Slocan mill to be demolished – the end of an era in Slocan City

by Jan McMurray

The sawmill on Slocan’s waterfront is going to be demolished very soon, marking the end of an era in Slocan City.

Slocan Mayor Madeleine Perriere reported that Springer Creek Forest Products has applied for a demolition permit and has hired a company to clear the waterfront property. The job will be done this fall.

“We saw this coming – it was not a big surprise,” said Mayor Perriere. “This is one of the reasons we have been working on the microhydro project. We knew we had to diversify in case the sawmill stopped operating.”

The sawmill property provides more than half of the Village’s tax revenues, at about $130,000 per year. Although Springer Creek fell behind in tax payments to the Village in recent years, Perriere reported that the company is up to date on its taxes.

Springer Creek Forest Products Manager Ralph Tomlin met with council members on August 28 to inform them of the move. Perriere said they did not discuss an environmental assessment of the land at the meeting. “I believe that may come up if the use of the land changes in future,” she said. “But the remediation of the soil isn’t even in the picture yet. All we know is they have a demolition permit for the structures, and they said the land is not for sale.”

Councillor Hillary Elliott added that Tomlin mentioned the company is working on bank stabilization at its Roseberry log sort property.

Perriere said that contrary to rumours circulating in the community, the land does not revert back to the Village now that there is no operating sawmill on it. She said the Village sold the land many years ago and it has changed hands several times over the years. The property has been the site of a sawmill since 1964. “It was a straightforward sale,” she said. “There is no clause or anything on title that says we can get it back when it ceases operating as a sawmill. It belongs to Springer Creek Forest Products.”

When asked if the company would apply for a change to the municipal zoning on the waterfront property, Perriere replied, “That would be logical. As long as it is zoned industrial, they will have to pay the higher industrial tax rate. But we don’t know what they have in mind. It’s up to them.”

Dennis Hickson of BC Assessment (BCA) said the assessed value of the property will be “diminished substantially” if the land is cleared of structures. It will also come out of the ‘major industrial’ BC Assessment property classification, which will mean a lower provincial tax rate. This BCA property classification is for provincial purposes and is not to be confused with municipal zoning and municipal taxation.

Hickson explained that properties are assessed based on their condition as at October 31 every year, so if the mill property is cleared by that date this year, the changes in assessed value and property classification will be in effect for next year’s assessment notice and tax bill.

The Springer Creek mill has been closed since May 2011 and had several shut-downs in the past few years, but its demise became clear when the company sold its forest tenures to Interfor in March this year, Mayor Perriere said. After the timber holdings were sold, a so-called settlement package was paid out to union employees.

Perriere said council was progressing with the microhydro project, which they began working on in 2009. “We’re still at the stage where we are doing studies,” she said. “We have to finalize access up to the dam, so we’re still plugging along.”

According to the mayor’s message in the Village’s 2012 annual report, the microhydro project is estimated to gross $300,000 per year and to cost approximately $3.1 million to build.

“It’s the end of an era in Slocan,” said Perriere. “We’ll just have to wait and see what comes next. Many communities have had to go through this.”
Valley residents want bio-remediation used in fuel cleanup

by Art Joyce

What technology can’t fix, nature will. At least, that’s the premise of the field of bio-remediation. At a presentation in Winlow Elementary School August 20, bio-remediation advocates Anita Burke andLeila Darwiche spoke at length about this cutting edge approach to healing the environment.

Burke is a survivor of the Exxon Valdez spill clean-up. She was running a small environmental consulting firm in Anchorage, Alaska when the spill occurred. Burke worked for Shell Canada for 17 years, some of that in its Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development department. She founded her own firm, The Catalyst Institute, in 2003. The institute is dedicated to the creation and continued development of sustainable businesses, with Burke’s 25-year track record as a basis for consultation. Her work gave out as a consequence of her work trying to save the Exxon spill but she has since recovered. Burke says she learned with the Exxon Valdez that hose flushing is the approved approach but not necessarily the best. Rather than spray washing, she prefers the bio-remediation approach, which uses naturally occurring microorganisms to break down hydrocarbons. “They’re hiring in an end to this process,” says Burke. “The insurance companies want that to happen. But I’m also really impressed they’ve been here this long. A lot of companies would have been long gone by now.”

Another Leila Darwiche presented a thorough explanation of how bio-remediation techniques work by using plants, fungi or bacteria to break down the hydrocarbon molecule chain. Phytoremediation uses certain plants such as cattails – particularly in wetlands – to draw toxins out of soil and eliminate them through evapotranspiration. These are then harvested so that heavy metals can be extracted from the plant for re-use. Plants used in phytoremediation include pepper, willow, must types of clover, bullrush grass, and many others.

“When it comes to bio-remediation it’s best to work with what’s local, including local microorganisms,” says Darwiche. “It’s a way of practicing the shoreline.”

Naturally occurring bacteria from compost teas sprayed on affected areas can also speed up the process of natural decomposition. Bacteria in the guts of worms is known to break down hydrocarbons, hence the use of worm castings in compost teas used for bio-remediation.

A more recent technique that’s showing particular promise is myco-remediation, or the use of mushroom varieties known to break down hydrocarbons. At a cellular level they break apart hydrocarbon cells, reorganize them into a sugar and then consume it. Oyster mushrooms – a local variety – are particularly suited to this task. There are local cultivators of this variety in the Slocan Valley and they also grow wild.

Darwiche and Burke were brought in by community activists skeptical that the government will do a complete job. Darwiche is a community activist and persuader/entrepreneur whose book, Earth Repair (New Society, 2013) details the best available current knowledge on bio-remediation techniques.

“Even the best technologies can’t get everything out of the environment and other aren’t appropriate for this site,” Darwiche told the audience. “In reality maybe 15-20 percent is all that can be recovered in clean-up operations. It is a way for communities to pick up where companies leave off, and properly finish the job.”

At a community meeting in Passmore August 21 attended by Darwiche, Burke and Jennifer Yew, local environmentalists pushed for bio remediation. An open letter was issued at that meeting to Executive Flight Centre and the Ministry of Environment calling for urgent action to prevent a long term public health hazard of a bio-remediation strategy (microbial, phytoremediation) and experts retained by the community, in remediation and extrapolation of the impacted environment.”

For more information contact slocanvalleyremediation@gmail.com

Food bank and water testing offered to residents

by Art Joyce

Residents most affected by the jet fuel spill are being offered support in their time of need. Those still unsure about the safety of their water systems can have their water tested through Slocan Valley Streamkeepers. And those who lost their garden crops – a staple in many valley residents’ diets – will be able to get wholesome organic food at the food bank run by WE Graham Community Service Society (WEGCSS) in Slocan.

Both initiatives are the result of discretionary funding made available by Acton H Director Walter Popeff – a $15,000 grant to Streamkeepers and $10,000 to support the food bank. Popeff consulted with Regional District Vice Chair Hilary Elliott and WEGCSS Director Holly Jacks to determine how to meet pressing local need.

“Whatever I do is provided by the board,” says Popeff. “In this case I stacked my neck out in the hopes that the board will approve the costs of the water at the Winlaw Hall.”

With the Recovery Centre closed August 30, residents will be able to apply to the Regional District’s newly formed Unsettled Needs Recovery Committee if they are still in need of basics. Residents can also contact the IEA Environmental Health Protection Office directly with water questions. Recovery Centre Manager Nelle Mattey is compiling a list of families still in need. Mattey will continue to be employed by the Regional District as the valley contact person. Relief efforts will be assisted by the Salvation Army and Red Cross, says RDC CAO Brian Carmichael.

Residents still unsure about their water, especially those living closest to “ground zero” at Lenos Creek, can get water testing done by Streamkeepers. Microbiologist Jennifer Yew says they will be sampling wetlands, road channels, islands and water intakes. Special attention will be given Slocan (Ninon) Island and another island being known as “Lenos Island” – both high diversity ecosystems. Slocan Island was recently purchased from private owners by the Nature Trust and the BC Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council they will continue to support monitoring. “These were the first to hit when the spill occurred and have not been sampled adequately,” explains Yew.

Residents who get water directly from Slocan River and who have shallow wells next to the river should contact Streamkeepers through Annelie Doedensen at 226-7362 and leave a message, preferably in the afternoon.

For more information contact volunteer John Wittmayer who says he has written the BC Ombudsman calling for a review of the handling of the fuel spill. He urges others to do the same. Meanwhile affected residents are being advised to submit a claim with insurance adjuster Lena Ashcroft at 1-800-880-8384. But the claims process takes time.

“Most of the small businesses in the valley don’t have millions of dollars to tide them over,” says Popeff. “They need something now; not months or years from now.”

To contact the Unsettled Needs Committee, call Nelle Mattey at 250-226-0015 or email at unsettled@co.slocan.bc.ca.

UPDATES: Interior Health advises caution

These cautions were issued by Interior Health in the three areas of concern during the week prior to its closure August 30. Yet a news release dated August 28 states that, “there is no undue risk to human health from surface or groundwater in the area.”

• IEA is cautioning residents (or their pets) not to swim in the river where there is visible fuel – either sheen or white emulsion – present. Contact dermatitis (rashes) and inflammation of the eyes could result.

• IEA is now reporting residents report to them after physician visits if they are diagnosed with jet fuel exposure symptoms.

• IEA is cautioning residents not to drink water with visible sheen or jet fuel smell. Call IEA if you have a well or river intake you are not using due to these conditions.

To report or for more information contact 250-428-2220.

WE Graham Community Service Society
Invites the Slocan Valley Residents To Our
Open House and
Annual General Meeting
On
September 21st at 2:00 pm
At WE Graham Community School Library
Jet fuel remediation crews finished in Slocan Valley – or are they?

by Art Joyce

Who decides when the watershed is clean? At the direction of the Ministry of Environment, Quantum Murray crews wrapped up remediation efforts the week of August 26. But they leave controversy in their wake. While the majority of the jet fuel has been flushed from the watershed, those living closest to “ground zero” in Lemon Creek can still smell and hear the pumps that delivered their homes because they don’t feel their water is safe to drink yet. The decision to pull out crews is based on Quantum Murray meeting MoE’s determined “endpoints” for remediation.

“Once the shoreline treatment endpoints have been reached, they’ll move into monitoring,” says remediation liaison John Lok. “Monitoring plan is being created by SNC-Lavalin, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval and concurrence. There’s no plan for a secondary crew to come back in at the spring.”

Local staff will stay behind to monitor long-term boom at the mouth of Lemon Creek and will collect any residual product flushed out of the streams. But a worker with Quantum Murray who chooses to not be identified says he and some of his bosses worry that the washup of the remediation is being rushed.

“The fact that there is still so much new sediment around Lemon Creek that new contamination is still entering the river. I don’t think a thorough clean up of the confinence will be possible because we cannot properly contain contamination before it enters the river. The crew was upset by how bad the confinence still was but the story was that we were not finishing it properly,” says Jane Fritson, the Appledale resident who spoke in the full media grade of the July 30 public meeting, says residents are seeing evidence of jet fuel that suggest MoE’s “endpoints” have not been reached. Criteria for these “endpoints” include “no sheen” or “no rainbow sheen” at nine sampling sites from Lemon Creek through the first 10 kilometres of Slocan River. Yet in just one day, a half dozen residents at the Recovery Centre told Environmental Protection Officer Brad McCloud they still see “rainbow sheen” – not “bio-strain” – in many locations.

“We are aware that some families have been reporting a sheen on the river,” says MoE Information Officer David Kami. “MOE staff and response contractors have investigated those reports and determined them to be organic sheen and not attributed to the jet fuel spill.”

In the long tradition of Slocan Valley independence, if you don’t trust others to do it, you find a way to do it yourself. Microbiologist Jennifer Yoew of Slocan River Stormkeepers and Lemon Creek resident Elizabeth Von Ah have been out since August 10 taking samples for independent testing. Area H Director Walter Popoff has urged the Regional District to approve a $15,000 grant to Stormkeepers so that they may expand their monitoring activities to include testing of residents’ water near the spill site. Popoff says this fits with the non-profit group’s mandate to create a conservation plan for Slocan River while also meeting urgent local needs. Yoew says the Ministry of Environment appears not to have tested the Lemon Creek waterbodies, a critical component of the watershed.

“The tests we are doing are a pretty extensive fingerprint as to whether there’s petroleum there or not,” says Yoew. “This is going to really assuage people that their drinking water is safe.”

Samples collected by Stormkeepers were taken from the first side channel below Lemon Creek, and are such have distinct karstic colour, Yoew reports. They will be tested for total extractable petroleum hydrocarbons (EPH), with laboratory detection levels at 0.2 parts per million—below the provincial standard for drinking water of 5 parts per million. Stormkeepers has 10 years of baseline data with which to compare current data.

But a critical piece of the data seems to be missing – airflow sampling. At community meetings during the past two weeks, residents have been advised by Exxon Valdez cleanup survivor and environmental remediation consultant Ania. In the absence of airflow sampling, is standard post-spill monitoring protocol, says Burke, critical for monitoring population exposure to dangerous levels of petroleum products. This information was not released with other test data. SNC Lavalin are expected to release an “air data statement” in early September. According to MoE, “All air monitoring conducted had results well within safe ranges for the public.” Yet there are reports at the Recovery Centre that a few elderly or sensitive people exposed to the fumes have been seriously affected.

Yoew is hoping that MoE will allow for public input into the long-term monitoring plan, which she would like to see take place over at least a year. A community meeting held in Passoore produced a list of formal requests to MoE and Executive Field Centre. Residents want ongoing testing, “especially in areas that experts identified as potential hotspots for spill contamination, some of which were left out of the initial testing.”

They would also like more conclusive testing of “biostraining”, including testing of specific sites where this has been found. And they want bio-remediation techniques added to post-spill clean up efforts. Stormkeepers has something to add to this list:

“We have some things that we want to see in the long-term program,” says Yoew. “Things like airflow and the wetlands sampling.”

Minister of Environment tours fuel spill area

by Jan McMurtry

Minister of Environment Mary Polak came to the Slocan Valley on Friday, August 30 to tour the area affected by the Lemon Creek fuel spill, and to review emergency response protocols with Regional District of Central Kootenay directors, Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan and MLA Katrina Conroy.

“The community should be very proud,” Minister Polak said in an interview. “People really stepped up and found a way to deal with an unexpected situation. We don’t have a lot of experience with this, so we have to find our way together as we go.”

RDCK Chair John Kettle said the discussion with the minister about emergency response protocols was excellent. “We were able to air our concerns – where there were breakdowns, where we need new protocols – and talk about how we can do better,” he said. “I think the minister has a new understanding of the dilemmas Regional Districts face in rural areas.”

All in all, though, Chair Kettle is pleased with the Regional District response. “The Lemon Creek spill was a terrible event, but it could have been much worse had the First Responders – the firemen, our Emergency Operations Centre people, Chief Swan – had they not responded in the way they did on behalf of the RDCK, who worked tirelessly to make sure the people in that area got the best service in the worse circumstances. The efforts of the volunteers in particular were just outstanding.”

Kettle also acknowledged the “stellar job” done by Anna H Director Walter Popoff, Area I Director Andy Davidson and Vice-Chair Hillary Elliott, who acted as CEO at the time and signed the Evacuation Order. He commended Director Popoff especially for being “so engaged with the community and he did everything he could to make sure his constituents were taken care of.”

The RDCK has had the opportunity to learn a lot about emergency response in the last two years, with the two biggest provincial disasters within its borders – the Johnson’s Landing slide last year and the Lemon Creek fuel spill this year. “We’re getting better at it and we’ll keep getting better at it with experience, but I’m hoping we’ll have no more. We’ve had our share. We’d like to have a rest. I don’t wish this on any other Regional District, but we had a baptism by fire the last two years and we’re still standing and still moving forward,” said Kettle.

Minister Polak said her ministry and the other agencies involved in the ongoing monitoring of the spill area would stay in communication with Information Officer Jon Locke and RDCK Chair John Kettle. “The community is not going to be left to their own devices,” said Minister Polak. “We are here listening to the concerns of the Regional District directors. We won’t leave the community in the lurch.”

CORRECTIONS

In our August 21 issue, we reported that “SNC-Lavalin has completed a detailed analysis of data from air, water, soil and sediment sampling done between July 25 and August 9.” In fact, to date no data on airflow sampling has been released to public.

Also, the complex of additives in A-1 jet fuel, which includes benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, is known as BTEX, not BFTX.
Open letter to Silverton Gallery board and Village of Silverton

The late revered Urban Architect Jane Jacobs, known by some of us here, has outlined in her work what I think applies to the Silverton Gallery funding problem.

People buy here because they like it, but if this is not their principal residence they’re unlikely to have a balanced community perspective. They are less likely to support a new or increased tax, even if it is to support infrastructure repair to the very buildings that interested them initially in the community.

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

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Call for emergency preparation funding

"If you can’t fix it, you don’t own it" says an online electronic gadget repair person who was bemoaning the fact that nowadays the cell phones are so expensive that they often don’t use screws anymore, but glue, and so sometimes you can’t even get in there to change the battery, let alone fix it when it breaks. That idea is true for me at least because I don’t feel a lot of ownership over things that most surely cannot fix, whereas, I do own things like my garden, the trees and water, this letter — things that are directly under my care, and so I can concentrate on the things I can do there. And I find that I also feel quite a bit of ownership over the “commons” in our Slocon Valley too, from the lake and river, to the forest and the roads. And I am not alone. There were so many people very actively involved in helping for example, during the fuel spill crisis, even though they were not directly hit.

So it got me thinking that we need to continue on from the Slocon Standing Committee evening at the Vancolin Hall, inspired by that community/environmental crisis. (See Valley Voice August 21, p. 7.) We had about a dozen tables with separate discussions focused. Yes, there were a lot of good ideas about how it could have been handled better and how harsh it all was, but there was also mostly constructive brainstorming on crisis and post-crisis solutions. And it was immensely positive.

I’d like to see a third part forum, based on prevention, again at the Whole. The first maybe late October, and the second after that, finishing the third in the early spring. Each an evening, maybe a “public voice and many engage many forms of expression, such as mini-story/lecture, theatre style role playing and/or mock up disaster. The first would be about how to protect our water. The focus would be on this year’s fuel spill — maybe we’d just play over what could happen with 2,000 litres of jet fuel in lemon creek. Let’s go! (As in “action,” not leaving!) We’d also bring in the discussion of the research as to the actual status of the river that we have at that point. But we’d imagine and discuss prevention possibilities for other potential disasters to do with our water systems too.

The second, FCRE, could use for retrofitting (timesight is 2020 and all that) the fire that neatly swept into Slocon City in 2006, where all Red Mountain Road residents were evacuated. The third would focus on emergencies caused by flooding and/or power outages, and potential hazards would be local FOOD SOURCES.

Finally, no one really likes emergencies — they tend to leave things in a state where we act, not even a small part of some public trauma that’s hurt us, in a positive group setting, what a liberation that can be. Also, like many, I have some first aid, but how many out there who don’t use it regularly feel afraid you’d lose it once you had it? How about a practice session every few months hosted by someone who is using it steadily? There’s so much we can do together with our neighbors at large, not out of alarm, but to engage and inspire so we can be energized, calm, and much more prepared for future emergencies. Hey, we might even prevent a few!

If you have an interest, story, Maggie or suggestion about this forum, or can help organize or help in anyway, please organize an email, please email to vahallattaich@gmail.com. And thanks for reading this “bunch” (as in any effort to help avoid the “pound of trouble”)

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Dam safety still an issue

Dear Mr. Rigby,

Thank you for your response to my concerns about the safety of BC Hydro dams maintained in the Slocan Valley. Unfortunately, it does not meet many of my concerns.

While I appreciate that BC Hydro has put up this defense of their dam safety history, I believe that the priorities with regards to public safety should be in the public domain and not behind the veil of accusations and rigorous reporting regime with safety standards on par with other similar jurisdictions. It seems clear to me that your position with the B.C. Hydro Authority puts you in the untenable position of having to say, “Yes, it is risky, but you will have to take the risks for a while longer” as you juggle the ever-increasing deferred maintenance issues in your fleet of 79 dams with inadequate budget to meet these needs.

Specifically, you state in your letter that one recent hazard modeling analysis of the Duncan Dam shows safety to be 1.300 AEP. I note that in most published reports, this facility fails to meet this “standard.” More importantly, I note that in distinction to the jurisdictions, dams that meet 1.300 AEP are candidates for immediate priority upgrades or deactivation. This is the same probability as an individual faces of dying in a car crash in a given year, and if a person would expect an unacceptable risk to the majority of Columbia Basin residents. We live here, often beneath the dam’s shadow.

In Washington State, for example, a dam with size, risk factors and characteristics of Duncan would probably be required to meet at least a standard of 1.300 AEP. Don’t you agree? You would barely be permitted to build a beaver dam in Washington State or England with a 1.300 AEP, but you don’t agree? You would bare barely be permitted to build a beaver dam in Washington State or England with a 1.300 AEP. Don’t you agree? I am sure that you recognize that these statements and numbers utilize RISK IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD by a Washington State colleague Doug Johnson. See http://www.eey.wa.gov/PROGRAMS/ser/dams/Reports/audio.pdf.

While it is admirable that the money has been spent on the spillway, spillway gates, and instrumentation at Duncan in the last three years, is the foundation of the dam itself (with abatements anchored in schistose rock above clay-laced glacial till and occasional dolerite construction fill channels) not putting the dam at the need of serious attention soon? I hope that the new equipment you have installed is accurately capable of measuring the pipe and movement of and within dam itself. You refer in your response to a report by an external engineer required every five to seven years. Is this report in the public domain? When was the last one, of what did it consist, and what were its conclusions? Could you please send me a copy or refer me to where it is available?

I am glad to see you state that: “The Probable Maximum Flow will likely be about 30,000 cubic feet per second.” What an improvement over the vague statements of climate change. Calgary and the Bow might also indicate that this is high priority. In view of record inflows on most Upper Columbia River sub-drainages in 2012, I am glad to hear that you recognize this factor.

My contention is that the engineering shortcomings in the original construction of the Duncan Dam (possibly other Treaty dams) produce faster, riskier aging than the norm and unacceptable levels of piping, and combined with changing climate, produce unacceptable risk to the residents of the Columbia Basin. Do you have the 330 monthly construction reports on the Duncan Dam Project from the 1960s? If you have read them, you would say that they indicate conservative engineering practices, or that they might indicate “trouble ahead”?

In your speech to the Hatches in March you pointed to a new era of responsible risk management at BC Hydro. While I would like to be thrilled, you seem to echo my fears that the fleet of 79 dams has to be overhauled at a rate possibly more than we could feel comfortable with their remediation. You close that presentation with: “Whether we like it or not, everything is connected, and we — as an industry — have to start managing our civil assets that way. It can’t be put off any longer.”

Yes, the burden of all that cumulative deferred maintenance on the Columbia Basin, and the beleaguered Hydro Authority must make your worries very difficult. I think that Hydro will need good luck as well as good science to avoid a disaster. Maybe Hydro should seriously consider moving the treaty dam maintenance problem to a Canadian Columbia Basin entity so that self-interest becomes a larger factor in risk management.

Seriously, in the case of the treaty dams, local management of both the river and the facilities might be an eventual goal or solution of mutual benefit to both BC Hydro and the people. Here in the Basin we have organizations and responsible organizations (Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation, for example) with a primary concern for the long-term health of the Basin and its residents. Please keep these organizations in mind if when the Treaty Dams are sold off to meet Hydro’s unsustainable obligations. You’d probably get a better deal from concerned Basin folk than from the BC Power Authority and Columbia Basin residents certainly would.

I would be pleased to receive the materials requested and detailed responses where I have provided direct questions. Thank you for your continued attention to my concerns.

Jen Fraser
Kaslo

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Interview with Drew Nielsen, new principal of Lucerne School

by Jan McMurray

Why did you apply for the job at Lucerne? What attractiveness do you see Lucerne School and New Denver? What I love about Lucerne is the community and passion and support the school's heritage of connecting students with their environment, and the amazing skills, passion, and dedication the staff bring to their instruction.

Tell us about your family. Cort and I have four sons. The older two have graduated from secondary school and are living away from home (Nebraska and North Idaho) while the younger two are in grades 8 and 12 and will be attending Lucerne next year.

What are the class configurations this year? A K-1 with Rachel Champagne, a 2/3 with Heather Jenkins and Signey Frederickson and a 4/5 with Katrina Samuell. We also want to welcome Ashley Barker as our new school counselor and Gay Perryton back to a secondary Social Studies assignment.

Please tell us about your background in teaching/administration experience. I was a teacher on North Idaho from 1993 until 2005. In the past 4 years I served for two years as a Vice Principal at a larger elementary school with a student population of roughly 250 students and then for two years as Principal of a smaller rural school of 50 students. My teacher training was at the secondary level and at the time I was offered the position at Lucerne I was preparing to take on a K-12 school in Fort Alice.

What do you think are the positives and negatives of a K-12 school? In my mind, the positives strongly outweigh the negatives. One of the great challenges we faced in the split model at my previous school was transitioning students from elementary into secondary school. With a K-12 model, students have already made connections with the older students and staff. Senior students have an added opportunity for leadership and to provide support to their younger classmates. It provides closer connections for multi-grade siblings. Parents with more than one school-aged child do not have to choose between a place-based learning home and parent support, communication, and meaningful use of technology. While not as surprising to us from rural districts, it was very exciting to see this acknowledgement from higher education leaders who are appreciating that smaller schools have at least as much to offer as larger and urban schools. My sense is that Lucerne is beginning to intentionally multi-age their school groups.

What comment on the future of Lucerne’s high school? The future of Lucerne’s high school is very bright. In my discussions with the student council and teachers, they have acknowledged our success and their full support of Lucerne as a K-12. Having attended the Think Tank at UBC Okanagan, where the Arrow Lakes School District 10 was the case study, I have an understanding of the future of small secondary schools. I was glad to hear from the faculty at UBC Okanagan and the other district representatives present at the event of their continued support.

How do you see the role of the principal in the district with students and teachers? As the principal, I have a role in building relationships both with district staff and the community. My goal is to ensure that students and staff feel supported and have the resources they need to succeed.

What are the key elements of your philosophy of education?

Individualized Instruction: In my professional practice I have embraced a philosophy of personalized, individualized and form of instruction on the needs of the individual learner. We all learn in different ways and so do our children. When children see school as a place where instruction is tailored to their unique learning styles, they develop a deeper understanding of the material.

School District 10 serves up innovative learning strategies

by Art Joyce

Now that you have an enlightened school district when its philosophy reflects that of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, who said, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Terry Taylor, Superintendent of School District 10 and Susan Crichlow, UBC Okanagan Faculty of Education Associate Professor hosted an open house at Nakusp Elementary School on August 30. Parents and community members were invited to hear presentations on the district’s role in innovation and learning.

“People talk about the need for teachers to embody the district motto of ‘global learning in a rural setting.’ The program being introduced is aimed to keep pace with the 21st century while cultivating the vital connection to the heart that will help students face the challenges of modern civilization. Crichlow said that while technology now, one can have the entire contents of Wikipedia on an iPad. She says as moving into the ‘post-digital’ conceptual age, technology is needed. Students need to know how to integrate knowledge usefully into their lives.

The school district aims to foster a culture of kindness, Taylor said. Cutting-edge research in showing how foundational children’s relationships in community are and the need for connection and care, emphasized. She said the domestic culture can learn from aboriginal culture, where learning supports the well-being of the self, the family, and the entire community. In the model of learning, even our ancestors have a role in teaching us. This is in turn passed down to the land at a time when the environment is under increasing assault.

The report speaks for themselves. The provincial average for students continuing studies at the Grade 12 level is 70 to 80 percent. In SD 10 it’s closer to 95 percent. Aboriginal graduation rates are much higher than in the province, however, Grade 12 is very close to kindergarten already having a high reading ability.

At intermediate levels the majority are meeting academic expectations.

There is however an increasing gender gap, with boys falling behind girls—a trend that is society wide. High school students are “very disengaged” and increasingly not using work. Among the school district’s goals is to address this while also continuing communication through the district website. Taylor would like to see an increased awareness of the district’s access to innovative educational software.

Entrepreneurial learning remains a cornerstone of the district’s programming, such as the annual Spring into Learning and Fall into Learning programs. Lucerne School teachers Scott Kipkie and Gay Perryton explained their new program “Mountains as Teachers,” which adds a spiritual component to field trips. Greek philosophers view themselves as part of nature, so knowing themselves is knowing the world. While hiking, students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences and learn about the environment.

Schools threaten to extinguish the curiosity students experience outside of the walls,” Crichlow said. “The goal should be that every learner leaving our schools is in curious as when they arrived.”

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Kootenay Cableworks (253)/658-3922 - Jim (technician)
for more information please go to: www.24kns.ca/tss.html

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan
P.O. Box 50,
Slocan, BC, V0G 2C0
250-355-2277

Notice of 2013 Tax Sale

The following properties will be sold at the Annual Tax Sale on Monday September 30th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Office, Village of Slocan, 503 Slocan Street, unless the Delinquent Taxes with interest are paid prior to the sale.

Roll Number: #56000
Lot 1 & 2, Block 7, Plan 496, District Lot 292,
P.O. Box 116-311-205 & P.O. Box 116-191
Street Address: 307 Delany Avenue, Slocan BC, V0G 2C0

Roll Number: #56000
Lot 11 & 12, Block 12, District Lot 292,
P.O. Box 116-310-802 & P.O. Box 116-313-837
Street Address: 517 Arthur Street, Slocan, BC, V0G 2C0

Roll Number: #151000
Lot 9 & 10, Block 21, Plan NEP 496, DL 292,
P.O. Box 116-915-625 & P.O. Box 116-915-666
Street Address: 802 Fletcher Avenue, Slocan BC, V0G 2C0

Roll Number: #216100
Lot A, Block 40, Plan NEP 496, DL 292,
P.O. Box 2269-635-921
Street Address: 1081 Harold Street, Slocan, BC, V0G 2C0

Property transfers resulting from municipal tax sales are subject to tax under the Property Transfer Tax Act.

Jack Richardson
Chief Administrative Officer

The Valley Voice September 4, 2013

Community

Lucerne School and New Denver

Drew Nielsen is the new principal at Lucerne School in New Denver.
Interview with Ed Nielsen, new principal of WE Graham School

by Ian McMurray
What are you looking forward to about the new job?
I am looking forward to have the opportunity to work with dedicated teaching and support staff at WE Graham. They have a reputation as caring and committed professionals who are strongly connected to the community.

Please provide a brief outline of your background and teaching career history.
I am originally from Vancouver but have lived and taught in several communities. I started teaching in Port Alberni 27 years ago. I then spent 10 years in Quinsam before moving to the Kootenays. I taught at Mount Sentinel for nine years before I became the VP at Trafalgar Middle School, where I worked for the past five years.

School District 8
Kootenay Lake welcomes in the new school year by Ian McMurray
School District 8 held in 2013-2014 Opening Celebration on August 22. Superintendent Jeff Jones concluded the session with his "Kootenay Lake School District 2013-2014 Opening Address" which is available for viewing on YouTube.

His message in the presentation is that educators must be very aware of global trends in order to prepare today’s students for the world they are inheriting. And the 21st Century learning model, which is personalized and learner-centered, is an excellent way to do this.

“We’re very proud of the array of learning opportunities that we offer students in our district,” said Jones in an interview. “Residents of the area can be very proud of their public education system.”

Jones noted the possible CPUE strike, stating: “a shadow” over the beginning of the school year. “School will start as normal, but beyond that we don’t know, so we are asking people to prepare for the worst and to make plans for childcare.”

Provincial bargaining is also expected to take place with the teachers’ union, as their contract has expired.

“We really value our employees. The hard part for me is that at the local level, we’re not involved in that level of bargaining – it’s completely out of our hands,” said Jones. “Our board is expressing concerns about the current model between the ministry and the union. It will be very interesting to see what will happen.” Jones added that the district was pleased that the Winlaw School community was able to provide support during the Lemon Creek fire and the emergency response with the use of the school as the Resiliency Centre. He said the schools in the Slocan Valley are preparing to respond to the needs of students who experienced trauma during the disaster.

“We have a trauma response team ready and available if needed, and we are assessing the needs of families and students and helping principals understand how students might be reacting and what we might be expecting from them,” said Jones.

What are the class configurations and who are the teachers this year at WEG?
This year there will be four classes at WEG: K 2 taught by Eilidh Rees, 3-5 taught by Andy Denton, 6-8 (Outdoor Education Leadership Program) taught by Cam Lytle, and the Vittala Wilderness Program taught by Sean Marschel. WEG has struggled with declining enrolment. Discussions regarding reconfiguration or closure have not been well received by the community. Do you have any strategies in mind to try to boost enrolment or otherwise address challenges faced by the school? Schools in general and rural schools in particular are struggling across this province. Our focus is to build the best possible programs we are capable of developing so that we are not simply an option, but rather the best possible choice for parents.

WE Graham is well known for its outdoor education. Do you plan to build on this strength at WEG?
Believe there is a great opportunity to build on the outdoor programs currently offered at the school. Our school goal this year will be to explore experiential education with a focus on outdoor learning. The staff believes that it is a great way to engage learners and ultimately make them more successful.

Another strength of WEG is that it is a community school with the Community Service Society (WEGCSS) right next door. Do you have any ideas or plans for the school that involve the WEGCSS?
I have met briefly with Holly and I am very excited about the possibility of working in conjunction with Community Service Society. We have started a conversation around the concept of community gardens and are looking at how the students at the school could get involved.

The new WE Graham principal added that he is looking for donations to the school’s board games, exercise equipment and weights. Contact him at the school.

Village of New Denver

TAX SALE
The following described property and improvements thereon shall be offered for “Sale by Public Auction” at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office on Monday, September 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. unless the delinquent taxes and interest thereon are sooner paid:
Lot 21-23, Block 49, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District – 508 8th Avenue
Carol Gordon, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer
The Corporation of the Village of Silverton
P.O. Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2H0
Phone: (250) 356-2472 Fax: (250) 356-2321
Email: administrator@silverton.ca

TAX SALE
The following described properties and improvements thereon shall be offered for “Sale by Public Auction” at the Village of Silverton Municipal Office Monday, September 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. unless Delinquent Taxes are sooner paid:
Strata Lot 11, Plan NES36, District Lot 434, Kootenay Land District, together with an interest in the common property in proportion to the unit entitlement of the Strata Lot as shown on form 1 - 816 Silver Cove Drive, Silverton BC.
Parcel A, Block 3, Plan NEP574, District Lot 434, Kootenay Land District, Lots 9 & 10, Block 3, Plan NEP574, District Lot 434, Kootenay Land District - 605 Lake Avenue, Silverton BC.

NOTICE: FOR SALE BY BID
The Village of Slocan has the following vehicles available for bid:
1997 FORD F150, 4x4
148,500 kms, Standard Transmission, 4x4, 8 foot box, regular cab, gasoline, 4.2L, V6 Engine
MINIMUM BID: $3,000
1994 Trail Tech 10-Ton Equipment Trailer
22’ flat deck with beaver tail and ramps, tandem duals, electric brakes, and pintle hitch.
MINIMUM BID: $5,000
*all bids received must include taxes (GST/PST)
Contact Tim Hill at the Village of Slocan for more information Please forward bids under confidential cover to:
Tim Hill, Public Works Supervisor
P.O. Box 50, 503 Slocan Street
Slocan, BC V0G 2C0
Email: thill@villageofslocan.ca
Fax: (250) 355-2666

BIDDING CLOSURES: September 30, 2013 at 4:00 pm
by Jan McMurray

After receiving unsatisfactory responses from BC Hydro to concerns about the boat launch and the frequent power outages in Nakusp, council members agreed they should meet with BC Hydro representatives at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in September to discuss these concerns further.

Council is unhappy that the boat ramp is not long enough to be useful year-round and that there are some safety issues. Mayor Hamling said he is “sickened” that BC Hydro installed a better ramp system at McDonald Creek Provincial Park than in Nakusp. Mayor Hamling said that if BC Hydro put the new ramp in, they were describing it as “state-of-the-art,” but the doubles anyone would describe that way now that it’s in.

A letter from BC Hydro in response to council’s concerns about frequent power outages in the community states that Nakusp is comparable to other rural BC communities in the number and duration of outages experienced by the average customer. According to a 2012 BC Hydro report, the average Nakusp customer had 5.2 outages for an average duration of 2.1 hours. Mayor Hamling commented, “I think that’s totally out of line. I don’t know where they are getting their statistics from.” Council members agreed that these numbers seemed incorrect.

Council is concerned that BC Hydro that the Foothill Creek Independent Power Project could be a back-up power source for the community if the project is approved. The plant would come to Nakusp. Foothill IPP proponent Duncan Fayer has explained to council that the fees and conditions BC Hydro is imposing have forced him to look at taking his transmission lines to Nelson instead. The Village hosted a boat meeting with BC Hydro and Duncan Fayer, but an email response from BC Hydro stated that it would be inappropriate to involve a third party (the Village) in negotiations between Fair and Hydro on Fayer’s application to the Standing Order Program, which is in place for BC Hydro to purchase power from IPPs for the province.

The CAO reported that the construction of the construction of the Chenal Building addition is progressing very nicely “despite the bumps along the way.” The Arrow Lakes Historical Society is looking for potential members of the project, but is applying for grants and planning further fundraising activities. An email from Wendell Mason informs council that the main stone building project is going well and should be ready for start-up on September 6.

Councillor Ducharme suggested that the beach of the swimming beach be moved back because the water level has gone down so much. The CAO said the office had received a number of complaints about this, but the Public Works crew cannot move the booms because of the way they are anchored.

The Permissive Tax Exemption bylaw was given third readings. The costs from last year for the Arrow Lakes Historical Society no longer requires a tax exemption at its current location in the BC Hydro building have been moved to the new addition of the Chenal building in 2014. Staff will review the Village’s policy on permissive tax exemptions in 2014, as council would more objectively evaluate for approving/renouncing permissive tax exemptions and would like to more closely align exemptions with council strategic priorities and community development.

The arena roof will be repaired by Guelph Canada, Inc. this year at a cost of $22,000. The roof is leaking in the lobby entrance area and over the north end of the ice surface. The CAO staff report states, “Although a total roof replacement replacement would be an ideal solution to the issues facing the Arena – it is still pretty’s guess that it is not feasible to have this done in this fiscal year due to financial (funding) constraints and ongoing questions regarding the structural design at the entranceway.” She says a roof replacement will be necessary in the next few years, and this will cost anywhere between $135,000 and $500,000, depending on the material chosen. There will be additional costs for structural changes at the entranceway. This year, a ventilation fan will also be moved at a cost of $3,000. In the present location where the auditorium roof meets the arena roof, the fan traps new and old water. The $28,000 needed this year for the roof will be covered by the loan council recently authorized for $135,000 for arena upgrades.

The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) is in position to disburse grant funding for the first time in 10 years. The board of directors is recommending that $52,616 – half of NACFOR’s 2012 profits after setting aside $50,000 and an operating reserve – be awarded to community groups in the area based on the following formula: 25% to groups in Area K south of Arrow Park; 25% to groups in the Village of Nakusp; and 50% at the board’s discretion to groups in Nakusp, Area K or to the Summit Lake Ski Area. An advance meeting was developed and a public meeting is being planned to inform the community. This grant policy is in draft form because it has not yet been presented to council for approval. The board intends to update its business plan with this new grant policy and ask council to notify it. The great policy in the current Business Plan (from 2007) states that NACFOR would set aside 55% of profits into a reserve fund and distribute 6.5% to groups in Area K and 38.5% to groups in the Village. Council members decided they would meet with the NACFOR board to learn about the rationale behind the new policy and they are making a decision on how this year’s grants would be distributed. They asked the CAO to arrange a meeting soon so that council could consider the board’s plans at the September 12 council meeting.

The Village will apply for a WoodWorks BC award for the Kenooshak Boarded Bridge. Projects will be presented at UBCM.

Studio Connection to feature film and woods by Art Jager

The sixth art show of the 2013 season at Studio Connection Gallery is entitled Blueberries & Bolts, featuring the work of local artists Holly Woods and Deryce Marshall from September 3-21. The reception is Friday, September 6 from 5-8 pm. Refreshments will be served. It’s a unique opportunity to meet and greet the artists and learn more about their work.

The multimedia series of rock, oil, and watercolors is based on colours and forms observed in everyday items and also on the artists’ love of still life and landscape. Both artists were active members of Nakusp’s ALFA Guild and have previously organized many shows for other artists.

“I’ve always seen things from a different point of view, patterns and colours, millions of colours,” says Marshall. “I know that everyday objects – rusting bolts, rocks, even piles of dead leaves – have what it takes to attract me. To give them a second, a third, even a fourth look. The more I look, the more I see. For me art isn’t complicated, it’s everyday.”

Woods said she was cutting a pear when she suddenly saw the esthetic potential of it as a basis for an image. She then moved on to cross sections of vegetables, fascinated by the patterns she found there. Woods is a student of Betty Fahmberg, Barbara Maye and Brooke Elting, although she recently began taking art courses in the Village.

“Going with the wonderful feeling of being caught in the moment, I grab a camera or a sketchbook,” says Woods. “I’ve really enjoyed being part of this arts community in Nakusp. It’s given me confidence to show my work.”

“The artwork will be of interest not only to collectors but also to enthusiasts in general,” add gallery proprietors Anne Beliveau and Beliveau. “The series was created for Studio Connection Gallery and I am very proud to present it.”

Studio Connection is a small independent gallery located at 203 Fifth Avenue near downtown Nakusp. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For a private viewing, please book an appointment with Anne Beliveau at 250-265-8888 (cell) or fax 250-265-3560.  

Remember the Nakusp & District Fall Fair is September 14, 9:30 to 3:30, at the Auditorium. Bring in your entries on the 13th from 3 - 6 pm. 

Kids get your Zucchini Racers ready! TRASHION SHOW – Create an outfit or accessory from recycled materials and be in the show.

SEE YOU THERE!
SLOCAN VALLEY

Wetland restoration workshop held in the West Kootenays

Slocan Valley property owner Alex Berland knew how to coat the base of another willow with a mixture of latex house paint and sand, at his newly restored wetland. The practice deters beavers from munching down on a yummy treat before the plant has a chance to establish, and was one of many techniques taught to wetland stewards during a week of intensive restoration and stewardship training in the West Kootenays last month.

The BC Wildlife Federation’s Wetlands Institute workshop was a gathering of local residents, academics, consultants, government, fish and game club members and non-profits who share a keen interest in conserving one of nature’s most valuable ecosystems: wetlands. The workshop allowed BC’s most active wetland leaders to impart their knowledge to a new cohort of stewards.

Fen restorers 20 percent of wetlands remain in many developed areas of the Columbia Basin, despite the fact that they contribute to flood control, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, and water quality health.

Claire de la Salle of the Kootenay Conservation Program taught approaches for partnering with landowners with wetlands on their property. Deborah Carlson of West Coast Environmental Law discussed municipal and regional laws and regulations that help protect wetlands. Jennifer Yeve, director of the Slocan River Stewards, shared details about their work on restoring floodplain ecosystems, and gave an update on the recent clean-up and monitoring efforts of the Lower Creek jet fuel spill.


During the week, keynote trainer and speaker Tom Bleichhanser oversaw the enhancement of a steam water retention pond at the edge of KP Park in Slocan, and the enhancement of a wetland complex on Berland’s property in Passmore. Bleichhanser, from Kentucky State, has restored more than 1,500 wetlands across North America.

The retention pond in KP park will improve flood control and water quality entering the Salmo River. The project supports regional initiatives to build communities resilient to climate change impacts and serves as a demonstration site for green infrastructure projects. Meanwhile, improvements to Berland’s site support initiatives to strengthen partnerships with property owners in the Slocan Valley. More than 75 percent of floodplain wetlands in the valley are on private property and conservation agencies are keen to work with willing landowners in a variety of ways to help conserve these valuable ecosystems.

During the week Bleichhanser met with several landowners and resource managers to help identify nearly a dozen other prospective restoration projects in the West Kootenays. In addition, 30 participants gained hands-on training throughout the week so they can implement additional projects back in their communities. The workshop was offered free for all Wetlands Institute participants and would not be possible without the financial support of a variety of trusts and foundations and the Government of British Columbia.

WE Graham Service Society

In the planning Stages for a Slocan Valley Community Food Garden

We welcome your input and expertise

Join us for an information-sharing meeting September 12 at 5:00 pm at the WE Graham Community School Library

For more information contact Holly Jack at WE Graham Community Services 250-555-2484

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

September 9th at 6:00 pm

Pursuant to Sections 890, 891 and 892 of the Local Government Act, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on the proposed Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw No. 833, 2013.

The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the Village of Slocan Council Chambers, 503 Slocan Street, Slocan BC.

The intent and purpose of the Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw No. 833, 2013 is to replace the current Village of Slocan Land Use Bylaw No. 393, 1988.

All persons who believe their interests in property are affected by this proposed bylaw shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions before Council on the matters contained in the proposed bylaw at the above time and place.

Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw No. 833, 2013 may be inspected from August 12th, 2013 to September 5th, 2013 from 9:00 am to noon and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, exclusive of public holidays, at the Village Office, 503 Slocan Street, Slocan, BC.

Copies of the proposed Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw No. 833, 2013 and the current Village of Slocan Land Use Bylaw No. 393, 1988 may be viewed online at www.slocancity.com. If you have any questions regarding the public hearing or the proposed Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw No. 833, 2013, please contact the Village Office at 250-355-2277.

Written submissions may be sent to the Village of Slocan, Box 50, Slocan, BC, V0G 2C0. Electronic submissions should be sent to info@villageofslocan.ca. Comments must be received no later than 4:00 pm on September 9th.

J.L. Richardson
CAO

Rainer Schroeder and his partner Alexa Chernia pose at Queen Peach in preparation for their upcoming Argentine Tango workshop. September 14 at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

2013 Hills Garlic Festival

September 8, 10 am-5 pm

Centennial Park – New Denver

Garlic – Produce – Crafts – Food

Live entertainment by Mountain Station, Motes and Oats, Flydini, Visions Alive Puppets

** Enter the Garlic Poetry Contest **

Admission: $4.00
No charge for children 12 & under
Advance tickets: $3.00 at Friday Market starting August 23 - Get them early - limited supply

- Use the Shuttle Bus to/from the Valhalla Inn
- Vehicles with 5 or more passengers get 1 free entry at the gate

Remember: No dogs please!
www.hillsgarlicfest.ca
Major kayak expedition to explore and protect the Incomappleux River

Eight of BC’s most skilled and daring kayakers will pit their prowess against the wild Incomappleux River. The expedition, led by Carl Jacka, began September 1 and is expected to take at least seven days.

Putting in near the southwest boundary of Glacier National Park, the team had to first confront heading their heavily loaded kayaks over Flat Creek pass, a grueling 13-kilometre alder choked, grizzly infested back country route starting near Hwy 1, some 50 kilometres east of Revelstoke. If successful, the team will be the first to complete a full, self-supported descent of the Incomappleux River by whitewater kayak. Interestingly, an ill-fated 2003 raft attempt claimed the lives of three of four team members; no bodies were ever found.

The total 35 kilometres of wild river is mostly whitewater and virtually unknown, due to its roadless nature, canyons and sometimes impenetrable bush. Eighteen kilometres are protected within Glacier National Park but a further 17 kilometres run through a 27,364-hectare unprotected wilderness contiguous to the park. Along the river, there are grizzly bear havens in massive avalanche tracks and an ancient rainforest with trees up to 1,800 years old and four metres in diameter.

The Incomappleux wilderness is included in the Valhalla Wilderness Society’s 156,460-hectare Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal. Last year, the society was contacted by the West Kootenay-based Endangered Creeks Expedition (ECE) team, a group of kayakers who use their skills to help protect wild rivers. They told the society that the Incomappleux would be their next big project, and it would be dedicated to VWS’s Park Proposal.

Logging companies long ago cut down the ancient forest over two-thirds of the river’s length, halving away logs so big that only one could fit on a logging truck. The only thing that remains of the magnificent rainforest is trees that were a very far distance from the mill. The remaining forest is unparalleled anywhere in the interior of BC for its great age, the size of its trees, its low elevation, biodiversity and its intactness. Yet there are still legally approved, proposed cutblocks in the remaining big trees that can be logged at any time that industry or the government decides to fix the bridge.

The threat of private hydro development on the Incomappleux River and its tributaries was extinguished in 2012. When two Independent Power Producers (IPPs) applied for three investigative permits, they faced massive public opposition, and a stock of scientific reports documenting rare and endangered species. The companies withdrew their applications.

The kayakers hope that public recognition will help ensure that the river, its bears, its fish, and its majestic trees, will be wild and free forever.

“Valhalla’s park proposal will benefit from what this expedition team is doing, even if they have to turn back the first day,” says VWS spokesperson Anne Sherrod. “Future generations should have opportunities to experience this rare inland rainforest river. Every person who has ever spent one blessed hour in nature should heed their call and write letters to government to protect the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal.” A fact sheet, petition and 33-page report on the park proposal can be found at http://www.vws.org.

COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice | September 4, 2013

INITIATIVE PETITION

An initiative to amend the Police Act

KNOW THE RULES

If you plan to participate in the initiative campaign, it’s important that you know the rules.

- The Recall and Initiative Act allows registered voters to propose new laws or changes to existing laws.
- On Monday, September 9, 2013, petition sheets for the initiative to amend the Police Act will be issued to the proponent, Dana Larsen.
- The proponent has 90 days to collect signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters in each of the province’s 85 electoral districts. The petition must be returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by Monday, December 9, 2013.
- To sign the initiative petition, a person must be a registered voter on September 9, 2013 and may sign the petition only for the electoral district in which they are currently registered.
- A person may sign the initiative petition only once.
- Only registered canvassers may collect signatures.
- Initiative advertising may be conducted only by the proponent or a registered advertising sponsor.

ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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

Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration of the Election Act, Recall and Initiative Act, and conduct of referenda under the Referendum Act.
REACT reusable bags have arrived in New Denver-Silverton

submitted

Real Environmental Action Created by Teens (REACT) is happy to announce that the reusable bags from Smartbag have arrived! “We apologize for the delay but look forward to getting this project underway,” said Dunka Hammond of REACT.

REACT’s goal is to reduce the use of plastic bags in the New Denver-Silverton area. To do this, the group is distributing bags to local businesses and Liceame School as an alternative option for customers.

To make this easier for the

graciously participating businesses in our community, REACT requests that customers initiate their choice to use a REACT bag. Customers may then return bags to either the same business or another in town. REACT also urges people to treat the bags kindly, as they are not disposable.

The participating businesses are New Market, Mountainberry, June’s Trinkets and Treasures, Rotabaga’s, Raven’s Nest, Garden Grace, Fricheatt and Spiggis Emporium. What’s in Store, Home Hardware, Silverton Building Supplies, Sew Much More and Liceame School.

Slocan Lake Golf Club starts junior program

submitted

This year for the first time in many years, a junior program was started by the Slocan Lake Golf Club. The youngest participant was six years old and the oldest 13 years. The free camp was held Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 13. It’s hoped the camp will be held the second week of July in future.

Linda Henke, a well known golfer from Nakusp, came to help out with the first camp. Participants were also able to go Linda’s driving range in Nakusp. A total of 22 young golfers participated in the first camp. A first time golfers’ camp for adults was held the following week with 10 participants.

The three directors who organized the camp were Barb Keaund, Betty Ann Mori and Harold Mori. The directors would like to thank those parents who helped out – Jesse Oldham, Shawna Bond and Chace Johnson.

Annual Shoe Sale: September 3 - 14

Great specials! Storewide Clearance!!

Sidewalk Sale – $25, $50, $75 tables! Under the tent – September 6 and 7

Lots of deals in store! Shop early for best selection!!!

New Balance 20-50% off

Blundstone 15% off

All CSA workboots 10% off

Knauf Insulation EcoBatt® Insulation with ECOSE® Technology

EcoBatt insulation is naturally brown —

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Slocan’s own Don Currie wins seven medals at BC Seniors Games

by Jan McMurray

Slocan resident Don Currie won six golds and one silver at the BC Seniors Games this year, held August 20-24 in Kamloops.

Currie, 79 years old, won the gold medal in his age group (74-79) in the 5K power walk, the 10K power walk, the 200-metre sprint, the 400-metre sprint, the 800-metre run and the 1500-metre run. In the 100 metre sprint, he won the silver.

“That was the first time I’ve run the 1500 – and I kind of surprised myself!” he said.

Currie has competed in the BC Seniors Games for four years, since 2010. He started out with the power walks in his first year, and has steadily added sprints and runs each year since. Last year, he won the 400-metre sprint and placed second in the 100-metre and 200-metre sprints in his age group.

Although he has won the two power walks in his age group every year since he started competing in the Games in 2010, Currie says he will probably drop the walks next year and compete only in the sprints and runs. His goal is to set a BC record, and he can only do that in the running events, as they are sanctioned by the Federation of International Amateur Athletic Federation. Next year, Currie will be 80 and will be in the 80-84 age group.

“The best shot I’d have would be in the 1,500-metre,” he said. He finished the 1,500-metre in 7 minutes 59.73 seconds this year, and is shooting for under 7 minutes next year.

Currie gives credit to the OsteoFit program at Passmore Lodge for getting him started. “When my wife died in April 2009, I had to do something to cope with the grief process. Fortunately, I found OsteoFit at the Passmore Lodge. My wife had gone to a few of the classes and had come home quite enthused about it, so I thought I’d better go and find out what she found so enjoyable,” explained Currie. “I would advise anyone who needs a good launching pad to get fit to go there.”

Currie has been into fitness most of his life. “My wife and I were avid hikers and cyclists. When I was instructor at SAIT for 16 years, they had a beautiful gym, and I’d play squash and racquetball, but I never got into competitive sport until reaching this age. The competition draws you in to a determination to see how far you can go with it.”

To train, Currie tries to do a fast-paced walk and run every day, and works out with weights three times a week. He goes to the Trail track club once a week and works out in the gym in Slocan.

“It’s been a lifesaver for me, and I would recommend it – but don’t just plug in and run a 100-metre! We seniors have to be very careful about how we train. There’s a lot of information online,” Currie said.

WANTED TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES

Joel Springer
- 250-308-2095 (cell)
Please contact: Gormans Pole Division
250-547-9296

RDCK board skeptical about new recycling program

submitted

Changes to BC’s recycling program, set for May 2014, will significantly influence a service that has long been provided by the RDCK.

“We currently provide convenient household recycling programs, both curbside and dropoffs, for our residents,” stated John Kettle, RDCK board chair. “The RDCK is concerned about this new program and how it will address service in rural areas. We are skeptical that this program will adequately serve our regional district.”

The new program will shift the responsibility of collecting packaging and printed paper (PPP) for recycling from governments and their taxpayers to industry and their consumers.

The RDCK is currently investigating how this program will affect existing RDCK recycling programs.

For more information about BC’s recycling system and the new PPP program, contact the Recycling Council of British Columbia: www.recyclebc.ca or 1-800-667-4321.

Shed some energy waste

Participate in the Kootenay Energy Diet

You’ll have access to a low cost home assessment. LiveSmart BC and FortisBC rebates and financing options through your local credit union.

To register, sign-up at an open house (an introductory information session) in:

Slocan, Sept 10, 7 p.m. WE Graham School
Creston, Sept 11, 7 p.m. Creston Community Complex
Kaslo, Sept 12, 7 p.m. JV Humphries School

Visit fortisbc.com/energydiet or call 250-368-1918.
Fire prohibition reminder for Southeast Fire Centre

VISTOR INFORMATION

Golf Courses
Nakusp Golf Course - Nakusp
Phone/Fax: (250) 265-4517
www.nakuspgolf.com
GREEN FEES: Adults $25.00/18 holes, $20.00/9 holes
Senior rates: 10% off: Jun 14-18: $10.00 and $8 11/12-18 holes
Game packages available
Manager: Elaine Urquhart
Reservation: 1-877-862-4567
Driving Range: The MOUNTAIN VIEW CAFE - Fully licensed restaurant.
Phone: (250) 265-3500 Walk-on-the-fly, no reservations required.
Ladies: Tuesday 4:00-6:00 Guests welcome
Men's nights: Thursday 4:00-6:00 Guests welcome.

Restaurants & Accommodations
Murphy's Landlady - Nakusp
2211 Main St.
(250) 265-4505
murphyslandlady@telus.net
www.murphyslandlady.com
- Located downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Silvertown Municipal Campground - Nakusp
2925 Silver Lake Rd.
(near Silver Lake Park)
(250) 265-3586
www.silvertownmunicipalcampground.net
- Located between Silver Lake and Silver Lake Park.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Silverton Municipal Campground - Nakusp
2211 Main St.
(250) 265-4505
murphyslandlady@telus.net
www.murphyslandlady.com
- Located downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Sylverlo Scooter Museum - New Denver
250-358-2201
sylverlo@telus.net
www.sylverlo.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Valhalla Pure Outfitters - New Denver
250-358-7755
www.valhallapureoutfitters.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Galleries
Studio Connection Gallery - Fine Art - Nakusp
250-265-8888
101st Ave W, Nakusp
www.studioconnection.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Hot Springs
Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa - Nakusp
1-888-689-4699 (250) 265-3544
www.halcyon-hot springs.com
info@halcyon-hot springs.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort - Ainsworth
www.ainsworthhot springs.com
info@ainsworthhot springs.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Parks, Towns and Events
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Chiaroscuro Photographic Gallery - New Denver
250-358-2569
www.chiaroscuro.com
- Located in the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.
- Located in the Heart of downtown, 2 blocks from public beach.
- Offers daily specials and fine dining.

Buy a copy of the Sandon Paystreak - the newspaper of the Sandon Boom Years!
- Available at the Sandon Museum and the offices of the Valley Voice 406 - 6th Avenue, New Denver •
KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo council, August 27: Signage to help with dog control at Moyie beach
by Jan McMurray

• At the August 19 Municipal Services Committee meeting, the council discussed dog control. A new sign will be erected at the Moyie Beach area for the 2014 season that conveys the following information: location of off-leash swim beach area by the Kaslo River mouth, warning that dogs are not permitted on the public swim beach; penalty for ‘dog at large’ and bylaw to fire Village telephone number for animal control reports; no lifeguard on duty.

The CAO will explore municipal tidelands for the possibility of non-payment, and possible contractual termination of administration of the park by the RDCK.

• A misunderstanding around the line painting job at the airport was clarified in a report to council from the CAO. There was confusion around the Transportation Canada standard for the line painting because the RFP for the job quoted the standard for certified airports.

The Kaslo Airport is uncertified. To paint the lines to the standard for certified airports would cost considerably more than the price accepted by the successful bidder for the job, AirPhoto Paving. Transport Canada has no concerns about the existing line markings if the airport is to remain uncertified. As painting the lines to the standard for certified airports is not possible, the RDCK awaits a decision from the Transportation Canada at this time, council decided to ask AirPhoto if they will repaint the existing lines at the original price, with notification by September 13 that they intend to proceed with the work. If no notification is received, the RFP will be re-offered without reference to the higher standard.

The Development Services Committee or council will initiate a robust discussion with respect to the desirability of a certified aerodrome and the potential costs involved.

• Council discussed the new fishwall and the requirement in Kaslo’s OCP (Official Community Plan) that new public meetings meet LEED Bronze standard. The new fishwall will meet the standards, but the paperwork involved will add approximately $53,000 to the project cost. CAM Neil Smith reported that he had spoken with Terry Swan at the RDCK, who recommends that this be looked at when the project is closer to completion. Swan feels this can be budgeted for in future years. Council decided to inform the RDCK that it does not expect the construction of the new fishwall to meet LEED Bronze standard during initial construction phases, but that it does anticipate that its OCP policies with respect to the construction of new public buildings will be followed when convenient and affordable as the project progresses.

The Village will pursue the shop students at JV Humphries School to create a community and animal awareness program, and a Chehalis Memorial Centre. Teacher Steve Anderson has expressed an interest in the project.

The August 19 Kaslo and District Community Forest report was received from Erika Bird, Village liaison and board chair. She reported that the water monitoring program has been recommitted at an international conference on climate change. Maybe this recent recognition will have some effect on what I’d have to do to satisfy the potential cost for continuing to spend community money (KDCF’s logging revenue) on the water monitoring program,” she says.

Sasha Mutter has identified another earlier this year and recommended referring the keep-the-dogs-out- ing the area.

FLETCHER CREEK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER

FCID is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Secretary Treasurer commencing October 28th, 2013.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Accounting, bookkeeping, financial oversight, appropriate reports, payroll, tax remittances, AGM preparation, correspondence with members, tax notices and collections, insurance gathering as required from various agencies, Coordination of year-end reporting and preparation of Financial Statements for the accountant.

It is important that the candidate can commit time and resources, approximately 15-20 hours per month for this position as we work towards a water system upgrade. The ability to improve business accounting and accounting procedures of the FCID would be a definite asset. Presently our financial system uses Sage 50, Simply Accounting. Professor in Word 2007 or later is required.

Good organizational ability is essential as well as an eye for detail. Website experience would be most welcome. Previous experience in a similar position would be beneficial or a combination of experience and education would also be considered.

The hourly rate for this position is $18.00 per hour.

Please forward your resume with references to: gilrose@telus.net. All resumes will receive a response.
LiveSmart BC offers free energy assessments for small business

LiveSmart BC is now offering a free program to assess small businesses' electricity use and help them achieve higher levels of energy efficiency. The assessment will determine a customer's eligibility for utility incentive programs and help them apply for these programs. The program is aimed at small, for-profit businesses which have a commercial electrical account, and is especially useful for businesses that are newly planted or have recently moved to a new location.

Streamside honeybees agroforestry tour offered near Slocan

Beetlekeeping with native streamside alder honeybees offered near Slocan, offered on September 7th. The tour will highlight the results of a demonstration project at the Murray family woodland, where a riparian area is newly planted with native bees well suited to the region. The Murray family, with funding from the British Columbia Agriculture and Food Development Initiative (AADI), showcases the benefits -- both to conservation and to economic diversification -- of integrating honeybees into riparian corridors that are rarely utilized, yet can provide multiple benefits to landowners when managed with care. Many native shrubs grow products like berries and bees in riparian plantings. The Kootenays are replete with small private land parcels endowed with streams. These riparian corridors are nearly utilized, yet can provide multiple benefits to landowners when managed with care. Many native shrubs grow products like berries and honey.

Silvertown School holds first-ever reunion at the Gallery

Silvertown School's first reunion took place on September 19, attended at the Silvertown Gallery, sponsored by the Slocan Lake Gallery Society. Everyone is invited to attend. The two-story school, now home to the Gallery, opened in 1917, replacing the old school house which had become too small to accommodate the children of the village's growing population.

Saskia & Darrel tour the Kootenays

Vancouver Island folk musicians Saskia & Darrel, The Great Plains, tour the Kootenays this month, with stops in Silvertown, Kaslo and Nelson. They’ll be at the Silvertown Gallery September 19, playing in advance at Mercedo in Silvertown for $10, or $12 at the door. The following day they play at the Kaslo Curling Club at 7:30 pm; tickets are $12 at Sunnyside Market, or call 250-353-7152. September 21 they will be in Nelson at Expressions; tickets at the door. Saskia & Darrel are well known throughout Canada for their years of playing with Gary Pickford and with folk legend Valdy. Their concert is billed as a "knot-warming evening of music, merriment, and mayhem.

Nakusp author Lucia Mann's third novel

Africa's Unfinished Symphony, the third novel by Nakusp author Lucia Mann, is now available at Amazon.com as well as in Nakusp at the Home Hardware and McIntosh Books.

Set in South Africa, the novel introduces several characters whose lives intersect between the years 1945 and 1994. The plot explores the clash between the old and new ways in South Africa, and the best and worst of a country in the era of expanding mining and milling. It operated as a school until the 1970s.

Ask the Professional with Louise Wilson

Why should I increase Liability on my auto insurance?

Liability protects the registered owner of a vehicle by covering you in the event you cause injuries, property damage, or other damages. It is typically sold in $100,000 per person/$300,000 per accident coverage levels. If you are at fault in an accident, your auto insurance policy will pay for the damages up to your policy limits.

Selkirk's Health Care Assistant program gets more seats

Selkirk College's Health Care Assistant Certificate Program opened up 10 additional seats for this fall's program. The extra seats have helped meet interest and demand, as well as employer needs in Selkirk's northern communities. The additional 10 seats were reserved for students from Nakusp, Kaslo and New Denver. Before the end of July, they had filled up for the fall's program. Students will complete a variety of online courses, on-campus classroom courses and lab work in the Arrow Lakes Hospital and pop institutions in local community facilities.

Village of Silverton Thanks

The all volunteers, sponsors, businesses, residents & funders for making Silverton's Communities in Bloom a great success!
CLASSIFIED ADS

RDCK invests in Kootenay Energy
submitted
The RDCK will help its residents save energy and money while lowering its carbon emissions through its investment in the Kootenay Energy Diet for FortisBC customers.

Up to 276 householders in the RDCK will be eligible to save $25 off the initial home energy assessment when they sign up for the FortisBC Kootenay Energy Diet (KED). This is an additional reduction in cost from the already discounted fee of $60, originally valued at $400 per household.

“There are several ways that local governments can achieve carbon neutrality. The RDCK is a strong local initiative that will reduce energy consumption, save the homeowner money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Yvonne Godin, General Manager of Development Services. “A similar program in Rossland in 2012 was extremely successful; participants have seen reductions in their energy bills from 20 to 50 percent.”

The RDCK is allocating up to $5,000 from the Energy Conservation Reserve Fund, money specifically set aside to fund greenhouse gas reduction projects and/or purchase carbon offsets.

The RDCK will contribute to a total of 276 home energy assessments, which in turn would make them eligible to receive the resulting carbon offsets from participants’ energy improvements.

An agreement is being finalized between the province and utilities allowing governments to be eligible to claim the reductions achieved from any retrofits completed by RDCK participants when they invest in the Kootenay Energy Diet.

The objective of the KED is to help residents save money on their energy bills and improve their homes’ comfort. In addition to a home assessment for a fraction of the usual cost, participating residents will also have help accessing LiveSmart BC and FortisBC rebate programs and be eligible for funding from local credit unions.

To sign up for the Kootenay Energy Diet, attend one of the upcoming ‘Energy-ventures’ (information sessions) or register online at fortisbc.com/energylife. ‘Energy-ventures’ are scheduled in Spokane September 10, Creston September 11 and Kaslo September 12.

Immune 2 Obstacle is a hard-driving, progressive rock duo based in the Slocan Valley. Inverters guitar playing, roof-raising vocals and explosive drumming characterize the efforts of these two musical rock explorers. Featured with classic rock, metal, and Metal Lord, your musical needs will be satisfied. At the Silverton Gallery on Saturday, September 14 at 8 pm, tickets are $10.
Wildfires in the area are being allowed to burn

by Jan McNamara

Most of the wildfires currently burning in our region are being monitored and will not be fought.

Southwest Fire Centre Information Officer Brandon Raynor explained why: they are not threatening any communities or structures; they are in dangerous terrain for firefighters; and fire is a natural and healthy part of the ecosystem.

"Fire is a natural component of the ecosystem and has regenerative properties for forest conditions. It is beneficial and necessary to maintain a healthy forest and the diversity of plant and animal life. Through evolution and exposure to wildfires, many plants and animals have adapted to fire, and in fact actually depend on it," she said.

Shaugnessy also explained that the Province has shifted its focus from fire suppression to fire management.

"For many years, the BC Forest Service practised aggressive initial attack by attacking all wildfires to the point of excluding fire from any area that may have lead to an unnatural build-up of forest vegetation (fuels) and an increase in insect population spread. The BC Forest Service now recognizes that in some scenarios, it is a waste of resources and does not need to practice fire management, not fire exclusion.

"Today, our policy is to take appropriate action on all wildfires. Where there are identified values at risk, the BC Forest Service will maintain an aggressive initial attack. Where identified values may be affected from wildfire, the BC Forest Service may select a more appropriate ecological action." "The Wee Sandy Creek fire, when discovered on August 26, was under one hectare but had spread to eight hectares as of September 2. Very visible from New Denver-Silverton, it is burning in a remote area of the park and is not threatening any trails or structures. Shaugnessy reported that because the fire is under control, for the time being, the fire will continue to burn until precipitation extinguishes it.

"We are monitoring the situation very closely and are working with BC Parks," she said. "The decision to let the fire burn is a carefully considered one, made in conjunction with BC Parks, and is in accordance with the Valhall Park Fire Management Plan." "The helicopter flew over the fire on Monday, August 26 and Tuesday, August 27 was assessing the fire. During this assessment, a wildfire management officer used a helicopter to fly over the fire to visually inspect it. The fire was located near the fire and assessed the fire from the ground." reported Shaugnessy.

Another Valhall Park fire burning approximately five kilometers west of the Wee Sandy fire was 2.1 hectares on September 2. It is also in a dangerous terrain and not threatening any structures or communities.

The Beavert Creek fire in Valhall Park was four hectares when it was discovered September 2. It is 10 kilometres north of Slocan and on top of a ridge north of Beatrice Lake. On September 2, the day it was discovered, Shaugnessy reported that air tankers were laying fire guard around the fire and crews were being sent, as the fire is accessible.

The Dunn Creek fire, 1.5 kilometres east of the north arm of Dancan Lake, was 204 hectares on September 2, the largest fire burning in the Southeast Fire Centre area. It is in a dangerous terrain, not visible from any communities, and will be allowed to burn.

The Bernard Creek fire across Kootenay Lake from Kaslo was discovered September 1, and smoke from the fire is visible from Kaslo. Although it is very small (0.0015 hectares) and in a remote area, it is accessible, so one helicopter and one initial attack crew was fighting the fire on September 2.

Fujibayashi sculpture to grace Nakusp waterfront walkway

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council has accepted a sculpture by Tom Fujibayashi titled The Deepening Pace, which will be placed along the waterfront walkway. In response to a desire expressed by many in the community, as well as to fulfill one of the directions from the cultural scan of 2009, the arts council has made it possible for this stone sculpture to be a monument to the recognition of our region's cultural background, and to be an inspiration to artists, youth, passersby and visitors to our area.

"We are happy that one of our own local artists will be recognized for the talent and skill for which he has been acclaimed in many places around the world," said ALAC director Janet Rokco. "In honor of his achievement and to recognize the contribution of the Japanese-Canadian people who were interned in our area during the Second World War, there will be a dedication ceremony after the project is completed, and eventually an interpretive board will be added at the site." The funding for the execution of this project continues with a wine and chocolate tasting soiree to be held at the Nakusp Auditorium on Sunday September 15 from 6 to 9 pm. Admission will be a minimum $30 donation, which entitles each individual to six taste samples provided by Jannier's Chocolates and the Arrow Lakes Grapes Growers Society. Tax credit receipts will be available.

The providers will share information, and there will be a slide show presentation of Tom's work. Another sculpture, 33,300 value titled Bird of Pace, was donated by Tom and his wife Lisa to be raffled to help with the fundraising campaign.

SLOCAN LAKE GOLF COURSE

AGM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
7:00 PM
CLUBHOUSE – 101 Golf Course Rd.
EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
Crucial items to the function of your club will be addressed

NOTICE
Business Opportunity
BURTON HISTORIC PARK & CAMPGROUND
Campground Operating Contract

The Burton Community Hall Association advises that the Campground & Park Contract operating agreement is under review. We are undertaking a process to review the contract agreement for the coming camp season(s). November 30, 2013 to October 31, 2014.

The campground and park in an appreciable community asset and serves residents and visitors alike. Located in Burton, the campground is surrounded by beach/take on 3 sides and has many amenities. The operator will be actively involved in running and maintaining the campground & park and continuing to develop the business through their skills and efforts.

Would you like to participate or learn more about this opportunity &/or would like to submit a proposal you can contact one of the following park committee volunteers as listed below for more information: John Monro (jmonro@burtoncolby.ca), Brian Harrop (brian@burtoncolby.ca), Harry May (hmay@burtoncolby.ca), Wayne Cromwell (cwrcromwell@burtoncolby.ca), Al RAblton (arlton@burtoncolby.ca).

This opportunity expires September 30, 2013.

Household Hazardous Waste Round-Ups
Saturday, September 21, 2013
11:00 am-2:00 pm
Nakusp Arena
200-8th Avenue NW

Saturday, October 5, 2013
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Castlegar & District Community Complex (North End) 2012 Sixth Avenue

Free Disposal for Residential Household Hazardous Waste
Bring your items with poisonous, flammable or corrosive labels for safe disposal and recycling.

No Explosives, Ammunition, Flares, Radioactive Materials, or Bio-Hazardous Waste. No Commercial, Institutional or Industrial Wastes will be accepted.

Unwanted electronics will be accepted at the Nakusp Round-up ONLY. For a complete list of electronic items accepted visit www.return-it.ca/electronics/products

For a complete list of items accepted visit www.rdck.bc.ca

For more information visit www.rdck.bc.ca or call 1-800-268-7325

Millions of Toadlets on Road!
At Summit Lake the tiny, blue-green toadlets are presently migrating over the highway and through culverts under the highway to their upland habitat where they will mature into adults. They hibernate in burrows up to 1.3m underground.

Stelan Lake Stewardship Society
Stelanlakes.com
New federal ridings split up West Kootenay communities

by Jan McMurtry

The final federal riding boundaries were tabled in the House of Commons August 21. The communities in the Valley Voice coverage area are now divided into three federal ridings.

The re-configured Kootenay-Columbia riding includes Kaslo and Area D, Nelson, Salmo, Creston, RDCK Electoral Areas A-G (Nelson and Creston areas), the Regional District of East Kootenay, Revelstoke and Golden.

The re-configured BC Southern Interior riding is now called South Okanagan-West Kootenay and includes Nakusp and the part of Area K on the east side of the Arrow Lakes (Burton and Fairquisite), New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H, Castlegar and Areas I and J, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (includes Trail), Penticton, Oliver and Osoyoos, Edgewood and Arrow Park (RDCK Area K communities on the west side of the Arrow Lakes) have been included in the North Okanagan-Shuswap riding.

“...that’s a tremendous chunk of people who appeared at the public consultation meetings wanted,” commented BC Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko.

Both Atamanenko and David Wilks, MP for Kootenay-Columbia, appeared before the House of Commons Procedure Committee following the public consultation period, but their suggestions were not heeded.

Atamanenko suggested keeping the riding the same as the current BC Southern Interior riding, emphasizing that Nelson, Castlegar and Trail should be in the same constituency. He also felt Penticton and Summerland should stay together in the same riding, as they are now.

Penticton has a population of 33,000 – that’s huge!” said Atamanenko. “That’s about the same as Nelson, Trail and Castlegar.

Jumbo Resort adjourns injunction application

Submitted Jumbo Glacier Resort has backed off its BC Supreme Court application to prevent residents from blocking a road into the Farnham Glacier 55 km west of Invermere. The resort was granted a general adjournment in a Vancouver courtroom August 26, but the Justice ordered that vice president Grant Costello must be present at any future hearings.

“We challenged them publicly to show what authority they have to cat-
ski and after the Farnham Glacier,” said Johnson’s Lund resident Rob Meane, the defendant in the resort’s application.

In late July, about a dozen Kootenay residents set up a camp next to the Farnham Glacier road 50 km west of Invermere to monitor the resort’s activities at the glacier. They discovered that Jumbo Glacier Resorts intended to engage in unauthorized work on the glacier, Meane said.

“We were concerned that the resort was going to alter the Farnham Glacier to allow for cat skiing on the glacier in August. According to the agreement the resort signed with the province, any alteration of any glacier is prohibited.,”

Jumbo Glacier Resorts Ltd filed an injunction application on August 15, 2013 in Vancouver, saying that they were prevented from accessing the glacier by a van blocking the roadway on Saturday, August 10.

“The van wasn’t really blocking their passage, and the work they wanted to do was unauthorized,” said Meane. “The whole thing is like a game of chess.”

Two applications to stop construction of the resort have already been filed in BC Supreme Court.

One, by the Ktunaxa people in the East Kootenays, contends that the Jumbo Glacier Resort failed to consult them and that the Jumbo Valley has significant sacred values for the people. This application is set to be heard over 10 days in January of 2014.

The second application by the West Kootenay EcoSociety in Nelson alleges that the appointment of municipality status to the resort by the Province of BC contravenes the Charter of Rights. No court dates have been set to hear this application.

Meane said that opposition remains strong to the 5,000 bed resort that has been contentious since it was proposed more than 20 years ago.

“A vast majority of Kootenay residents still oppose this resort. It’s their backyard and they know it won’t benefit them in the long run,” Meane said.