Lake and Mt. Keka has ranked with such world-class outdoor concert venues as Red Rocks in Colorado, Slane Castle Ireland, the Odeon of Hercules Atticus in Athens, and others. The 22nd annual festival runs this year from Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4.

And no wonder, with musical lineups that surprise and thrill audiences year after year, while still retaining the unique small town feel of the Kootenays. At a time when music festivals are struggling and several have gone under, Kaslo Jazz Fest has managed to remain strong. According to Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society (KJES) President Jim Holland, the society’s philosophy has guided its success.

For one thing, the venue itself limits the size of audience, helping retain the intimate feel of the festival.

“We started early on, in the infancy of the festival, there’s a tendency of events to get into an ever upward spiral in big names in music. We consider that to be an unsustainable approach,” Holland explains. “We intentionally try to present a program where you’re not going to recognize names but you’re going to get your socks knocked off. And that’s going to attract people the following year. We’re going for a transformational experience for our audience.”

It’s a strategy that works. There certainly have been major headliners over the years – Béa Reckwijk, Richa Havens, Chazza Foster, to name only three. Many classic rock fans are familiar with headliners Mickey Hart Band with the African Showboy, who recently played two sold-out houses at Nelson’s Capital Theatre. Mickey Hart earned his credentials as one half of the best for the legendary Grateful Dead, alongside drummer Bill Kreutzmann. His interest in percussion from around the world led him to the African Showboy, with whom he now performs. They will provide the festival’s grand finale on Sunday evening.

Yet, as Holland says, the lesser-known acts are every bit as capable of providing a transformational experience for audiences. This year is no exception. And whether you’re an old rock ‘n roll, R&B and blues fan or a jazz purist, you’ll find something to savor.

For Canadian jazz players, watch out for the Stretch Orchestra with guitarist Kevin Breit. Festival goers may recall Breit’s previous performance, replete with licks both sweet and blistering. Dan Binock, of the legendary Binock jazz clan, is becoming known as a virtuoso percussionist. His father Dave Binock calls him “one of the most complicated polyrhythmic drummers I’ve ever seen.”
June flooding causes serious erosion at Sandon

by Art Joyce

The heavy rainfall in June has caused serious erosion along the Carpenter Creek banks in Sandon, with a loss of streambank near the Museum of about two metres. The Klinaklik Silver Company mining compound was also affected, with one of the buildings finding itself suddenly on the lip of the creek. Carpenter Creek has for each of the past three years had a 1-in-100-year flood event.

“The situation is urgent,” says Sandon Historical Society President Don Niedenthal. “We need some kind of response from government.”

The SHS has recently obtained a Columbus Basin Trust/CKCA grant of $16,000 to build a boardwalk and deck as well as make the Sandon Museum wheelchair accessible. The washout has forced the society to revise its plans, moving the proposed deck in front of the museum back about two metres. Sandon’s trimmings make it particularly vulnerable to flooding, as in the 1955 flood that damaged many of the remaining heritage buildings.

The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) recently made a submission to the Provincial government and New Denver Village council, with site photographs and detailed explanations of potential risks. The recent flooding has eroded up to one-eighth of the Klinaklik Silver compound, which had already been compromised by flooding in 2011. No remediation work has been done since then. VWS spokesperson Craig Pettit said site inspection had also revealed damage to the highway support structure, leaving it at risk of collapse into the creek. Highway crews have tried to shore it up by adding more rock.

“What’s happening is the creek is starting to undercut, as my pictures show,” says Pettit, “with some undercutting on the dirt fill slope. The question is, how much water will it take before it starts washing down into the lake?”

But Klinaklik Silver feels its hands have been tied. Federal authorities such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which has ultimate authority over all bodies of water in the country, are very particular about what work can be done as fish-bearing streams. “We do have a plan to fix the erosion; we have an obligation to protect our compound,” says Rocky Cliff, Klinaklik Silver’s Explorations Officer. “For 100 years they used to dredge the creek here every year and everyone agrees that’s what needs to happen. There are plumes of debris that need to be removed too. Ultimately the government has to make the decision.”

Cliff says the main bridge at Sandon has also been damaged and its support structure undermined. Consequently it has had its minimum vehicle load downgraded, disallowing any industrial vehicle traffic.

VWS is also concerned about the effect of erosion on the mine’s tailings ponds. Recent photographs show a layer that may be taillings that predate the last 40 years of the operation and are underlying the existing tailings ponds. “Should these taillings ponds be breached there are thousands of cubic metres of crushed fines, probably containing hazardous chemicals and heavy metals that would be washed down to Slocan Lake,” notes the VWS complaint to government. They do not believe the tailings ponds have been properly armored to prevent such a disaster.

But the government doesn’t seem worried. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Public Affairs Officer Brian Clarke says staff from the Ministry of Energy and Mines have visited this site twice this year and do not believe the tailing ponds are at risk. “A geological report for this site completed in 2011 concluded that a 1/200 flood event (a flood that happens once every 200 years) would not breach the tailings ponds. Another geological inspection is planned for later this month. The findings of this inspection will determine what steps need to be taken, if any.”

Cliff says the tailings ponds are still about 100 metres from the creek. “There’s nothing toxic in the tailings ponds, just the rock that’s left over from mining. It doesn’t have any chemicals in it. There were floods in there this spring so the water can’t be that bad.”

Recently a contractor had been hired to see if he could use the gravel for fill and it came out clean in tests. “In 1983 they armourd all the tailings ponds, straightened the creek out and deepened it. But EPO wouldn’t let you do much of anything in the existing tailing ponds.”

New Denver Mayor Amy Bunka would also like to see something done. “It’s not our area, but we’re downstream. Any spill or debris will end up here.” Council considered VWS’s concerns at its July 9 meeting. Councillor David Foolway suggested that a heavy debris flow from flooding could take out the bridge on Highway 6. Council will write the minister expressing its concerns.

Councilor Heather Fox suggested taking the concerns to a meeting with the minister at the UBCM conference in September, and contacting Silverton, Slocan and Area B to invite them to get involved.

A meeting has been scheduled with property owners and other interested parties at the Slocan Memorial Hall on July 23 at 2 pm with Area B Director Walter Popoff, a representative from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Mines, RDCK Emergency Coordinator Terry Warren and Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan. The site will be assessed for possible next steps.

YRB Yellowhead Road & Bridge

Heavy Duty Mechanic Wanted

Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Kootenay) Ltd. is looking for a Mechanic for our New Denver facility. Applicants will need to hold a valid TG for Heavy Duty or Commercial Transport, class three driver’s licence and Motor Vehicle Inspection licence would be an asset.

Resumes can be faxed to 250-352-2172.

CELEBRATION PICNIC OF SLOCAN LAKE'S NEWEST PARK. August 4. Silverton BC.

The Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and the extended family of the late Colleen McCorry invite you to an informal potluck picnic and celebration of Slocan Lake’s newest and smallest park known as “Colleen’s Beach Park.”

When: August 4.

Small informal celebration at 2 pm! Welcoming!

Where: Silverton, BC. Beach at bottom of 7th street. Best to park toward boat launch on Leadville Street (There will be signs) and walk down to “Cooper’s Beach” and then north.

Opening by Kathy Provan, Silverton Mayor
Irish bag pipe music provided by Gerry Conway
Bring some summer food and utensils (cut down on plastic waste). Bring your own lawn chairs.

This event is occurring thanks to the generous donation of this small lakeside parcel to the Valhalla Foundation by Rick McGuire and thanks to the Branca and Bruno Pochkowski family of Silverton for so generously renovating the stairs to the lake.

For more information call 358-7716

[Support this event provided by the McCorry family]

Valhalla Fine Arts Presents...

SUZUKI VALHALLA INSTITUTE: August 4-9

SFI Faculty Concert:
Thursday, August 8 at 7 pm
Student Concerts:
Friday, August 9 at 4:30 pm & 7 pm

VALHALLA SUMMER SCHOOL OF MUSIC: August 11-16

Opening Concert: Krzysztof Jablonski Sunday, August 11 at 7 pm
VSSM Faculty Concert:
Tuesday, August 13 at 7 pm
Student Concerts:
Friday, August 16 at 4 pm & 7 pm

All concerts are held at the Silverton Memorial Hall
www.valhallafinearts.org

Application approved for initiative petition to amend the Police Act submitted

Dana Laran’s bid for a province-wide petition to support legislation to ban use of police resources to enforce cannabis regulations has received a go-ahead. British Columbia’s Chief Electoral Officer, Keith Archer, has granted approval in principle on an initial request presented by the BC Association of Municipalities. The petition will be issued September 9, 2013.

The proposed legislation, which the petitioners hope to have the initiative and draft Bill entitled, “Sustainable Policing Act” to amend the Police Act so as no longer use provincial police resources on the enforcement of current laws in relation to simple possession and use of cannabis by adults. The draft law would prohibit the use of provincial police resources for this purpose, would require police to report in detail to the Minister of Justice any actual use of resources for this purpose and why it was necessary, and require the Minister to publish that report.”

The Bill also proposes that the Province would call upon the Federal Government to repeal the federal prohibition on cannabis, or give British Columbia an exemption, such that British Columbia is able to tax and regulate cannabis similar to the regulation of alcohol and tobacco. As well, it proposes that British Columbia shall establish a Provincial Commission to study the taxes and requirements necessary for the province to establish a fair and regulated model for the production and use of cannabis by adults.

By law, the Bill would make non-lawful possession and use of cannabis by minors an offence similar to possession and use of alcohol.

Any registered voter can apply to have a petition issued to galvanize support for a legislative proposal. After the petition is issued, the proponent will have 90 days to canvass and collect signatures of at least 10 percent of the registered voters in each of British Columbia’s 85 electoral districts.

Individuals or organizations who wish to oppose the petition may file a notice of opposition at the Office of the Legislative Counsel, or may file a notice of opposition or objection if they believe the notice of petition is in fact defective. The deadline for all objections is September 9, 2013.

The deadline for the opposition application is August 12. Registered voters as of September 9, 2013 may sign the petition once for the electoral district in which they are registered.
Silverton taxpayer questionnaire returns negative results on gallery

by Art Joyce

The Silverton taxpayers have mostly given the thumbs-down to saving the Silverton Gallery. The questionnaire recently sent out by Village administration had an overwhelming majority of respondents answering "no" to pointed questions about the future of the gallery and implied that a tax increase might be needed to remedy the facility. The proposal will need a majority against any such increase. To date, 41 responses to the survey have been received. The Village is facing a funding shortfall for the maintenance of its public buildings. The results of the survey and analysis of the data is still in the information-gathering stage and is not planned to make a decision on the fate of the gallery until fall. The Silverton Lake Gallery Society (SLGS) has issued its own survey in the July 10 issue of the Valley Voice to assess the region-wide patronage of the gallery. The deadline for responses is the August 1 deadline for submissions. The mayor has said council will add it to their agenda for further discussion.

Several respondents asked specific questions along the lines of, "Would you agree with selling the Gallery building publicly at its assessed value?" This question returned a dead heat, with 18 voting "yes" and 18 "no." Another question was, "Would you agree with selling the Gallery building to a non-profit or community organization for $1 so long as they retain a long-term lease from the Village and keep the building public and in good repair?" To this, 23 respondents "yes" while 15 said "no." The gallery society board, which was made aware of the survey, has pointed out that the survey uses leading questions. Nowhere are respondents asked to rate which buildings to retain and which to let go — only the gallery is considered in this question.

"The only reason we're focusing on the gallery is the amount of money we're looking to do the upgrades to that building," says Mayor Proven. "It's not just the repairs but the ongoing maintenance costs we're concerned about." That amount is estimated at between $225,000 — 315,000. However, capital funds are available both through the regional district and the Columbia Basin Trust. Area H Director Walter Popoff and CBT Community Liaison Lynda Lafleur have stated they are willing to work with the Village to help with capital fundraising. According to Popoff, Columbia Basin Trust is facing similar funding shortfalls and infrastructure issues as they age. Many have responded successfully to the gallery's self-assessment and encouraged themselves through funding and membership drives and new business plans to make ongoing operations feasible.

The focal question posed to the gallery goes, "Do you think the Village can or should support two public assembly buildings (the Memorial Hall and Gallery)?" 32 answered "no," with only three "yes" and a few "unsure" responses. A few of these said they needed to be prepped to pay an annual tax increase to service a loan of up to $300,000 to refurbish the Gallery. The answer was overwhelmingly against — 39 to 1. Yet an increased tax to support the Memorial Hall didn't seem to be a problem, as 26 said "yes" to a five-percentage-municipal tax increase to provide for maintenance while 12 said "no."

Several respondents go on to say that the gallery is outdated and needs to be updated. Despite the fact that it is a listed heritage building. Others suggested selling the gallery and supporting only Memorial Hall instead. Some said the gallery is a vital community asset.

BC government announces an opt-out plan for 'smart' meters

by Art Joyce

The BC government has backed down on its plan to require every home in the province to have a smart meter. Energy Minister Bill Bennett said on July 11 that BC Hydro clients will pay extra to do so. Meanwhile a decision is still awaited on the FortisBC hearings at the BC Utilities Commission held this spring. Fortis has applied to install a similar "smart" meter grid within its jurisdiction in the West Kootenay.

BC Hydro customers who do not currently have a smart meter will now have three choices: Choose the standard smart meter at no extra cost. Accept a "smart" grid that is touted as a way to "save money" and cut power consumption. Most utilities corporations are looking at higher rates for peak-use periods. This is expected to shift power consumption away from peak periods but is unlikely to save consumers any money. Bennett says BC Hydro has no plans — yet — to introduce peak period rates. But other utilities such as Ontario Hydro have done just that once the grid was in. And even without peak rates, costs for homes with "smart" meters have risen considerably. The Coalition is collecting information from BC Hydro customers who have seen their power bills double or more.

Early last year the Coalition and CST launched a class action lawsuit against BC Hydro to prevent citizens having meters forced on them. A hearing with the BC Human Rights Commissioner is set to hear concerns for people affected by "smart" meter emissions is ongoing. CST Director Una St Clair emphasizes that Bennett's announcement is only a political move. "We appreciate the offering of the olive branch," says St Clair. "Once proper policy is implemented, we will have to review. But now it is litigation, if any, required to address any defects in that policy."

The previous Liberal government implemented the BC Hydro "smart" grid from BCUC oversight in its 2010 Clean Energy Act, a move many British Columbians saw as undemocratic. Private utilities are still required to submit plans for "smart" grids to BCUC review. At the FortisBC hearings in Vernon earlier this year, the commission heard from international experts and a retired Canadian naval officer warning about the health and data security problems associated with wireless networks.

Noble and St Clair say they and their supporters aren’t backing down on a no-feee-opt-out plan. "People should have the right to protect their homes," says Noble. "This is about extortion and will let those who are most vulnerable be the hardest: the elderly, the disabled and young families."

The question is asking anyone who received a 'smart' meter against their wishes and who wish to remove it to contact them. A database will be established to get an accurate sense of how many British Columbians have refused the new meters.

But Bennett believes the opt-out plan is fair. "As we have said, nobody will be forced to take a smart meter. I believe that this is a fair and reasonable solution for all British Columbians."

CORRECTIONS

• In the review of Andrea Wright's book "our last lost chance," Greenstone Rising, we reported that Wright launched the novel at a private event held in Silverton June 20. In fact, the book launch was a public event, hosted by Fitchee & Spence Publicity on June 21.

• In the June 26 Silverton Council article, we said, "Councillor McGreal vigorously opposed the motion (authorizing Logan renovations), but it passed."

Councillor McGreal points out that she had objected to the Village allowing the Legion to encroach on the road alignment and that she hadn’t been against the Legion’s renovations.
Thanks for Being Helpful

To the Ministry of Agriculture—thanks! A huge and heartfelt thank you to Axel Kauz, the Provincial Apiary Inspector (Kootenay area). You visited on short notice to look at my bees, gave me your valuable time, sound advice and have all my hives straight.

The learning curve continues.

You also took time out to fit in other beekeepers in the area. May the Provincial government continue to fund this vital service, which does not only benefit beekeepers and agricultural growers alike, but nature itself. I have no problems with paying my taxes when service like this is delivered.

Tim Sunder
Smiling Hills Farm, Hills

Open letter to BC govt. on Johnson’s Landing

Minister: First and in purely non-partisan level: PLEASE, activate whatever measures have already been available to compensate those British Columbians whose lives were destroyed one year ago at Johnson’s Landing. The country is undergoing several disasters, where government has stepped up to the plate.

Secondly, and purely partisan: BC has clearly NOT stepped up to the plate in connection with the Johnson incident. I readily recognize that this constituency is completely unrepresented by the current MLA. In times of crisis, we must put partisan politics aside. Please extend a British Columbia hand, and be fair to these families of many whom have lost everything.

Your premier now has her own seat. The scot is in the latter. In the time of a small town interior crisis, these folks need a hand. Urge the premier to extend it.

James C. Yount
Kaslo

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 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 Chamber protests power outage

On behalf of the business community of Nakusp and Arrow Lakes, the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce would like to protest the timing of the scheduled power outage that occurred on Friday, July 5. Summer is the busy season for many businesses in this area, allowing them to remain open the rest of the year. This planned outage occurred during business hours, causing disruption and reducing income that day.

This event was planned in May. Could it not have been planned for a different time of year, avoiding the busy season? Or outside of business hours? This area has been facing economic challenges for several years now. It would be greatly appreciated if BC Hydro would support the community by taking business concerns into consideration when scheduling power outages in the future. We would be very interested to hear your plan to address this issue.

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 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 and District Chamber of Commerce

Pope John Paul II Day a misstep

Our local MP Alex Atamanenko recently voted in favour of Bill C-266, the bill that would establish April 2 as Pope John Paul II Day in Canada. I am personally disappointed that a progressive NDP MP would be willing to celebrate a religious figure that promoted an anti-human rights agenda. The designation of a day for Canada to officially recognize Pope John Paul II is inconsistent with the goals and values established and promoted by the Government of Canada.

While John Paul II was a charismatic figure, his record as leader of the Catholic Church is full of scandal and poor management. Barbara Blaine, head of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) group, points out, “In more than 25 years as the most powerful religious figure on the planet, John Paul II did almost nothing to safeguard kids.”

Pope John Paul vigorously supported the Catholic Church’s opposition to contraception, abortion and homosexuality. He personally intervened to advise Jean Chrétien against introducing legislation to allow same-sex marriage. His reluctance against condom use undermined worldwide public health efforts to control the spread of AIDS.

For these reasons, Link MP Alex Atamanenko to publicly defend his religiously conservative vote. Is this the new NDP aligning themselves with the Harper government? Raynon Lyster, Crescent Valley

Why not let campers use ballpark?

We were wondering why a small number of people in the Orchard had such influence as to advise the village what is good or bad when it comes to the usage of the field at Centennial Park. I can’t believe that you told 10 or 20 more campers make that much more noise as to irritate any neighbours nearby. We have spent many years here and a lot of time down in the park, and really can’t remember there being a lot of noise of any kind. I imagine that the campsite attendants do their job and manage any noisemakers. As far as we know our present campsite attendants are incredibly good at their profession and are very hospitable and would like to accommodate the campers who have come to stay here in New Denver.

There can’t be a quarantine with the usage and treatment of the field because the Hills & Dales Festival uses it, including the ball field.

The campsite at Centennial is very popular and busy and for a few years overflow campers were permitted to camp in the field where the ballpark is. As the field is infrequently used what is the harm in letting overflow camping into the infield?

I thought our tiny community was supposed to be friendly, gracious and inviting. Well, there in itself is a dilemma, telling campers there is no room at the inn and sending them on their way is surely not the right gesture to achieve friendliness. It is not a face our little village wants to wear.

We are concerned that The Village is getting a bit of a reputation by sending away the people who have arrived to stay in our delightful little bit of heaven along the lake. Are we that selfish? People chatter, enlighten their friends. They notice the field that is empty and wonder why they can’t stay there. We are aware that the overflow campers were told they would be put in a campground once one was available and some are sent to Silverton.

The point we are trying to make is we have a great field that is never used and if we can fill it with campers who wish to come here and hang about, why not?

Make use of the field, it is going to waste and a few cantankerous villagers should discover the significance of being hospitable. They should loosen up and let others take pleasure in spending time camping here. Share a little of the heaven that they take pleasure in all year.

Wanda Palmer and Elsie Reder
New Denver
Perry Ridge blockaders threatened with arrest

On July 17 RCP arrived at the Sanitat camp threatening to arrest on charges of 'misbehaviour' anyone who prevented drinking water destruction. The RCP also escorted the logger to work. Recent efforts by Sanitat and locals concerned about industrial logging on site, and also that timber, used as a local material for local building and construction, is a ray of peaceful intelligent resolve. Despite seemingly impossible odds and public indifference these few individuals are without fear. "There's a future for people who are determined," they said. Their determination is a ray of hope that we must not allow to disappear.

While Canadians for the most part enjoy the wealth of abundance on a planet that was recklessly for the attention of evil, our abundance fades and our children will regard us as fools. The top of Perry Ridge is a swampy, windswept and often wintry wasteland, populated by many species of waterfowl. BC Timber Sales extant to extend a contentious road further along into this swampy diversity, for raw log/pulp export, and to provide access for mining and logging operations.

The federal and provincial governments of Canada want traditional native treaty voided by economic interests. They detect non-Indian humans that support Indian legal right to fishing, hunting and the use of Sanitat existence as a Canadian First Nations. Why? Power. The half dozen or so committed human beings that currently peacefully occupy Perry Ridge invite dialogue with local logging contractors to resolve this matter with good will. There is no personal financial gain to protecting creation. Young families have been separated to peacefully bring attention to public indifference and political malaise that threatens our collective future. Local logging contractors that are being encouraged and financed by the Ministry of Forests to take legal action against this peaceful resolve should reconsider. There is no good that will come out of a court injunction or RCP incursion against locals trying to protect spiritual indigenous beliefs and drinking water.

Tom Price

Open letter to Kaslo Mayor & Council

Do you enjoy a cup of coffee early in the morning? There are several processes that are done to coffee beans to make that cup of coffee before it's ground to your satisfaction. Some of these roasting and chemical processes use some rather dangerous chemicals, specifically acrylonitrile, which is very damaging to the human respiratory system, according to a 2009 WorksafeBC study.

During a recent evening visit to the emergency department of Kaslo’s hospital, I was struck by 2 things. I noticed a G-D awful strong foul smell. I soon realized this odour was coming from a coffee processor, Kaslo Bean Roasting, which is located in a residential neighbourhood, across the street from the hospital. If I could smell this foul odour of the coffee roasting process on the particular day, then I’m sure the sensors living in the rest home part of the Kaslo facility could as well. And how about the other neighbours close to this business? It must be frustrating for them. I did a little research and found that the owner is a part-time minister of a local congregation here in Kaslo. In consideration of the health of the other neighbours, I offer a few suggestions: Move this smelly operation out of town, or build a proper room and fan system with a water relief system to wash this foul smell out of the discharged air. And stop being a real pain to his neighbours here in a residential area. An 80-metre STACC, like they tell you mothers might get rid of most of this stench.

Village of Kaslo please reply.

Paul Wooldag

Kasco

CRIT not the cause of BC Hydro debt

Your editorial in the March 20, 2013 Valley Voice implied that the debt of BC Hydro is the result of the Columbia Basin Treaty. The debt is stated to be $22.2 billion in 2011 and projected to be $18 billion in 2018. A review of the situation indicates the following: A. Public information literature issued by Columbia Basin Trust reads as follows: "The Columbia Basin Trust was endowed with $255 million from the Province of BC (approximately five percent of the downstream benefits owned by the Province of BC). B. During the making, the total Canadian变额是Therefore 5.5 to $8 billion. This is provided to Canada (BC Hydro) in the form of electrical power. What is generally and generally publically knows is that the amount of power delivered to Canada is based on more than 5% per KWh. C. BC Hydro receives the Canadian Enbridge power and delivers the electricity to BC residents. Hydro then invoices its clients (including those displaced as a result of the divested Hells Gate) at approximately 10 cents per KWh. So essentially, BC Hydro receives a substantial amount of power at basically no cost to them. They then double the price to the consumers. In essence, the revenue for the Enbridge Power should therefore be in excess of $1 billion. Does Hydro (or anyone else) then invest that the BC Hydro debt is a result of the CRIT? D. In the Valley Voice dated December 12, 2012, BC Hydro said that the reason for the "possession" of terminating the treaty and having more control over water levels. They were quoted as saying: "On the one hand, there are some, for example, although the average energy gain would be worth $5 to $20 million per year, the Province would lose between $100 and $200 million in entitlements from the US. This amount is not paid in cash but in power which is then resold. E. As stated previously, the power received as Entitlement is then sold to hydro producers for hundreds of years and hundreds of hours of hard work is easy for the RDCK to say come visit our beautiful Recreation Park. One paid person cannot keep the park open. It takes volunteers to do the major work and the volunteers have lost all incentive to do the work because they don’t feel it’s their park anymore, it’s RDCK’s park.

It’s Kaslo and Area’s tax dollars that help pay the park for Area D’s volunteers that do all the work and now they want to pay us again. That’s like triple dipping, not just double dipping. I am very hurt over the whole idea that RDCK thinks we cannot run Glacier Creek Park after 30 plus years. My husband and I have worked very hard, I feel like we did do all this work all these years? He is very disappointed." Sigrid Lewis

Meadow Creek

Open letter to John Kettle

I am very upset with the changes in the way our park is managed. After the last 30 plus years of working in the Community Park, I have lost most of my incentive to do any more volunteer work.

We – all the volunteers that built the park – took pride in what we accomplished. How: from a two picnic table, noouthouse, small Forestry picnic area, we made it into a beautiful rustic camping area.

There used to be a sign at the entrance of the park that said, "RDCK Community Park. Now it’s "RDCK Recreational Park." The RDCK took the "community" right out of it. We built this park for our community – the Lillooet Valley and Kaslo and yes, for room, but for that reason, last.

I always say, if something isn’t broken, don’t fix it. I remember the name of the Little Red Hen. The Little Red Hen found some seeds and asked all the animals to help for the hen. No one wanted to help so she planted them herself. When it was time to harvest the asked again for help but no one wanted to. She ground the flour into, but no one wanted to help. She made the flour into bread and baked it. "Who would like to help me out the bread?" she asked. Everyone wanted to.

The Little Red Hen said, "No, thanks. I’ll eat it myself." No one wanted to do the work, but when it was a beautiful finished product everyone wanted it. After about one hundred years and hundreds of hours of hard work it’s easy for the RDCK to say come visit our beautiful Recreation Park. One paid person cannot keep the park open. It takes volunteers to do the major work and the volunteers have lost all incentive to do the work because they don’t feel it’s their park anymore, it’s RDCK’s park.

It’s Kaslo and Area D’s tax dollars that help pay the park for Area D’s volunteers that do all the work and now they want to pay us again. That’s like triple dipping, not just double dipping. I am very hurt over the whole idea that RDCK thinks we cannot run Glacier Creek Park after 30 plus years. My husband and I have worked very hard, I feel like we did do all this work all these years? He is very disappointed.

The Mayor and a group of fellow citizens to help open up and develop the Kaslo airport. This can make a major contribution to health and well-being of everyone in the area. It can bring Kaslo much closer to medical services and major urban centers. We are only one hour away from the best hospitals in Calgary or Kelowna. What that can mean is that my mother-in-law would not die of a heart attack near noon because the closest doctor was not available for another hour and a half. We can also bring business and employment to the Village. Airports bring good paying jobs. Airports bring customers for hotels, marinas, real estate, and restaurants, and all kinds of things Kaslo has. An operating airport can bring a movement of prosperity to businesses that are now struggling.

It can help cure the economic "Dutch elm disease" that is afflicting vacant storefronts in Kaslo’s core.

The hotel will provide work and support any group or individual that will help Kaslo through carefully managed growth and development. In this way we can move forward and not have to support all of us want to keep. Key is to find quality schools and health care. Kaslo is proud of JV Humphries School and partly so. But if enrolments keep filling we will lose one or two teachers and as a result, we will have grandchildren at school and we care.

Similarly our community needs skilled nurses, a doctor and a dentist. Only with quality employment and young families that can afford to live here can we preserve and improve on these necessities for our community. That also means we need affordable housing, not just talk about it. My wife and I helped build such housing in Nevada – it can be done. And the Village has the land to make it possible. It just needs some political will and focused vision to make it happen. It does not need more committee where good idea go to die. These basics for growth we require a younger, growing population, not a shrinking and predominantly aging one.

We closed the hotel lost visitors. Truth is, the hotel loses money in the winter, open or closed, unless there is some major construction in the area. We hoped that closing the hotel would be part of a wake-up call for the Village council to make them more knowledgeable and business friendly and less protective of old entitlements and fiefdoms. The loss of businesses and the empty storefronts in the Village should only add to that wake-up call. We are hopeful that our new Village Manager will help with change that is conducive for economic and social growth in our Village.

Beyond question there needs to be a more open process of allocating what the little Village has in the way of funds for improvements. This, I believe, we are ungeous ways to change our operations in cooperation with other resort operators and hopefully utilize the airport as a gateway to businesses and tourists to Kaslo. We hope that these developments will not be met by obstruction and delay and this hotel can find Kaslo to remain in operation during the coming year.

John Eckland

Kasco
Blooming in all the wrong places: Invasive plants threaten the Kootenays

submitted

They may be colourful, but they’re seriously out of place – invasive weeds, which we all see and may even enjoy when blooming. What’s the problem? They’re not native to the West Kootenays – or even to the North American continent. Having been brought or found their way here, they are proliferating either by infiltrating their seeds or spreading their roots (some VERY deeply) and taking up soil where native species otherwise would grow. They also left their natural predators behind.

Some examples are orange hawkweed in yards, beside trails – most anywhere you look right now. Scotch broom with its bright yellow blooms in June is busy making seed heads which will multiply soon – and it’s also very flammable. Spotted knapweed, cleavers, common tansy (humus and pal allergens as well), buckthorn, thistle, hoary alyssum (poison for horses), hawthorn (commonly called morning glory) and many others of lesser terrestrial priority are threatening our local economy, native habitats, and food sustainability. Also of urgent concern are aquatic species. All need to be handled very carefully, especially seed heads and roots. The

One Book, One Kootenay vote deadline looming

submitted

The popular Kootenay-wide book club, One Book, One Kootenay, has kept regional readers busy trying to decide which of the three shortlisted books should get the nod. Each year, booklovers read, discuss, and vote on the book they think all Kootenay folk should read. The deadline for voting for the 2013 selection is August 2.

This year’s shortlist is comprised of Never Going Back by Antonia Baynard, Confined Space by Deyan Coller and The Dolphin’s Tooth: A Decade in Search of Adventure by Bruce Kirby. Since May, these Kootenay authors have been reading in libraries across the region, either in person or virtually through film. With several days left to read and vote, the Kootenay Library Federation that hosts OBOK is urging people to pick up copies of the books at their local libraries, and vote.

They are all good reads: Coller’s mystery Confined Space (Simon & Schuster) introduces small-town corner Ben Fortin as he investigates a murder in a brewery; The Dolphin’s Tooth (McClelland & Stewart) follows Kirby through 15 years of high adventure in some of the world’s edgiest places; Baynard’s novel Never Going Back (Thistledown Press) brings together a group of high school friends after 10 years of separation as they converge for a friend’s memorial. The 2013 selected OBOK author is celebrated in a tour of select Kootenay libraries in the fall.

“IT’s great to be able to celebrate the talented writers of the Kootenay in this way,” says Federation director Joanne Richards. “With One Book, One Kootenay, everybody wins.”

This is the fifth anniversary of OBOK, a region-wide book club supported by public libraries in the East and West Kootenay, and the Columbia Basin Trust.

For more information visit www.oobka.ca.

The New Curran Hospice Society raised $750 at a bake sale and $760 at a BBQ held on June 28. Fort (on 8th & 19th Street) raised $1000. Emma Bubier, Jenny Jones, Aymee Emery, Kay Costley-White, Lynn Hascen, Sharon Gustafson, Barry Trew, Tanya Thompson, Barbara Scott-Tegeder, Joanna Rahmki, Karen Ferlth. To learn more visit newcurranhospice.ca.

Application for FortisBC Inc. for approval of a multi-year performance-based ratemaking plan for the years 2014 through 2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION, WORKSHOP AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

Workshop

Procedural conference

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

Friday, October 25, 2013

Times: 10:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Express, 2429 Highway 97 North, Kelowna, B.C. (Alberni/Pandyloory Room)

The APPLICATION

On July 5, 2013, FortisBC Inc. (FortisBC) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for approval of a proposed multi-year Performance Based Ratemaking (PBR) plan for the years 2014 through 2018, and for approval of permanent rates effective January 1, 2014 (Application), pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the Utilities Commission Act (Act). Among other things, FortisBC seeks approval of the following:

- Approval to make the existing interim rates as permanent effective January 1, 2013, and to increase the permanent rates for all customers by 3.3 percent, effective January 1, 2013.
- Approval of a rate stabilization mechanism to mitigate rate variability for the years 2014 – 2018, as set out in the Application.
- Approval to grow through, during 2014, any increases or decreases arising from a decision in the Generic Cost of Capital Stage 2 proceeding that is currently before the Commission.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs.
- Certain accounting treatment and financing of deferred costs. accounting treatment and financing of deferred c...
Sloancan discusses possibilities of local prehistory museum

by Barbara Curry Maltz

Dr. Nathan Goode, archaeologist in charge of the Archaeological Field School at Lenox Creek, presented a report to council about work at the Slocan Narrows-Pentiction Village. He emphasized the importance of the site, saying that 85 percent of the archaeological sites in the Upper Columbia have either eroded or covered and washed away. The Slocan Narrows and Valken sites are the only areas left. This fourth field school at Slocan Narrows has 11 students.

After Dr. Goode’s presentation, Rory Lindsay spoke about “an opportunity for Slocan and an unmet need.” Lindsay would like to see a Slocan and Arrow Lakes Museum of Prehistory in the Village of Slocan. Since the Slocan Narrows archaeological site is just six kilometers south of Slocan, the village is the closest community to the site. Lindsay envisions the museum as an unstaffed structure, “something evocative like a pictograph.” It would be “a central place where people could be brought or could be stored” and displayed. It would also have a classroom area. Lindsay thought that “something special” like this would be a good investment, and said that funding could be found. He suggested that Slocan could make land available for the project.

Council advised a letter of resignation from Slocan Community Library Chairperson Joanne Ellis and a letter from the Slocan Community Library Committee. Council accepted Ellis’s resignation with regret. They voted to support the committee’s plans to establish a new operating structure for the library. Council also supported the committee’s plans to close the library until September 3 and to change the hours. Councillor McCredie commented that closing the library would be hard on the community and suggested that instead of one of the library members could be appointed as interim manager. Council did not support this suggestion. Instead, Mayor Persiern said that “people could check out extra books” before the closure. Councillor Lennon referred to the closure as “just a temporary regroup.”

Council discussed a report from RDCK Building Official Sara Elliott about major structural and other work on the Wellness Centre that needs to be done as soon as possible. The Fitness Centre also needs a permit for its change of occupancy and needs to meet fire and building code regulations. Council authorized Mr. Jack Richardson to hire a contractor with a Slocan business license to provide estimates on the job.

A letter from Nelson Mayor John Dill also reached the village. The Mayor of Nelson’s Board, to Billy Elliott in her capacity as RDCK Director was forwarded to the Village Fire Chief for him to comment on. The letter is dated for funding the Volunteer Services Unit in Nelson. Council wondered if the Victim Services Unit in Nelson would also be included.  It is not clear if the letter was written, or the letter was written by someone in Nelson.

Country roots guitarist Stephen Palmer at the Silverton Gallery

submitted

It’s not every day you get to see a guitar virtuoso in your backyard. The Silverton Gallery presents country roots singer/songwriter/guitarist Stephen Palmer in concert. Saturday, August 3. Show starts at 7:30 pm. Admission: $10 at the door. On Sunday, August 4 Palmer will be giving a one-time guitar workshop from 2-2:45 pm at the Gallery. The cost is $10.

If you caught one of Palmer’s bands back in the ’60s – perhaps opening for big name acts like Led Zeppelin or Fleetwood Mac – you’d have seen him tuning up the stage with his Fender Stratocaster. Somewhere down the years that has all changed. Now Palmer prefers the sweater and greater tones of his acoustic six and 12-string guitars and he draws his musical inspiration from country and folk legends like Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, and the Carter Family. He describes his music now as a “joyous blending of original and traditional country, folk, gospel, blues, and nature.”

He has released three solo CDs in this new millennium, and has just released his fourth, featuring his own writing along with covers of personal favorites. These recordings include key contributions from some of the most accomplished pickers in Western Canada, like John Reinchenr on mandolin and Nathan Tidball on dobro.

Recently featured on CBC’s Vinyl Café, host Stuart McLean pronounced Steve’s music as “Pretty damn good.” At a popular folk festival in Canada folk legend Valdy concurred, endorsing Steve’s guitar style as “Nice playing!” Jericho Folk Club described Steve’s distinctive vocal sound as comforting as a “warm blanket on a cold winter’s night.” Scott Cook likened it to “a steady shot on a政策措施man’s day.”

Palmer has been teaching guitar for many years, and the last seven have he offered country roots guitar workshops when he plays at festivals. We are fortunate to have him offer a two-hour workshop for intermediate to advanced players. It includes an eight-page tablature handout for future study. No formal music reading skills are required.

“We cover several rhythm guitar styles and the basics of Carter and Travis style picking as featured in my concerts. Hammer-ons and pull-offs are covered and some good left and right hand development exercises.” For more information or to register for the workshop call 250-388-7789 or email bookings@silvertongallery.ca. For more on the artist visit www.spiritofacoustic.com.

Gabriel Patanchi

Friends and friends to perform in Passmore

submitted

Ravenrock B&B in Passmore will host to special concert August 8 and 9 at 7 pm when Gabriel Patanchi will perform. This Argentinian pianist has been amazing people in the Kootenays with his skillful playing over the past two years. In what may well be his final concert in our area for many years he will perform at this unique small scale mansion in the Slocan Valley. Patanchi will play solo for half the show then be accompanied by an ever increasing list of local performers in the second half.

Admission by donation. All donations do go to the performer. Ravenrock can be found at Upper Passmore Road.

The sky above, the lake below. Observe the profile of the mountains. 10,000 years ago the grinding action of glacial ice carved and shaped the peaks embedded in the ice while the peaks above the ice remained jagged.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

AGENCY

Against the Wind Nursery & Gardens

Thank Gawd It’s Pic Day!

Garden & Farm Tour

July 28

6379 Slocan River Road, Winlaw

www.againsithenwindnursery.ca

August is Hot Music Month at

the Silverton Gallery

August 3 – 7:30 pm: Stephen Palmer plays Country Roots. Master of 6 & 12 string guitars, he plays old classics & original songs.

August 4 – 2-4 pm: Guitar Workshop with Stephen Palmer. Carter/Travis style picking, with 8-page handout. $10

Info/registration: 250-388-7198

bookings@silvertongallery.ca

August 15 – 7:30 pm: Holly and Jon. Slocan’s award-winning blues duo return to the Gallery, with guest musician. $10

August 23 – 7:30 pm: Sean Ashley’s “Twang and Slike Tour” Electrifying Rock and Blues from one of Canada’s top guitarists $12

August 30 – 8 pm: Justine Bennett returns home to Silverton for an intimate evening of acoustic music. $12

All tickets sold at the door only

Links & info:

www.silvertongallery.ca

Get Job Ready*

ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS TRAINING – Trail, BC

6 months


PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING – Castlegar, BC

9 weeks


Nov 18, 2013 – Jan 17, 2014

* Free Training for qualified applicants. You may qualify for free tuition & textbooks. For details visit selkirk.ca/co/esa or phone 250.364.5760/250.368.5236 or email esa@selkirk.ca

Canada

Funding provided through the Canada- British Columbia Labour Market Agreement.
Nakusp council takes next step in wood waste biofuels proposal

by Art Joyce

Great kootenay could be a problem for the Village of Nakusp, with its potential for breaking water lines. Council based from Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee Coordinator Jennifer Vogel who reported that this plant has the capacity to grow through concrete and is therefore becoming more of a concern to municipalities due to its impact on infrastructure. Vogel said the only effective treatment is herbicide injected directly into the plant stalk, as it propagates by rhizomes. A root of a fingernail can regress a new plant so digging will not eradicate it. A large patch of giant knotweed is growing across the street from the Village office. Vogel also reported on the successful Scotch broom removal at the cenotary recently completed with the assistance of 70 kids from the school. She encouraged council to make it an annual event with Village support, culminating in a community barbecue. Vogel concluded by inviting council to a public information session to be held at the K2 Rotar Lodge July 15 from 9:30 am - 9:30 pm.

CAO Linda Timms reported on a teleconference with David Dubois of the Waste Wise to Boost Project. Dubois is asking for information on heating costs in Village buildings and he will do the analysis to see if it would be cost efficient to convert to wood waste biofuel. Timms was concerned about how much staff time it would take and was assured by Dubois that it would be minimal as the Village could also draft a business plan for the Village. Council voted to direct staff to provide Dubois with the information required to produce the plan.

Councillor Mueller reported that one of the biggest issues identified by respondents to the Business Retention and Expansion Committee survey was the lack of cell phone coverage at the ferry. Mayor Hunting said that has been notified of this but responds that there isn't enough year-round customer base to warrant more service. The mayor suggested it be an issue at the next UBCM convention.

In the Mayor's report, Mayor Hunting noted that the report on the meetings and report regarding the Columbia River Treaty has been given to regional directors to come back with comments in the fall.

Councillor Zelermek reported that the Nakusp Community Forest (NakFor) has been logging in the Skeweskin area but noted that harvest prices have recently fallen again. The NakFor bus plan is being revised and will be brought to council soon. For the Chamber of Commerce he reported that business surveys are in and will be analyzed by Selkirk College over the next 10 weeks. Major concerns identified by business owners included the ferries and frequent power outages. A new business directory is in progress.

Mayor Hunting asked council what issues they felt required ministerial meetings at this year's UBCM conference. The COA responded that it appears that some of them will not need to be replaced but at least two of them will need a thorough cleaning. The Mandarin restaurant is working on a system redesign. With regard to roof repairs, staff is exploring three options: 1) a complete roof replacement with full warranty; 2) a budget roof repair for $30,000 with only a 10-year warranty; and 3) a patch job that will last long enough for the Village to apply for grants for the full replacement. Staff is still gathering estimates and will report to council with its final recommendations.

Council voted to write a letter to BC Hydro asking for better communications regarding planned power outages. Councillor Dochaine said the planned outage was originally scheduled from 7 to 11 am, then two weeks later changed to 8 to 12 am, and businesses were left without enough time to adjust staffing schedules. The mayor said she had already advised BC Hydro that shutting down power at the peak tourist season didn't seem like a good idea.

Councillor O'Ferron voted to host a private meeting with BC Hydro and First民族 Creek Power developer Darcy Ferr. The Village will state clearly that it is not advocating for an individual business but supportive of having an alternate power source for the Village's frequent BC Hydro outages.

Village of Nakusp seeks investment partners for hot springs

The Village of Nakusp is seeking investment partners for its community hot springs. The Village owns over 240 acres of land surrounding the Nakusp Hot Springs - a vital component of the local economy. Visitors from all over the world visit the pristine, natural spring water pools nestled in the forest.

In ongoing efforts to ensure long-term viability and further growth, the mayor and council are exploring opportunities to enhance development at the hot springs. In conjunction with council, the Hot Springs Advisory Committee has developed a business scenario that will be circulated to individuals or businesses who may be interested in working with the Village to further develop some of these lands. The investment opportunity has also been posted with Opportunities BC - an International Trade and Investment website developed by the Provincial government to promote opportunities for investment in BC.

"We recognize that we have an exceptional opportunity to partner with an investor to develop a resort lodge at the hot springs while at the same time maintaining community access to the pools," says Mayor Hunting. "Council supports new development and as a Village-owned entity, we can offer benefits and flexibility to a joint venture partner or purchaser."

Looking for potential investment opportunities is not slowing the Village down from completion of other new initiatives at the Hot Springs. This summer, the Hot Springs building will receive a new roof and on August 17, the newly completed Kuskana Creek footbridge will be officially opened. The footbridge opens up access to hundreds of kilometers of pedestrian and cycling trails - perfect for a day of exploration in the woods followed by a soak in the pristine hot pools. The replacement of the footbridge was funded through grants from the BC Government Community Recreation Program and Columbia Basin Trust.

Village council actively supports a vibrant hot springs that enhances the Village's economy and remains accessible to residents.

Nakusp online business directory seeking listings

WANTED TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

John Shantz

250-335-7941 (cell)

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.

250-547-9296

The Village of Nakusp

Stay tuned for upcoming event details!

Village of Nakusp

WANTED: TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

John Shantz

250-335-7941 (cell)

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.

250-547-9296

The Village of Nakusp

Stay tuned for upcoming event details!

Village of Nakusp

WANTED: TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

John Shantz

250-335-7941 (cell)

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.

250-547-9296

The Village of Nakusp

Stay tuned for upcoming event details!

Village of Nakusp

WANTED: TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

John Shantz

250-335-7941 (cell)

Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.

250-547-9296

The Village of Nakusp

Stay tuned for upcoming event details!
Silverton Council considers gallery and park requests

by Katrina McCray

Wayne McCray attended as a delegation at the July 16 meeting to discuss the proposed ‘Colleen’s Beach Park’ on waterfront land below his sister’s house. The Vailhalla Foundation bought the land from its owner, who had a joint tenancy with Colleen McCray, and wants to turn it into a park. “Our position is to hold it off for a couple of years, then give it to the village for $2 or $3 thousand [their cost] with a conservation covenant,” he said. McCray said there might be requests from the park benefactors, the Vailhalla Wilderness Society wants to donate a bear-proof garbage bin for Colleen’s Beach, he added.

The Slocan Lake Gallery Society (SLGS) submitted a letter asking to work with council to save the gallery. The letter disputed several points in the Village’s recent questionnaire sent to residents and property owners asking for input into the gallery’s future, including what it called “the many financial anomalies quoted.”

Certified Mango to play at the Kahn Garden

The sound of corgis, claves, bongos, maracas, paltos, zils and a host of other exotic instruments will float through New Denver’s Kahn Garden during the afternoon of Saturday, August 10 at 2 pm when unique local band Certified Mango performs original world-groove-jazz music.

The name Certified Mango says it all—bit exotic and unusual. They play original music composed by local fave Paul ‘Garbanzo’ Gibbons. Howard Buxham rounds out the sound with smokin’ sax solos. Flights of Latin fancy are delivered with flair by pianist Aiko Jackson, and world beats on congas, bongos and other percussion are provided by Paul and Tonuko ‘Koko’ Kokolo. Laying down a super cool bass line is Shelley Dobie. Lorna Visser adds colour with the liqueur glass stick (chmarua). All the musicians are from the New Denver/Silverton area.

Paul Gibbons has fronted a series of local musical groups including Gringo Bongo, Esquie, and now Certified Mango. He has been part of Jolmanua, Cloudhouse and Sware, and performs most summers in New Denver with Montreal dancer raisch Harris, and Vancouver singer Anna B. He also records and performs original solo works under his Garbanzo moniker.

The performance will feature a special blend of world jazz groove. With influences ranging from Cuban Rumba to Tango to North African music, the performance promises to have you swaying in the summer breeze—or at least tapping your toe. Come and enjoy music in the glorious setting of the Kahn Garden. Admission by donation: proceeds to the band and the Garden. Please bring your own chair or blanket—or just dance!

SLOCAN VALLEY

Development on Land Adjacent to the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

Owners of land bordering the Slocan Valley Rail Trail are reminded that the Rail Trail land extends at least 50 feet (15.24 meters) on each side of the trail as measured from the centre of the trail. If you are in doubt about where your property meets the Rail Trail land, please contact the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society at 1-888-683-5974 or info@silvervalleyrailtrail.ca

Please confirm your property boundary before you construct a fence, building or road or any structure.

Silvertown Building Supplies

Silvertown Building Supplies is the place to get all the building materials you need for your home or business.

NOW STOCKING: OTTO COOPER “NATURE MIX” 17% LAYER CRUMBLE POULTRY FEED 20 KG BAG

SLOCAN LAKE DANCE CAMP for Youth & Adults

New Denver, BC

31 Daytime workshops: Latin (Argentine Tango too) Swing, Smooth, Salsa, Country 2 Evening dances - mixers, prizes, & dance demos 1.5 hr. workshop: $20/$12 Teens Singles welcome! 200-304-2448 www.slocanlakedancecamp.ca Register online

Moving Mountains Pottery open for business

A new pottery studio has opened in the Slocan Valley. Moving Mountains Pottery, owned and operated by Willo Trenchow, is located at 8846 Slocan West Road. Featuring decorative hand-built tiles, as well as an eclectic array of unique hand-built wares, it’s also a place of creativity, learning, training and healing for everyone in the community.

Moving Mountains Pottery will be a retail and gallery space, focusing on decorative tiles, bowls, mugs and unique wall hangings. Trenchow is a professional potter with over 18 years of experience. She is also a rehabilitation practitioner with over 25 years experience working with children and adults with multiple challenges. Within the manual arts workshops for adults and learning barriers with goals created individually for each participant. Community inclusion is tantamount to Trenchow, so adult drop in classes and the children’s pottery groups that she has held for two years in Slocan will continue.

Moving Mountains Pottery has been awarded a grant for a summer project through Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, where two young artists in the Slocan will be creating pottery to be exhibited in late August at the pottery shop. Watch for more details as Moving Mountains settles into its new location. Everyone is welcome to come and view the pottery, meet the artists and watch as art becomes a reality.

The studio’s hours of operation are: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For further information or queries please visit www.facebook.com/movingmountainspottery or email Trenchow@movingmountainspottery@gmail.com.
KASLO JAZZ FEST
Kaslo Jazz Fest named in Top 10 outdoor music venues

continued from page 1

heard.” The Dan Brubeck Band hits the main stage 7 pm Saturday.

Brenda Distelheff, a Vancouver native now living in New York City, chooses the acts as her sonic rocket to the stars. Her first album was a Juno Award winner and her style has been likened to the legendary Billie Holiday, with the lyrical eloquence of Leonard Cohen. Our local heroes are no slouches either – Melody Diaman was a 2009 Juno Award nominee and Clinton Swanson is fast building a reputation as the West Kootenay’s go-to sax player. For those who like their jazz close to its blues roots, checkout the Clinton Swanson Blues Band on Sunday afternoon.

Friday night will be Kootenay Night with popular favorites Delhi 2 Dublin – their high-energy shows always a sure bet to get everyone shaking their booty. Top notch string players Sultans of String have been described as “Canada’s ambassadors of musical diversity.” Their blend of Flamenco guitar, Cuban rhythms, Celtic folk and Argentine tango tap into traditions as vibrant as they are ancient. Sultans of String will also appear Saturday at the Bluebelle Bistro.

Even seen a conga line break out during a performance of Bash? Kaslo will when the three-time Grammy-nominated Cuban music group Tiempo Libre performs on Saturday. The government forbids its citizens to listen to American radio when the band members were growing up in Cuba, but as teenagers they found a way to listen into Miami radio stations. Tiempo Libre has since become known around the world for a Cuban style of music called timba – a high-energy combination of Latin jazz and traditional Cuban ‘son.’ It’s music that’s irresistible to dancing feet.

Holland says a somewhat overlooked yet vital part of the festival is its music workshops. It’s a chance for aspiring musicians to get face time with world-class artists – for free. This year workshop hosts will include Sultans of String on Friday at 5 pm and Tiempo Libre at 12:30 Saturday, both at the main stage. This will shift the Funky Pickles performance to Sunday at 12:30. For a complete list of workshops see the festival guide or visit the website.

The festival gate now opens at 6 pm on Friday and 11:30 am on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets may be purchased by calling 250-353-7548 or visiting kaslojazzfest.com.

Welcome to Kaslo and all that jazz....

When you’re in town, come see us for the best in Canadian crafts.

Open 7 days a week.

493 Front St, Kaslo • 250-353-2565
Tel-free 1-866-706-2566

Jazz It Up!
Willow Home Gallery

HOME DECOR
KOOTENAY STYLE

Open Tues & Thurs 10-5, Fri-Mon 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5
491 Front St Kaslo 250-353-2557
www.willowhomegallery.com

The Clothes Hanger
411 Front Street • Kaslo, BC
250-353-9688

Enjoy Jazzfest – See us for all your weekend needs –
• Groceries • Fresh B.C. Fruit & Vegetables • Natural Drinks & Snacks

Cornucopia
422 Front St, Kaslo, BC • 250-353-2594
www.cornucopiakaslo.com

New Music Shop in the Kootenays
Mountain Fruit Folklore Centre
Open All Weekend for Jazz Fest
New / Used / Repairs
250-353-2040
Room 108, 312 4th Street, Kaslo
www.mountainfruit.ca

KASLO JAZZ ETC FESTIVAL
AUGUST 2, 3, 4 2013
MICKEY HART BAND WITH THE AFRICAN SHOWBOYZ
DAN BRUBECK BAND • TEMPO LIBRE
DELHI 2 DUBLIN • PAUL PERESS TRIO
STRETCH ORCHESTRA • SHAKURA S’AIDA • AND MANY MORE...

250-353-7548 KASLOJAZZFEST.COM TICKETS KASLOJAZZFEST.COM

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR!
Come check out our renovations

SUNNYSIDE NATURALS
Jazz Fest Store Front since 2000

Natural body care & supplements for all your needs.
Come, rest your feet
“When you’re on the Sunnyside of the street” – Louis Armstrong
404 Front Street, 250-353-9667

NOTED for fine quality
Arts & Crafts

Your Arts Desire
822d Quality Art and Crafts

Welcome to Kaslo and all that Jazz.....

While you’re in town, come see us for the best in Canadian crafts.

Open 7 days a week.

493 Front St, Kaslo • 250-353-2565
Tel-free 1-866-706-2566

JEWELRY
F R O M
S A N D R E A

493 Front St, Kaslo • 250-353-2565
Tel-free 1-866-706-2566
Slocan Library closes for six weeks for restructuring
by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The Slocan Community Library has closed for six weeks. During this recess the Slocan Community Library Committee will put in place new operating systems and procedures. The temporary closure will also give the six-member committee time to address “conditions and relationships in the library.”

The committee has declared that the library’s “dedicated and passionate volunteers” are its greatest asset. New Chairperson Dick Kelly says that he is “amazed at the dedication of the volunteers.” To determine how best to utilize them the committee will interview, during this recess, all the volunteers and assess their “interests and talents in regard to the library.”

The library staff will also receive attention. Kelly said the committee has planned for renovations during this shutdown. Volunteers are spearheading a one-day work bee to clean up the library.

Slocan Valley business survey underway
submitted

The Slocan Valley Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E) is now underway. Several businesses have been contacted in the goal of interviewing a representative cross-section of Slocan Valley businesses. It is available to all business owners and managers in the Slocan Valley who wish to participate.

The BR&E is a survey with questions related to economic development such as the local business climate, local workforce, government services and business health. Information collected is confidential. The project is spearheaded by the Economic Development Commission and the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Selkirk College Rural Development Institute and CBT.

The purpose of the Business Retention and Expansion program is to gather feedback from the local business community to develop an overview of the area and to provide data that will assist in future planning and actions.

To date, over 30 businesses in the area have participated in providing valuable data for the project. If a business is interested in being interviewed, a BR&E researcher can meet with a business owner at their business or at a prearranged meeting place at a time that is suitable for the business. Survey data is being collected now until September 2013. For more information contact 250-7768 or slocanvalleyed@gmail.com.
New Denver Council to seek provincial action on Sandon erosion

by Katrine Campbell

A letter from the Vallhalla Wilderness Society to the Ministry of Environment sparked concern about the danger to the village from undercut creek banks in Sandon. The letter included photos showing the Klinadnie Silver mine office teetering over the edge, and heavy trucks and buses pointed right at the edge. Carpenter Creek is also starting to cut into the base of several active tailings pads.

Council directed staff to write to the ministry expressing its concerns, with Councillor Nadine Raymonds suggesting, "we try to get a real response" by asking key questions regarding the ministry's possible actions and asking for a response to the questions. Councillor Hodsoll asked if they should ask the mine what they would do to remediate the problem: CAO Carol Gordon replied, "Yes, if we can find an address for them."

Ask the Professional with Louise Wilson

What is the BC Services Card and how do I get one?

The new BC Services Card

is part of government’s plan to modernize B.C.’s health care system. It replaces your CareCard, and also acts as your photo ID. It's more convenient, more secure and will enable access to other government services in the future.

Most adults will have to renew enrolment in the Medical Service Plan (MSP) by 2023 and apply for a BC Services Card at a driver licencing office like the ones at Castlegar Downtown and New Denver offices. Before coming into the office, check your driver’s licence and CareCard to be sure that your names match exactly on both. If not, call Health Link at 1-800-683-7151 or 1-800-683-7100.

The BC Services Card can be issued as a separate piece of photo identification. Your CareCard will be your driver’s licence (it can not be combined with a BC Identification card or Enhanced Driver’s Licence). There’s an online appointment system to the speed redictions, but she would call with Highways Area Manager Bruce Linton to ask what could be done. For suggested asking the RCMP to do a speed trip in the school zone.

The Hidden Garden Gallery

Barbara Ballewsky will show her landscape-based paintings at the Hidden Garden Gallery from August 5-10, with an opening reception on August 5 from 7-9 pm.

The artists, watercolors, and drawing she has explored aspects of the foothills of Alberta and the forest floor of British Columbia. Her art gives a voice to the memory of the landscape.

Barbara was born in Edmonton, Alberta, lives and works in Calgary and area and spends much of her summer in the hills of Rimbey, Alberta. After graduating from the University of Calgary she continued her art studies by attending a series of workshops that include the Banff School of Fine Arts, the Emma Lake Workshop, in Saskatchewan and the Triangle in Uptown New York. Barbara has taught at both the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary. Her work can be found in national and international collections and has been exhibited throughout Canada.

Food For Thought: talk to discuss modern communication

What is the BC Services Card and how do I get one?

To submit a story for The Valley Voice, email your submission to info@valleyvoice.ca. We welcome a variety of submissions, including news, events, and personal stories. Please include your name and contact information with your submission. We aim to publish stories that reflect the diverse voices and experiences of our community.
Kaslo council: plans progress to relocate transfer station

by Jan McMurray

- Council on July 9 approved in principle a proposal from the RDCK to relocate the Kaslo Transfer Station to the abandoned Village gravel pit near the east end of the airport. According to the letter from the RDCK to council, relocating the transfer station “would solve several issues for the RDCK, the Village of Kaslo and residents of Area D who must use the site. We would shorten the travel distance to the transfer station, reduce the potential for vehicle damage travelling to the site, eliminate the need for ongoing maintenance of a gravel road and be able to access a regular power supply.” The bulk handling of waste wood and rental storage would continue to take place on the current site.

- Minutes of the June Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee were received. At that meeting, Don Scarlett and Rob McCluskey of Kaslo InfoNet Society attended to report they are trying to utilize Kaslo Cable infrastructure for the broadband project. This will save money and time. The proposed agreement between KIN and the Village was referred to staff for review.

- The committee also discussed its concerns with Earl Pfeifer’s cheetah proposal, and will invite Pfeifer to attend a SIDS Committee meeting as a delegate after he has contacted the school with this concept.

- At the Development Services Committee meeting of July 3, Public Works Foreman Glen Walker reported that there would be a significant cost to having either a permanent public washroom or portable toilets at the farmers’ market in Front Street Park. Council directed staff to prepare full cost options for both permanent and temporary washrooms facilities at the market for 2014 budget discussions.

- In the meantime, a sign will be erected, directing the public to the existing three public washrooms facilities in the area.

- Council received the assessment report submitted by David Russell for on-site sewer disposal at the new fire hall. The report concludes that the lot adjacent to the arena has “abundant land that can be used for on-site sewerage disposal,” and that “sewerage disposal should not be considered in any way problematic to the proposed subdivision.”

- A letter from Anne Malik asks for more detail on commuter sewer funds to be reported in the audited financial statements. This request was referred to the municipal auditor for inclusion in 2013 reporting.

- Tamil Dhiyadeh, FortisBC and Carol Sohans, Power Sense, gave a presentation about the Kootenay Energy District. This project will be launched throughout the region in September, and will encourage home owners to make their homes more energy efficient. For $60, residents will be able to have an energy assessment done of their homes, and rebates and low-interest loans will be available to those who choose to do energy retrofits. The report will be presented to the public at JV Humpries School on September 12.

- Council passed a resolution of support for the Kootenay Energy District for Kaslo.

- Kaslo will participate in Project Comeback, an initiative of the BC Rural Network to retain youth in rural communities. North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society will take the lead on this project on behalf of Kaslo.

- The Village will sign a Licence of Occupation with Crystal Langford of Kootenay Health. This allows them to use the land to conduct horse and carriage rides within the village.

- Council agreed to allow Instruments of Change Music Shop to host musical workshops in an unused space at the Kaslo Memorial Centre (KMC), and to host jam sessions or live bands on the front lawn of the centre.

- The business can also have a sandwich board sign within the gated area of the KMC.

- Council received the June report from the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Chief Larry Bodey will step down as chief once the new fire hall is constructed. The Village will send him a letter of thanks, recognizing his commitment and service to the community.

- Councillors Hewat, Lang and Leatherwood were registered to give for the UBCM convention in September. Staff was directed to arrange meetings with the Ministers of Transportation, Health, and Forests, and with the CMIO of Interior Health, at the UBCM Convention.

- Council received a letter from Canada Post in response to concerns about the potential closure of rural post offices. The letter states that Canada Post “remains committed to serving rural communities across Canada” but notes lettermail volumes have declined from five billion pieces of domestic lettermail in 2006 to four billion pieces today. Because the corporation is not subsidized with tax dollars, it must “remain itself to be financially sustainable and to stay relevant to Canadians.”

Musicians prepare for glacier audience

Rehearsals are in full swing in both Kaslo and Nelson this week as singers and musicians from across the region prepare for the performance of a lifetime. Later this month, 70 professional and amateur musicians will play a command performance before an audience of one – Jumbo Glacier.


to learn more visit BCWildfire.ca

Never miss another Valley Voice deadline! Sign up for our e-mail reminder list! valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

Shari Ulrich returns to the Langham

She’s back! Kado and Shari Ulrich are old friends from way back, when she first rolled in with Fred Penin in 1974. Shari’s summer trio, which includes her daughter Julia Goff and Ted Littlemore, will perform Tuesday, July 30 at 7 pm at the Langhara Theatre in Kaslo.

Shari’s career has followed a colourful road, first with the internationally renowned Hometown Band, then to a successful life as a solo artist and songwriter, with threads woven through other trios (UHF with Bill Henderson and Roy Forbes, and BTU with Barney Bentall and Tom Taylor) and occasional reunion tours with the Pankins.

In the summers she performs with her daughter Julia Goff (on violin, guitar, mandolin, piano, accordion and vocals) and McGill and Ted Littlemore (on piano, accordion and vocals). In fact, Goff – now getting her Master’s in sound recording at McGill – is engineering and producing her latest album due out in September. The trio will perform many of the new songs as well as old favourites.

Ulrich says she is thrilled to be returning to The Langham and promises a warm and engaging evening of exceptional craftsmanship from these two generations of musicians.
The Clubhouse at the Slocan Lake Golf Course

The clubhouse restaurant at the Slocan Lake Golf Course has a new name. That new name is 'The Clubhouse.' That makes it easy for me to remember. By the way, I won’t think of a place with a better view of Slocan Lake. I was at The Clubhouse early Friday afternoon for lunch. Before even taking a seat one could hear various customers reviewing the food on offer. Quite a bit of excitement about the BBQ ribs dinner special that was recently presented. Many compliments. What I’d call a real good review!

After I’d found a place to sit I overheard (eavesdropped?) some people expressing great delight over the Chicken Caesar Salad on a bun consisting of sauteed chicken thinly sliced, cheese, bacon and homemade Caesar dressing. Another rave! On the other side of the deck were some young people having a grand time with their newly landed "(knees-up)" trout salad. Somewhere you have it, there are great reviews from customers at The Clubhouse.

Rick Holmes is the new proprietor of The Clubhouse. For many years he was he calls a "small-town lawyer" based out of Castlegar, 20 years in Metlak and Swan River for 10. After those 30 years he “wanted to do something different,” and since then he has managed three different clubhouses at golf courses. This is his fourth. He knows what he's doing.

I asked him what his most popular items are. No hesitation. Number One is fish and chips – in house, fresh and beer battered, generous fish with homemade fries and cole-slaw. Another big winner is Ricka’s Slocan Special – panko crusted with mushrooms gravy or as a side, homemade cole-slaw with sour cream and a bun. Comfort food at its finest.

Speaking of comfort food, I am delighted to point out that under the "Snacks N Sides" heading on the menu... there is it! No question about it. POUTINE! That ‘fat-free, color-free’ delight combining cheese, gravy and French fries. Sitting next to poutine on the menu are yams fries. Let’s mix ‘em up in a big bowl and get comfortable.

What else? Side N Balconies: poutine, chicken strips, hot dogs, homemade fries, o-rings, snickers and chili dog. Soup’s a Salad? Chili and bun, house, taco, Caesar, chef, bowl and bun. Greek. Also, soup of the day.

Three major ‘SANDWICHES’: Clubhouse (that’s what I had... very good!), Denver, BLT and veggie. Everything is straightforward on Rick’s menu. Here comes the burgers: Signature Golfer’s Cheese Burger. Homemade patty, fully dressed, topped with cheese. Add bacon oraramel mushroom slices if you like. The aforementioned chicken Caesar sauteed on a bun. And of course the pork schnitzel. And the veggie. Try a quinoa salad, a pasta salad or the very popular fish and chips.

We’re into the dinner entrées, so maybe you want a savoury coobo of the day? Or perhaps pork panzeroni Alfredo. Or maybe you’d be content with a signature golfer’s cheddarburger.

As I said, I had the clubhouse, AKA 19th Hole New Denver clubhouse sandwich. I’ve tried hundreds of clubhouse sandwiches from a hundred different places. This one was everything a clubhouse sandwich should be!

Rick is not adverse to people mixing and matching the menu choices. In some places he actually encourages it. He’s an easy-going guy.

My old friend Penny Lewin was sitting at a table on the deck with her grandchildren Max. They offered me a chair, and I ate lunch with them. Good company, good food, both in your own town on a sunny day overlooking beautiful Slocan Lake. What more is there?

I’d go there if I were you!

The Clubhouse at the Slocan Lake Golf Course

The club house restaurant at the Slocan Lake Golf Course has a new name. That new name is 'The Clubhouse.' That makes it easy for me to remember. By the way, I won’t think of a place with a better view of Slocan Lake. I was at The Clubhouse early Friday afternoon for lunch. Before even taking a seat one could hear various customers reviewing the food on offer. Quite a bit of excitement about the BBQ ribs dinner special that was recently presented. Many compliments. What I’d call a real good review!

After I’d found a place to sit I overheard (eavesdropped?) some people expressing great delight over the Chicken Caesar Salad on a bun consisting of sauteed chicken thinly sliced, cheese, bacon and homemade Caesar dressing. Another rave! On the other side of the deck were some young people having a grand time with their newly landed "(knees-up)" trout salad. Somewhere you have it, there are great reviews from customers at The Clubhouse.

Rick Holmes is the new proprietor of The Clubhouse. For many years he was he calls a "small-town lawyer" based out of Castlegar, 20 years in Metlak and Swan River for 10. After those 30 years he “wanted to do something different,” and since then he has managed three different clubhouses at golf courses. This is his fourth. He knows what he's doing.

I asked him what his most popular items are. No hesitation. Number One is fish and chips – in house, fresh and beer battered, generous fish with homemade fries and cole-slaw. Another big winner is Ricka’s Slocan Special – panko crusted with mushrooms gravy or as a side, homemade cole-slaw with sour cream and a bun. Comfort food at its finest.

Speaking of comfort food, I am delighted to point out that under the "Snacks N Sides" heading on the menu... there is it! No question about it. POUTINE! That ‘fat-free, color-free’ delight combining cheese, gravy and French fries. Sitting next to poutine on the menu are yams fries. Let’s mix ‘em up in a big bowl and get comfortable.

What else? Side N Balconies: poutine, chicken strips, hot dogs, homemade fries, o-rings, snickers and chili dog. Soup’s a Salad? Chili and bun, house, taco, Caesar, chef, bowl and bun. Greek. Also, soup of the day.

Three major ‘SANDWICHES’: Clubhouse (that’s what I had... very good!), Denver, BLT and veggie. Everything is straightforward on Rick’s menu. Here comes the burgers: Signature Golfer’s Cheese Burger. Homemade patty, fully dressed, topped with cheese. Add bacon or caramel mushroom slices if you like. The aforementioned chicken Caesar sauteed on a bun. And of course the pork schnitzel. And the veggie. Try a quinoa salad, a pasta salad or the very popular fish and chips.

We’re into the dinner entrées, so maybe you want a savoury coobo of the day? Or perhaps pork panzeroni Alfredo. Or maybe you’d be content with a signature golfer’s cheddarburger.

As I said, I had the clubhouse, AKA 19th Hole New Denver clubhouse sandwich. I’ve tried hundreds of clubhouse sandwiches from a hundred different places. This one was everything a clubhouse sandwich should be!

Rick is not adverse to people mixing and matching the menu choices. In some places he actually encourages it. He’s an easy-going guy.

My old friend Penny Lewin was sitting at a table on the deck with her grandchildren Max. They offered me a chair, and I ate lunch with them. Good company, good food, both in your own town on a sunny day overlooking beautiful Slocan Lake. What more is there?

I’d go there if I were you!
Open fires banned for the summer submitted
All open fires have been prohibited in our area, to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. The prohibition will remain in place until September 20 or until the public is otherwise notified. Currently compliance is not being monitored.
Specifically, prohibited activities include:
- The burning of any waste, slash or other materials.
- Stores or garages fires of any size over any area.
- The use of fireworks,sky lanterns or firing of any kind or description.

Medical Healing Arts
Natural Health Consultants, massage, treatments, yoga, Andras Aragonczy, ND Grad Sydney 89007
naturalama@netidea.com
Silverton W & South Slocan M, T11
250-558-2062 & 250-236-7999

RHC Insurance Brokers Ltd.
INSURANCE FOR BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS
1-877-777-5389
117-521-2801
117-521-2801
www.rhcinsurancebc.com

JONESBOYS Boats
250-353-2550
Campion
Larson
Kingfisher
Thunder Jet
Yamaha & Mercury Outboards
www.jonesboysbcts.com
Toll free: 1-877-552-5527
Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription Only $10-$30
RCMP reports a busy summer in the West Kootenay

Submitted

The BC Corcorans Service has confirmed the identity of a man whose body was recovered from Little Wilson Lake near New Denver on July 9. He is Michael Lome Guthrie, aged 32, from Trail. Guthrie had been camping with friends at Little Wilson, about 38 kilometres north of New Denver. On the morning of May 25, he and a friend went fishing, the canoe tipped over, and Guthrie was unable to reach shore. A search immediately afterwards could not locate him.

He was located by other campers at the lake on July 9 who found a body floating face down. One man drove towards New Denver to obtain cell coverage and called police. The other two, using a boat, were able to reach the body, secure it with a rope and bring it to shore. The initial examination of the body did not reveal any evidence of foul play. The BC Coroners Service is assuming control of the investigation.

On July 9 the Ministry of Transportation reported that new paving in the Kinross area had been damaged by a vehicle spinning its tires on the fresh asphalt. Together with the RDCK, Nelson RCMP are asking for the public’s cooperation in protecting this large investment.

On July 10 just after noon the Slocan Lake RCMP responded to a complaint of a road grader being driven erratically on Wilson Creek Forest Service Road near Rosbery. Police attended and spoke to witnesses who advised the grader operator was either having a medical emergency or was intoxicated. An ambulance was requested to attend the area. Police located the grader and stopped it, spoke to the 51-year-old operator from the Castlegar area and determined he had been consuming alcohol. The driver had his driver’s license suspended for 90 days and the grader had been impounded for 30 days.

The Slocan Lake RCMP wish to thank the people who called them and assisted in this matter and encourage the public to contact their local police if they suspect a vehicle is being operated by an impaired driver. Other incidents of impaired driving have been attended to by police in both Nakusp and Slocan.

On July 17 the Nakusp RCMP received a report of an abandoned boat at the Boston boat launch. Police attended and located a red and grey 2012 Harbercft 255 FBT that had been stripped. The registered owner of the boat is a local resident. The boat was stolen from a summer home in Silverton some time during the past week. Questioned neighbours and learned that the boat was towed away at approximately 7 a.m. by a beagle full size pickup sometime during the previous week. Missing from the boat was a Yamaha 150 hp 4-stroke outboard, a 9.9 hp 4-stroke outboard, electric downriggers, and the entire steering and drive assembly.

On July 14 Slocan Lake RCMP conducted marine enforcement patrols on Slocan Lake between Silverton and New Denver. Several pleasure craft and personal watercraft were checked for safety equipment, operator competency card compliance, and impaired operation. The majority failed to comply with the required safety equipment under the Canada Shipping Act and small vessel regulations. Several boat operators were issued warnings and directed back to shore until deficiencies were addressed.

The RCMP would like to remind boaters to be prepared and safe while on the water and ensure that they comply with all mandatory requirements. Further enforcement on local lakes will continue and those operators and owners found to be in contravention of the Canada Shipping Act could face substantial fines.

For more complete information: licensing, safety equipment requirements, and completing an operator competency course, please visit www.boatingsafety. gc.ca or Transport Canada at www. tc.gc.ca.

Slocan Lake RCMP are seeking assistance from the public after it was reported that a woman was assaulted on a boat near the boat launch in Slocan. Police were called on July 21 just after 6 p.m. The male and female suspects had left the scene but police believe several people may have witnessed the assault.

Anyone with further information on any of these cases is asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222.
Friends gather to honour Johnson’s Landing victims

by Louise Rooker

A year to the day, in fact almost the minute, that Johnson’s Landing was divided by a landslide 18 people gathered in the midst of the rubble to commemorate the four lives lost. The family and friends of the victims stand in a circle holding hands. In the centres of the circle is a large heart made of rocks. In the heart are words from nature that have been set to their fire. Prayers are shared, stories are shared, but above all they sing.

As the midday sun falls strong on the hard-packed earth of the Webber property, where three of the deceased were uncovered, voices and smoke rise to meet it. Food, drink, and candles are passed around and here and there tears are shed. For hours the memorial brings a sense of closure, for others this is only a small step in a process that could take a lifetime.

“I think it brought a lot of closure to everyone else that was there but me,” says Lynn Migdal, whose ex-husband Valerie (Val) Webber, 60, and daughter Rachel, 17, and Diana, 22, died in the slide. “I’m still in shock I would say. It’s going to take more than a year.”

The slide, the largest to hit the region in 12,000 years according to the geotechnical report released by the RDCK in May, unleashed its fury in a mere 63 seconds. When the mud, rock and trees, flowing like lava, came to a stop, the Webber house was all but buried along with their 64-year-old neighbour Pete Fruhle’s, the fourth victim.

In the evening following the memorial a second gathering is held at the Johnson’s Landing beach to get these cares are packed alongside signs that read ‘Danger: Mudslide Zone’ and ‘Evacuation Order in Effect Due to Emergency Event’. Despite these warnings, hundreds of memorial organizers Lila Taylor says it had to be held on the water.

“We decided to have the memorial on the lake because Val and Rachel always loved the water and Diana told us that she wanted to have a Viking funeral.” Val, a third-generation seaman and professional mariner had made a living of working on large ships while living in Florida before moving to the Kootenays with Lynn, Rachel and Diana in the mid-90s.

“Both girls were born on the ocean,” says Migdal. “I had a condo on the Provincial eviction ed. For Johnson’s Landing disaster

by Art Joyce

On the first anniversary of the devastating slide in Johnson’s Landing, the NDP called on the BC government to keep its promise of aid to affected residents. Party leader Adrian Dix and Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall asked for a commitment to a buyout for these properties but got only a vague answer.

“The people of Johnson’s Landing have lost their homes. They have lost loved ones. They have been devastated and now need help moving forward,” said Mungall. “This government assured them that they would get its full support — but a year later, they have received minimal compensation, and are still paying taxes on homes buried under names of owners.”

Attorney General and Minister for Justice Susan Anton responded that, including technical and financial support, over $3 million has been spent through Emergency Services BC at Johnson’s Landing. “The financial support includes $400,000 in disaster financial assistance and another $178,000 in disaster financial assistance,” Anton said during the July 11 question period in the BC Legislature.

Dix explained that a recently completed geotechnical report says 12 households are at a high or very high risk of another slide. Based on that report, many residents have been told that they cannot return to their homes.

Following the slide, Premier Christy Clark issued orders that they “have our government’s full support as they recover.”

“ar community has been devastated, and we are trying to rebuild,” said Johnson’s Landing resident Kate O’Connor. “We are looking for financial and compassion from the government. We want the support the premier promised us.”

Dix and Mungall pointed out that after the 2005 landslide in North Vancouver, the province purchased the affected homes.

Minister Anton thanked Johnson’s Landing residents for their resilience, for their forbearance and for their cooperation with Emergency Management BC, noting letters of thanks from the regional district for EMBC’s assistance. Still, she declined to make any buyout offers for displaced residents.

The fact of the matter is: when it came to North Vancouver, the government paid 100 percent of the costs,” said Dix. “In the case of Johnson’s Landing they can’t find room within the program to address the question.”

Minister Anton said circumstances are now 13 households in need of a permanent water supply.

What Works This Mountain

for Val, Diana, Rachel and Peter

This is not the call of the mountain they had hoped to hear.
No stream-whispered invitation to a bed of moss beneath star-swept sky, where so many times they followed the forget-me-not trail to peace. But the mountain comes to us, eventually.

A hundred years pass, a thousand, the multitude of silence complete. Then — an arm lashes out, snipping beams and metal, crumbling a roof that kept out the rain.

Machismo against the universe, butressed by love and faith so magnificently hard.

Four souls now walk the path of the ancestors. Only they know what makes this mountain, what heart at its dark heart.

Only they know whose spirits pass there.

©2012 Sean Arthur Joyce

Tales From the Fisherman’s Market: My First Smiley

The line was jerking frantically - I locked down into the depths and saw the flashing of line but nothing else. I reached down, grabbed the line, and worked it slowly towards the boat. The fish was staying deep and at the same moment I spotted the outline of the thick backed Spring Salmon, it spotted the boat and took off. I changed down on the line and felt it cut deep into my finger, cutting to the bone. I didn’t let go.

My legs were shaking uncontrollably and my heart was racing. This was the biggest fish I had ever seen. Working it back towards the boat, I got a better look as its fins cut through the water like those of a shark. Its broad head was scarred and I could see it was barely hooked in the corner of its black lipped mouth. I kept hold of the line with my bleeding hand and reached up for the gaff.

I raised the gaff high over my head, making a shadow above the water, and down it went. The impact knocked the hook free and the fish began to thrash. I spun the spooled end towards, so not to lose it, and tried to swing the fish onboard. I was stopped dead by its weight and struggled until I figured a way to drag the fish onboard, and as it cleared the rail I fell backwards, pulling the Spring Salmon down on top of me.

It was awesome. I was sixteen, making money and catching big fish. Life was good.

July is wild salmon month at the Fisherman’s Market. Don’t wait too long or you’ll miss out on this year’s good run.

-Greg A. Fisherman’s Market Quality you deserve

July Special:

Wild BC Salmon

Ocean Wise

www.thefishermansmarket.com

250.505.5515

19
Memorial bench built to honour Johnson’s Landing victims

by Lynn Van Duesen

It’s been a year since the mountain moved in Johnson’s Landing, taking the lives of our three friends, along with their close friend Peter. Several of us who know the family thought a bench by the lagoon would make a nice memorial; a place to sit, to think and to remember. So we bought one. And on July 11 we held a fundraiser at the Bluebubble Bistro to offset the cost. We sang our hearts out and honoured our friends in the Landing; both the spirits of those we lost, and those hardy souls who still live there. Many thanks to all who made donations, especially Rachel’s good class. And special thanks to Glen Walker and the Kaslo Village crew for perfect bench placement; it’s exactly how we imagined it.

It’s a changed landscape, for sure, but even amidst the rock and rubble, tenacious plants take root and shoots of green pop up between the brown and grey. Much like the tenacious people who continue to call the Landing home. As one resident said, “Before the slide, when people asked me where I lived, and I answered Johnson’s Landing, they would sigh with stars in their eyes and say, oh, I hear it’s beautiful there, lucky you.” Now when I answer the same question they don’t know what to say, and the look in their eyes turns to one of awkward sympathy or surprise.

It’s still a beautiful place with much to offer even with the physical scar down its middle and the uncertainty of the stability of the remaining hillside above. But no one can tell if or when the mountain might move again, or to what degree. Even the experts can only guess at what another slide might amount to. Personally I think cycling or driving in the city presents more hazards than living in the Landing.

We marked the one-year anniversary with the open mic at the Bistro, and with some private ceremonies on the land and a coffee house at the Johnson’s Landing hall. We laughed and cried and sang and reminisced. We gave thanks and we gave comfort, but we didn’t give up. Our loved ones live on in our hearts and minds, and many of our friends continue to live and thrive in the Landing.

Blessings on us all.

Friends and family gathered for a special beachside ceremony in Johnson’s Landing. Here Karina Klassen places flower petals on the water as a symbol of letting the departed souls go in peace.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RECALL AND INITIATIVE ACT

This notice is published pursuant to section 4 of the Recall and Initiative Act.

Approval in principle has been granted on an application for an initiative petition. The petition will be issued to proponent Dane Larson on Monday, September 9, 2013 and signature sheets must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by Monday, December 9, 2013.

The Title of the Initiative is:
An Initiative to amend the Police Act.

Summary of Initiative:
The Initiative draft Bill entitled, “Sensible Policing Act” proposes to amend the Police Act to no longer use provincial police resources on the enforcement of current laws in relation to simple possession and use of cannabis by adults. The draft law would prohibit the use of provincial police resources for this purpose, would require police to report in detail to the Minister of Justice any actual use of resources for this purpose and any expenses necessary, and require the Minister to report that report. The Bill also provides that the province would call upon the Federal Government to repeal the federal prohibition on cannabis, or give British Columbia an exemption, such that British Columbia is able to tax and regulate cannabis similar to the regulation of alcohol and tobacco. As well it proposes that British Columbia shall establish a Provincial Commission to study the means and requirements necessary for the province to establish a legal and regulated market for the production and use of cannabis by adults. Last, the Bill would make non-lawful possession and use of cannabis by minors an offence similar to possession and use of alcohol.

Opponent Registrations:
Individuals or organizations who intend to incur expenses as opponents must apply for registration with the Chief Electoral Officer before Monday, August 12, 2013. Registration applications for opponents are available from Elections BC.

Initiative Advertising:
Individuals or organizations who sponsor initiative advertising, other than the proponent and registered opponents, must register with the Chief Electoral Officer before they conduct or publish initiative advertising. Registration applications are available from Elections BC.

Who May Sign the Petition:
Registered voters as of Monday, September 9, 2013 may sign the initiative petition. Individuals may only sign the petition once, and must sign the petition sheet for the electoral district in which they are registered at the time of Signing. Signed petitions are available for public inspection.

For More Information:
The initiative application and draft Bill are available for public inspection on the Elections BC website and at the Elections BC office at the address below.

Location:
Suite 100 – 1112 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C.

Mail Address:
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 4J6

Phone:
250-387-5365

Toll-free:
1-800-661-8683

Fax:
250-387-3578

Email:
electionsbc@elections.bc.ca

Website:
elections.bc.ca

Public Notice

The Valley Voice July 24, 2013