New recycling proposal seems designed to fail in rural areas

by Jan McMurray

The recycling game will be played differently in BC as of May 19, 2014, and many local governments throughout the province agree that the new rules are either not clear or impossible to play by.

This promises to be a hot topic at the Union of BC Municipalities convention September 16-20.

The Province decided in 2011 that the cost of recycling should shift from local governments and their taxpayers to industry and their consumers. In response, industry set up a non-profit organization called Multi-Material BC (MMBC) to design the new recycling system.

Although local governments in our area strongly support shifting the cost of recycling away from taxpayers and auto industry, they have concluded that the new system has been poorly designed and is likely to fail, especially in rural areas.

“Local governments have spent over 20 years making recycling a part of everyone’s expectations and behavior. To remove or significantly reduce the opportunity to recycle will not be well received,” warns RDCK Chair John Kettle in a letter to the Minister of Environment.

As part of the new recycling system design, MMBC offered local governments “financial incentives” to operate recycling depots and/or curbside recycling programs in their communities. MMBC gave local governments a deadline of September 16 to accept or decline the incentives – essentially to decide whether or not they would stay in the recycling game.

Many local governments declined, as their analysis of the offer showed that the funds were stacked against them.

Some of the problems are:

- Inadequate “financial incentives” offered to local governments by MMBC to provide the service, necessitating a taxpayers’ subsidy – the very thing the new system is supposed to eliminate.
- The costly requirement to fence and staff recycling depots; unreasonable insurance requirements for depots; unreasonable penalties for contamination; the responsibility to track the recyclables up to 60 kilometres away in the case of a curbside service; no provision for service to businesses in the curbside service; lack of information about depot service standards; poor communication between MMBC and stakeholders.

Among the local governments that declined the offer were the RDCK, and the Villages of New Deer, Silverton and Slocan. Kaslo and Nakusp both accepted the incentives to deliver a curbside program, but with strong qualifiers. Both will communicate their disappointment with the insufficient information available to make an informed decision, and Kaslo will make it clear that it will not subsidize the program, and that its acceptance is subject to the willingness of the current garbage collection contractor to negotiate a new garbage and recycling collection contract.

The local governments that have declined the incentives have handed over the responsibility of delivering the recycling service to MMBC.

MMBC’s plan is to issue Requests for Proposals. But because most local governments in our area have concluded that the financial incentive offered by MMBC will not cover the cost of the service with all of its new requirements, they are concerned that companies submitting proposals will come to the same conclusion, resulting in no recycling services for our communities. They fear that this will also inevitably result in more recyclables going to the transfer stations and landfills, incuring more costs for taxpayers.

New Denver Mayor Anna Buska wrote a letter to the Minister of Environment on September 12, outlining council’s concerns with the program. “I fear that if local government cannot make this work when we are simply trying to break even that it will not be profitable for the private sector. It is more than likely we will end up with no recycling in the rural area...I fear this proposal is set up to fail in the rural and small communities and will set us back in attempting to improve recycling, cost allocation and reduction of packaging.”

Uli Wolf, RDCK’s General Manager of Environmental Services,inda in a report to the RDCK board, “The information provided by MMBC is simply inadequate for us to tell whether all residents will have reasonable access to recycling or be expected to travel long distances. The flaw appears to be insufficient detail in the approved stewardship plan and hence the responsibility falls to the Ministry of Environment. If the MMBC program falls short of the expectations of residents, there could be considerable backlash, some of which would inevitably be directed at the RDCK.”

The program should be transferring 100 percent of the costs to the stewardship agency, so the only way to make sure that happens is for local governments to step away,” said Raymond Gondert, RDCK’s Acting Resource Recovery Manager. “Then it becomes a political game to make sure the service levels are maintained for residents.”

The political pressure seems to be working somewhat. In the face of discontent from many local governments in the province, MMBC has backtracked a bit. In a press release issued late in the day on Friday, September 13, MMBC states that after receiving requests from some local governments for additional time to consider the offer, the organization will continue discussions with these local governments in order that they might become part of MMBC’s program “at a later date” – meaning sometime after May 19.

RDCK staff’s financial analysis shows that currently, the taxpayers pay $798,000 for the 26 recycling depots throughout the district. “That money would be freed up if someone else took on the responsibility of providing the recycling service,” said Uli Wolf, RDCK’s General Manager of Environmental Services. “That taxation could be eliminated, or it could be used for a composting program, which is the next step in our Resource Recovery Plan – to get organics out of the landfill and use them for rehabilitation or productivity of agricultural lands.”

Anna Wright shows off the winning garlic wreath at this year’s Hills Garlic Festival. More Hills Garlic Festival photos on page 12.

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Visitor Information - Page 15
Kayakers successfully paddle the Incomappleux, raising awareness of park proposal

by Ian McMurray

The Edzard Creeks Expedition team successfully navigated the Incomappleux River by whitewater kayak September 3-5.

"It was the trip of a lifetime—I hope to do it again someday," said Carl Jack, expedition leader.

The expedition members included eight kayakers— from South Slocan, New Denver, Rossland, Revelstoke and Edmonton—and one photographer from Nelson who made the journey on foot. "The Incomappleux was one of the last remaining rivers to be paddled in the province, and we all agreed it falls into the top ten whitewater adventure experiences in BC," said Jack.

The six-day trip began with two and a half days of hiking in, each team member with a fully loaded kayak on his back, followed by two and a half days of paddling and portaging. "It was by far the most challenging expedition yet," commented Jack. "At times, we wondered why we were spending our holidays this way! And three of us celebrated our birthdays on the trip!"

The purpose of the expedition was not only to take on the whitewater challenge, however. The expedition members also wanted to bring attention to the Valhalla Wilderness Society'S Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposal, which includes the Upper Incomappleux Valley.

"I try to attach an environmental initiative to all my expeditions, and I really want to raise public awareness of the VWS park proposal and this river—it speaks a lot of mystery and mysticism," said Jack.

The river runs through an ancient rainforest with up to 1800-year-old trees, contiguous to Glacier National Park. Jacks described the landscape as "something out of a magical movie like Fern Gully."

Jack's said one of the highlights of the trip was portaging down into a grove of old growth cedar. "We did a 360-degree pan around and found ourselves surrounded by trees 20 feet around and 250 feet tall. Wow! We felt we had fallen down the rabbit hole in Alice in Wonderland and were magically transported," recalled Jack.

"It was like being in a totally different reality."

Adding to the mystery of the river is the failed expedition of July 2003. Three people lost their lives in an attempt to kayak the river, and their bodies were never found.

"Many people see the river as mysterious and dangerous, and this has generated a lot of interest in our expedition," said Jack.

Kootenay Mountains Culture Magazine will feature a story on the expedition in next summer’s edition. Mountain Equipment Co-op provided the team with a grant, and plans to highlight the expedition in some of their marketing initiatives.

The footage of the trip will now be compiled into a video about 15 minutes long, to be premiered at the North Valley Film Festival in New Denver in February, if all goes well. Jacks said they may try to show the video at the B fund Film Festival, as well.

The team members were Carl Jacks and Randy Spears of New Denver, Sun Butler, (youngest paddler at age 17) of South Slocan, Sven Porschmann of Rosland, Sean Bodewicz, Christian Foster and Sam Ericson of Revelstoke, Stephen Paetich of Edmonton; and Steve Oggle, photographer from Nelson.

BC Hydro's draft power plan released for consultation

The provincial government has told BC Hydro to release its draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and undertake a final round of consultation with First Nations, key stakeholders and the public.

The draft IRP includes BC Hydro's recommended actions to meet an expected 40 per cent increase in the province's electricity demand over the next 20 years. "While keeping rates affordable," the government says, "BC Hydro produced an initial draft of the IRP for public consultation in May 2012. Additional consultations, which will take place until October 18, will provide the opportunity for comments on changes that have been made to the draft IRP since that time. Government says it has also directed BC Hydro to seek additional feedback on the variables that can impact electricity costs and on its contingency plans to address those variables."

Following these consultations, BC Hydro will review its IRP for consideration by government by November 15.

CUPE Update submitted

Bargaining dates set for next week between the Canadian Union of Public Employees K-12 bargaining unit and the provincial government are crucial to achieving a contract settlement, but CUPE BC President Mark Hancock says if the BC Liberal government doesn't drop its demands for contract concessions, "members will have no choice but to stage a full-scale province-wide strike."

Hancock says his members have been patient and understand the impact of job action on students but the province’s "demands that our members actually receive less in a new contract are out of line with what’s happened at other provincial negotiating tables."

The union says the government’s most recent contract offer offers less than a zero per cent increase, at the same time as other provincial sectors received increases of two per cent or more. CUPE represents 27,000 workers in the K-12 sector in BC.
Growing unrest over insufficient health care in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

The citizens of Kaslo have had enough of the doctor shortage and spotty emergency room hours in their community. About 100 people, mostly seniors, turned out to demonstrate for an hour in front of the health care centre the morning of September 16.

Tyler Dobie, key organizer of the demonstration, said the group has decided to create a petition, which will be available at Kaslo Community Pharmacy and other locations in Kaslo and up the lake.

"When I asked for input about the wording of a petition, I was surprised by the resounding, unanimous sentiment that it should say that we will take our hospital back from Interior Health if they cannot fix the problem," said Dobie.

Dobie feels that the system prior to the creation of Interior Health was much more effective and efficient, reported Dobie. "Our hospital was run by a volunteer board of directors for 100 years before IH took over. Under IH, we have a top-heavy bureaucracy of highly paid executives taking money out of the budget that should be going to front line staff," he stated.

A former hospital board member at the event said that the facility’s budget was $12.2 million when he was on the board, and 80 percent of that was for wages for about 30 staff. Dobie said the Kaslo Health Care Working Group and Mayor Greg Ley have asked Interior Health about the centre’s current budget, but have not had a response.

"The consensus was that a volunteer board of locals did a much better job of managing the hospital than IH has for the past 12 years," said Dobie.

Another suggestion was to use Interior Health for inadequate levels of care. Residents at the demonstration feel that IH is not meeting its obligations under the Canada Health Act.

The group is calling on community members to submit written accounts of how the lack of services in Kaslo has directly impacted their health. People are asked to drop off their stories at Kaslo Community Pharmacy or to email them to tyler@kaslo.org. "The more stories we have documenting how the doctor shortage and ER blacksouts have affected people, the more of a case we can build," said Dobie.

Anyone who wishes to stay informed about this group’s work can email tyler@kaslo.org to be added to an email list of Kaslo citizens concerned about their community health care services.

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Smart meter opt-out programs proposed

by Jan McMurray

The smart meter opt-out programs are taking shape.

Both FortisBC and BC Hydro have come up with the fees they’d like to charge their customers for opting out of their smart meter programs. These fees must be approved by the BC Utilities Commission before they come into effect.

FortisBC proposes to provide a smart meter with the radio turned off for an initial set-up fee of $110, plus $22 for each manual read of the meter ($11 per month for most customers). FortisBC does not have an option that allows customers to keep their old meters.

BC Hydro proposes to provide a smart meter with the radio turned off for a set-up fee of $100 plus a monthly fee of $20. The company proposes to allow customers to keep their old meters for a monthly fee of $35. However, the old meters will be phased out. Under the BC Hydro proposal, customers who move will only be able to choose a radio-off smart meter or a radio-on smart meter. When old meters break or the measurement Canada accuracy ceases, BC Hydro will replace them as long as existing stock lasts.

FortisBC’s application seeking approval for the fees is on schedule before the BCUC.

BC Hydro has not yet submitted its application to BCUC, but has sent a letter and fact sheet with the proposed fees to all of its customers who do not have a smart meter. The fact sheet states that the opt-out options aren’t available to customers who already have smart meters or to commercial account holders.

Hydro has asked customers to fill out a simple form confirming their chosen option by December 1, 2013. "If you do not confirm your choice by December 1, 2013, BC Hydro will not exchange the meter at your home and the cost of servicing an old meter will be added to your bill," states the fact sheet.

BC Hydro’s fact sheet also states that the fees associated with the radio-off meters will be included on your bill as of April 1, 2014, whereas the $15 per month fee for keeping the old meter will be included starting December 2, 2013.

Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) has issued a "clarification and response" to BC Hydro customers, strongly encouraging them “against signing this new contract.”

CST has filed a class action suit against BC Hydro to fight for no fee opt out.

Texas Hold’em

September 28

7 PM in the Nakusp Legion Hall

Tickets are $50 from lounge or office and some members have tickets for sale.

Doors open at 6:30}

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Community Calendar

Thursday, September 19
The Greatest Show (Sasik & Darrell)
Silverton Galery 7:30 pm

Friday, September 20
The Great Plains (Sasik & Darrell)
Kaslo United Church 7:30 pm
Smist Barber Fair Open
Smist Fairgrounds 6:00 pm

Saturday, September 21
Smist Barber Fair
Smist Fairgrounds All Day

HE Graham Community Service Society AGM
Piacenza Piacenti 7:00 pm

Comparing Poultry Processing Waste Whirl
Piacenza Piacenti 7:10 - 11 pm

The Great Plains (Sasik & Darrell)
Nelson Expressions 7:00 pm

Cass Creek Fair
Cass Creek 8:00 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 22

Kaslo Day at the Smist Barber Fair
Smist Fairgrounds All Day

Pass Creek Fall Fair
Pass Creek 8:00 - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, September 24

Barber Meyers Art Opening
Studio Conception 11 am - 4 pm

Public Forum on the Slocan MiW Site
Slocan Legion 7 - 8:00 pm

Demahky String Quartet
Slocan Housing Society AGM
BC Graham School 7:00 pm

New Cemetery plans
Silverton council

Kaslo council

Raksha Day
Kaslo Health Care Group Public Meeting
Kaslo Legion Hall 7 - 9:00 pm

Thursday, September 26

Demahky String Quartet
Silverton Galery 7:00 pm

Friday, September 27

Lucerne Harvest Festival
Lucerne School 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Jackrake Till Grand Opening
Upset Brook Log 10:30 am

Columbia Basin Trust AGM
Elliston Centre 4:00 pm

Moving Mountains
Silverton Galery 5:00 pm

Michael Guthrie
Silverton Galery 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 28

Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament
As Evening of Song
Nakusp Legion Hall 6:00 pm

BC Rivers Day Celebrations
Silverton Mountie Hall 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 29

Jackson Sound
Appalachi Centre 10 am - 4:00 pm

Cass Creek Fair Clean up Day
Cross Valley Trailhead 10 am

Monday, September 30

Slocan Lake Golf Club AGM
The Clubhouse 7:00 pm
Is the TV Society obsolete?

I have long of the opinion that we shouldn’t waste our tax dollars on television. When the AHA North TV Society asked in a 1995 referendum for taxpayer support, I became incensed. Not only did I vote against the measure, but I wrote a letter to the editor of this newspaper decrying this tax grab.

Unfortunately, a majority of my neighbours disagreed, and I have paying $55/100,000 of assessed property over time. In the past the Rosetown school I live, I can’t even get the TV Society’s signals. Over the years I’ve tried a variety of antennas, but have never been able to get a decent signal.

I must admit that I haven’t tried all that hard. Someone once suggested that I mount an antenna on the peak of my roof, but I’ve never gotten around to it.

I don’t like television, and I insist that this colours my views. I have seen some really insightful documentaries over the years, and I must admit that television news brings a certain naivete to an issue, but mostly I regard it as a waste of time.

Not that I don’t waste time, but I’d rather waste my time on something else.

I am quite content to have just the CBC for the national news.

With the advent of the free satellite TV service that Shaw is offering, the need for the TV Society is clearly at an end. Most of us in AHA North have satellite dishes already, and those that don’t will be getting them soon.

The free service through Shaw gives me four versions of the CBC (including one from the Northwest Territories that lets me watch the news an hour earlier) a couple of CCTV stations, Global, Knowledge Network. I think there’s an American station in there, too, but there’s never anything on it.

The only reason to continue to support the TV Society is if you’re fond of American television and want your neighbours to continue to subsidize the four channels that you receive, instead of buying an upgrade to your free satellite service.

I am tired of subsidizing a service that I don’t need, nor want. There is a petition that you can sign, here in the Valley Voice, if you agree with me. The letters pages of this newspaper are open if you don’t.

Kaslo health care

Is there any truth to the murmurs that Interior Health, which is responsible for the operation and maintenance of our hospitals, is requiring any doctors who wish to work in Kaslo to sign a contract that will make them responsible for keeping the emergency facilities open 24/7? As doctors are reluctant to take on this responsibility, the residents of Kaslo are left with the alternative of going to Nelson for appointments.

Patrick Mackie
Kaslo

Friends of Old Arrow Park

This August 9-11, I enjoyed

Douglas Mole
Fanny Bay (Vancouver Island)

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

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

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous.

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

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AS ADRIAN CONTEMPLATES HIS FUTURE AS LEADER OF THE NDP, OTHERS WORK TOWARD RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PARTY.

GIVING UP

What was your thought, or your gut reaction maybe, when you read those two words: “giving up”? Was it, “amnum, not?” I hope so because giving up is not “letting go” and the obvious increasing need for the latter doesn’t mean that we give in to giving up, as in not standing one’s ground when the going gets rough.

Andy Shadrock commented that folks seem to be giving up on the smart meter fight. No wonder! The BC Utilities Commission’s response to the two weeks of hearings in February on the Fortis BC AMI (smart meters) application was not OK. At the hearings, evidence was given by international lawyers, doctors and scientists pretty much proving that they were not safe enough to be given the go ahead. And all Fortis BC has offered is the questionable “opt out” (which we will have to pay extra for). But hey, if you don’t stay in the fight, then you’re no longer in the fight, right? It always takes a while but recognize how hard it would be to convince anyone nowadays that smoking is good for your health. The wireless issue will likely be similar.

So this is round two and if most of us opt out then we increase safety for us and maybe we can avoid the price hike too. BCUC is now considering the Fortis BC applications on the opt-out option, and they are calling for intervenors. Some folks, including Mr. Shadrock, are courageously stepping up to the plate once again.

Not giving up.

Dwayne Fields
Slocan

Petition to save old growth in the Duncan

After writing to Blue Ridge Land and Timber Management Ltd. and sending a copy of said letter to GARTH WIGGILL, District Manager of Kootenay Lake Forest District, regarding the proposed logging of the small stand of old growth cedars at 58 km on the Duncan River Forest Service Road, we decided to begin an online petition with change.org to gauge public opinion.

To date, we have over 300 signatures from around the world. The petition is titled BC Timber Sales: Stop cutting old growth cedars in the Duncan River area. It is also on our Facebook page under Duncan Defenders. There will also be a hard copy available in Nelson (if it’s not already) and we could use more volunteers to help collect signatures in smaller communities. Contact: duncancedefenders@gmail.com.

Recently we received word from Russ Larochelle, BC Timber Sales Woodlands Manager. He claims we are backing up the wrong tree because BCCT has nothing to do with this area of the Duncan. He has posted a comment on the change.org petition page: “Please correct your petition. This area on the Duncan FSR is not within BC Timber Sales operating area and therefore we have no plans for harvesting in this location.”

I thought that BCCT approved or denied the cutting permits being applied for. Please correct me if I’m wrong. We are also interested in preserving the old growth left at 59 km, on the other side of the river. These two stands of ancient trees provide the last old growth contiguous corridor left to the many animals that use it. I was informed that the trees at 59 km, which also hold a heritage mail, would be on the logging hit list in 10 years or so. We want it protected today. It is a magical forest to walk in.

If you care about our ancient forests or want to help us save them, please sign our petition or get in touch with us. There are roughly 1,000 trees in these combined stands. They are vital to the wildlife that inhabit them, but it seems that the industry couldn’t care less. The Duncan has already been decimated by the dam. Can’t we save even a little bit?

Gabriela Grabowsky
Meadow Creek
The joys of being a Fortis monopoly customer

Ah, the joys of being a Fortis monopoly customer. As we know, the corporation has locked out its staff and promised that, through the efficiency and competence of management, our service would be undisturbed.

When one tree fell on a North Kootenay Lake line between 7:40 am and 8:27 am, power went out. When the linemen are active, such events usually take 20-50 minutes before they are found, corrected and the power comes on again. On this occasion, however, the managers were on the job, and power did not come on till about 1 pm, a lapse of more than a working day.

My sympathy is with the businesses in Kaslo which had to close for the day with consequential loss of income during busy travel season, and with many of the citizens who were discommoded.

I have a little sympathy left over for myself, because I live in a downstairs suite where all the drainage is pumped from a small sump up to the septic tank. Very occasionally, when the power goes off, the clock valve fails, and the interior contents of about 32 litres of two half-inch sewer pipes reach in haste, hurrying through the sump and escaping joyfully up and out of the toilet to, I am sure, erstwhile levers and bounds. Unfortunately, I was out of the house at the time and missed this celebration – but not its immediate aftermath, the smell that connected wall and bedroom carpet with what may be better appreciated than decently described. I did not share in the rejoicing, and in my surprise I distinctly heard certain words of disapprobation also not described.

In reflection, it would be a wonderful thing if managers could keep to their own business, part of which includes keeping their workers reasonably satisfied and hence costing for their customers. Let the cobbler stick to his last. I know it is difficult when you have a monopoly: you tend to forget customers, as they can’t escape. But some of us want, from time to time, and this is one of them.

Rev. F. Mark Moelling, Ph.D.
Kasco

Minister of Environment's Op-Ed on Water Sustainability Act

Fresh water is one of British Columbia's most valuable natural resources. It flows through our rivers, supports our salmon runs and quenches our thirst. It is the lifeblood of our province and, as a limited resource, must be cared for wisely to ensure its continued health and security for future generations. As Minister of BC's Water Act was a key commitment in our government's election platform.

Premier Christy Clark has directed me to continue consultation with British Columbians to develop a new Water Sustainability Act with the intention of passing new legislation in 2014. The new act will update and replace the existing Water Act, respond to current and future pressures on water, and position BC as a leader in water stewardship.

We started working on the proposed new act in 2009 and have engaged widely with British Columbians. In the more than 2,200 written submissions, individual citizens, First Nations organizations and stakeholder groups shared their ideas and pride for their rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds.

Government has reviewed this input carefully and continues to refine the legislative proposals to better understand sector concerns and work out the details of how the new act will be implemented.

We recognize one of the greatest weaknesses of the existing Water Act is its inability to address a few exceptions – it is not currently regulated in BC. As such, the Province does not license or charge for withdrawing groundwater. This is why regulating groundwater use will be a key component of the new Water Sustainability Act.

I acknowledge that First Nations in BC being a unique perspective due to strong cultural, ecological and economic interests in water. The BC government will work to engage First Nations as we refine and implement the proposed Water Sustainability Act. My predecessors and I have met with members of the First Nations Leadership Council and I plan to meet with them again later this fall.

I continue to be impressed by the strong interest British Columbians have taken in their water resources.

What government does is only part of the solution. All British Columbians are challenged to play their part to protect, preserve and conserve our water. I look forward to introducing the new Water Sustainability Act in the legislature in 2014.

For more information on the proposed Water Sustainability Act, please visit: wwwlivingwatersmart.ca/water act

Mary Polak
BC Minister of Environment
Kasco's airport sees improvements

Substantial progress is being made towards making the airport safer for the flying public. As a high time pilot, I can tell you all that the Kootenayans are a beautiful but very user-friendly place to fly. In the event of inclement weather, skiing conditions or mechanical problems, fires are very few places to safely land. There are steep mountains, very few strait or level roads, and very cold lakes. Where even a safe ditching would likely lead to death in a small plane, Kaslo is the only place to safely land for many miles in any direction.

The Kaslo Village crew has gravedled, graded and packed the shoulders of the runway. They did a fine job. Kaslo's runway is narrow, and before this work was done, if a plane had landed on the runway, and went off the edge of the paving while landing at high speed, there would have been a serious accident and potential fatalities. The cost of this work, using gravel from Kaslo's own municipal gravel pit, was only about $30,000, including labour. The Village has also obtained new windsocks at each runway end and are awaiting installation, at a cost of less than $30,000, including labour.

Repointing the runway markings to Transport Canada standards should also be done shortly, at a total cost of about $60,000. After that, the only remaining safety item in the feeling of safety is the light on the pole, which is located up at the end of the runway – several hundred dollars in cost at most. All told, correcting safety deficiencies at the Kaslo Airport will cost Village taxpayers less than $15,000. These funds are available from an airport reserve fund that has about $20,000 in it.

All work not only makes the airport safer for pilots and passengers in the skies around Kaslo, but it makes Kaslo an acceptable airport for even larger pilots who are flying passengers or goods for hire. It means that medical-evacuation flights can come into Kaslo on a regular basis. Last year, there were some 95 medical-evacuation flights into and out of Nelson's airport. It also makes possible commercial charter flights into Kaslo, linking us to places like Calgary, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Spokane and Seattle as a part of the National Transportation network, as are all Canadian and US airports.

The cost of a one-hour charter flight to Calgary or Edmonton can be quite reasonable, particularly when compared to the time and cost of driving.

The Kaslo Airport Project Advisory Group (KAPAG), of which I am a member, would also like to thank the many local organizations that have supported Kaslo's airport. It is only a few months ago that we were able to secure the necessary funds to build the airport.

I am pleased to announce that the airport is now open for business.

I apologize to you all, and I want you to know that I don't do this to annoy anyone – I am only trying to do my job.

The company I work for is a contract trucking company based out of the West Kootenay. We handle cargo ranging from dry goods, all types of vehicles, to many other, more perishable, including fruits and vegetables, bread, milk products (liquid and cultured), cheeses, fresh seafood, all types of processed food products and ice cream. We service all of the small communities from Crescent Valley to Nelson, and Nelson to Kaslo, to the larger communities to restaurants, golf courses, gas stations, markets, liquor stores, beer and wine stores, LRS outlets, hot springs, and hotels with an assortment of the products I have mentioned.

I have stated that, we carry many types of perishable food products, so, with extremely hot weather, I need to keep that truck cold. We are contracted and obligated to keep each type of temperature item at proper temperature. To achieve this, the system must operate all the time to work efficiently. I try to park as close to each receiving door as I can to make deliveries quick. One of our main concerns – as well as our customers' – is to deliver our orders on a reasonable time so that they have fresh, properly chilled food to prepare for their customers. I know all of my customers trust me to do all of the above, and I am very proud of the service that I have provided to all my customers for the last 17 years.

I have heard many reasons why I should turn off my rear fan unit, but I never move my truck. As an operator of a large truck, I can tell you we have very few options as to where we can park safely to do our deliveries. I am sure that many people don't realize that the lane behind the Treehouse Restaurant in Kaslo is a designated service lane for all trucks to use for deliveries.

In our case, we have a bulldozer on the passenger side of the vehicle where all the frozen products are kept. I feel it is my responsibility as the driver to make sure that my helper and myself are safe, as we have to climb in and out of that door all day long. The rest of the product gets brought out the back of the truck, down a ramp on a two-wheel hand dolly, and we then work toward our customers' receiving areas on both sides of the truck, thus making us vulnerable to injury if cars drive past on either side.

My plea to all residents and owners of Kaslo's and other rural communities' downtown cores is to please respect your local businesses' delivery vehicles, give us the room we need to service your community, and please try to be patient. We make our deliveries as quickly as possible, so we don't block traffic for very long, and we don't subject you to the noise of the rear units for very long. After all, we are making sure that the products in your restaurants and grocery stores are fresh – and don't give you or your family food poisoning!

We really appreciate encouraging and friendly comments from passers by. Other than that, they are not too difficult for us, as our job is labor intensive and our days are very long.

Thank you.

Mark Moelling
Nelson

Advertise in the Valley Voice. It pays!

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* email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca*
Life after the spill: How are Slocan Valley residents coping?

by Art Joyce

Now that the government has pulled out, an eerie silence seems to have settled over the valley. How are residents coping? Now that the Recovery of the fish in Winlaw is gone, what are peoples’ resources? Certainly the majority of Slocan Valley residents are out of danger. But for those living closest to ‘ground zero’ at Lemon Creek, the legacy of the spill lives on. The unique mix of tar and gravel on that delta means some pockets of jet fuel have remained. Understandably, some families still don’t feel safe exposing their children to their well water.

In answer to residents’ concerns, Area H Director Popoff has provided a $15,000 grant from his discretionary funds for the ongoing Slocan River ecological conservation plan and the effects of the spill on that plan, and the grant will cover the cost of some water testing for high risk wells that HAA was not able to do. For more information about this water testing, residents can call Annmarie Doerrksen (250-226-7361). Jennifer Yeow of Streamkeepers said they have received results from two samples taken from residents’ wells on August 29 and they are completely clear.

“It’s very encouraging to get these results — it’s really comprehensive tests that we’re doing,” she said.

This is good news, because although the Interior Health ban on water use expired on August 15th, that has not meant peace of mind for many valley residents. For Lemon Creek resident Jon Burden the odour of jet fuel in the air peaked between August 30 and September 2 — well after remediation crews had gone home. It took Interior Health a week to arrive and take samples. As recently as September 8 Burden could smell jet fuel in his toilet and sink.

“Today was the first day that I actually have been able to sit outside for any length of time,” Burden wrote in an email September 11. “There was no smell in the air and it has a resemblance to country air. By that I mean there are hints of the natural smells of grass and trees.”

Former Resilience Centre manager John Wittmayer and former Recovery Centre Manager Nelle Maexy have taken notes from valley residents from the beginning, recording some of the skin rash complaints to respiratory to chemical exposure and food and water issues. This documentation can be used in court or litigation proceedings, explains Wittmayer, or for personal claims against Executive Flight Centre.

“It is our inalienable right as Canadians to hold the institutions that are supposed to regulate us to provide safety, health, and public welfare — accountable for their actions and policies relating to this disaster,” he wrote on the Slocan River Emerging Concerns Facebook page. “It can also help knowing that people care about what happened to you and your family, and that you show solidarity with each other.”

Appledale resident Jane Flotron, who works as an herbalist, said she had severe allergic reactions. Many reports of children having suspicious rashes. She too experienced rashes in the immediate aftermath of the spill and a strange swelling on her foot five days later that her doctor couldn’t explain. One Appledale resident wrote of her seven-year-old son having a “nasty rash” in mid-August. A local resident, 15, had not been swimming in the river.

The day the Spaxel started work in Lemon Creek, I stopped taking samples for the entire week, says Flotron. “There were several cases of contact dermatitis that all came up that week. I’m not going to swim in the river until after next spring and I’m not letting my daughter in the river either.”

This is a case in point of the need for public access to airflow data to track the fuel vapour, especially in areas like Appledale known for contact dermatitis.

Wittmayer says Interior Health told her they have no plans to do a health study of those living in affected areas, citing patient-physician confidentiality.

“People are keeping, ‘I thought it was going to go away,’ or, ‘I’ll feel better after awhile,’” and it’s happening,” says Money. “That’s the one thing I saw clearly at the centre...’It’s the most vulnerable who suffer most — the elderly, children, and those who are immune compromised’.”

She says another issue that has been largely ignored by the provincial government is the effect on residents’ sustenance gardens and fishing to supplement their diets. Maexy also reported these concerns to HAA.

“People here depend on their gardens for winter food. There’s a whole community here who are growing whitefish and I feel they should go and do a test now to make sure the fish aren’t contaminated, so we can say, it’s safe to go fishing now, guys.”

Lemon Creek fuel spill: Streamkeepers seek active role in long-term monitoring

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan River Streamkeepers Society hopes to play an active role in the long-term monitoring of Lemon Creek and Slocan River after this summer’s fuel spill.

Jennifer Yeow of Streamkeepers reported that SNC-Lavalin, contracted by Executive Flight Centre (EFC) to complete the long-term monitoring plan by August 30, submitted the plan to EFC and the Ministry of Environment on September 11. She expects it to be released to Streamkeepers this week.

“We’ll be looking at it closely and will be submitting our comments and recommendations to the ministry and SNC,” said Yeow.

The Streamkeepers have been gathering data on the river for several years, and has done some water and sediment sampling since the spill. Yeow says she has spoken to Ministry of Environment representatives about the importance of the Streamkeepers’ data, particularly as baseline information for the long-term monitoring. “The Ministry of Environment acknowledges the work we’ve done and wants to see our monitoring continue,” said Yeow.

However, Yeow said SNC has indicated to the Streamkeepers that they would like to have access to the group’s data, but then continue with the monitoring on their own. “That’s not acceptable to us, so that needs to be resolved,” said Yeow. “For us to take the data and work we’ve done and give it to SNC and then walk away doesn’t make sense.”

The Streamkeepers envision all stakeholders involved in the long-term monitoring, not just SNC or SNC-Lavalin. “We’ve made it clear that we should have access to the data and there should be a committee with RDCK, Ministry of Environment, SNC and other stakeholders,” said Yeow.

The Streamkeepers will carry on with its established programs, said Yeow, which involves water sampling and fish counts, “but it doesn’t make sense if SNC is out there sampling and counting in the same place.”

The Streamkeepers have been working with Columbia Basin Trust.

continued on page 14
Michael Guthrie returns to the Kootenays

Part of the wave of idealistic and creative Americans who came to live in the Kootenays in the 1970s, Michael Guthrie and his late wife Darclyn ran the Village Green Café in Kaslo, one of the first folk venues of its kind in the Kootenays. The Village Green hosted many notable artists – Mike remembers when Bruce Cockburn stopped in unexpectedly to play a set – and was a centre for creativity and nightly jam sessions. Guthrie was also a founder of the Langham Cultural Society, a group that saved the Langham building from demolition and restored it to create the vibrant cultural centre it is today.

Now, Guthrie returns to perform, at the Langham on Saturday, September 21 and at the Silverton Gallery September 27. Show time at both venues is 7:30 pm, and admission is $10.

Michael Guthrie is first and foremost a folk and country blues artist who composes his own tunes and who likes to explore the origins of American folk music. He makes it up with multiple stringed instruments; he plays a twelve-string lap steel guitar, banjo-lin, tamboura, and rebab, an instrument that originated thousands of years ago in Persia.

Michael comes from a musical family, ‘Okies in Southern California’ and is a distant cousin of iconic folk singers Woody and Arlo Guthrie. Although he now lives in Seattle, he returns often to visit and play music in the Kootenays. He plays festivals around the US Pacific Northwest and BC, including the Kaslo Jazz etc Festival and an upcoming review in Nelson.

‘Michael Guthrie is a wonderful blend of bluesman, folksinger, storyteller, singer-songwriter, and he also plays songs by the many friends he has made in years of performing,’ says Dick Whitman (The Journeyman), Portland Folk Music Society.

Village of New Denver

NOTICE OF 2014 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Section 220 and 224 of the Community Charter allows Council to exempt from taxation property:

- in relation to property that is exempt under section 220(1)(b) [buildings for public worship]
- an area of land surrounding the exempt building
- owned or held by a municipality, regional district or other local authority
- that Council considers is used for a purpose of the local authority

The following properties have been proposed for exemption for 2014. The September 10, 2013 Council meeting and will be reconsidered and finally adopted at the Regular Meeting of Council on October 8, 2013.


3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District & (1) Lot 2 (2) Pd A (KMD52453) (St. Stephen’s Anglican Church) commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 26, Block 45, thence north fifty-five feet, thence east one hundred feet, thence south fifty-five feet to the southeast corner of Lot 23, Block 45, thence west one hundred feet to the point of commencement (2014: $955.56) (2015: $985.50) (2016: $973.12)


For the year 2014

Carol Gordon, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer
Nakusp council, September 9: water treatment, microhydro nearing completion

by Art Joyce

Nakusp’s new water filtration and microhydro plants will likely be up and running by November, says engineer Nathan Ward of Aquavities and Steven Thomsen of 9XM Engineering Ltd. Council received a progress report at its September 9 meeting which indicated that both projects are on time and on budget. In fact, Thomason and Ward say they were able to save the Village money by using public works crews to install some of the piping.

The microhydro plant has a turbine designed to generate 50 KW (kilowatt-hours) at maximum capacity but Thomason expects it to run at about 30 KW at a steady pressure of 337 psi. CAO Linda Tymson said there has been a delay in receiving the water license from the BC government Water Management branch. This costs the Village money for every day that the plant is not generating power after its completion. Thomason said once again the engineers worked to economize, using the natural slope as much as possible for gravity feed to minimize the number of pumps required. Use of PVC pipes should extend the life of the plant. The buildings for both plants are complete except for some plumbing and electrical work.

The new wastewater treatment plant will be commissioned soon which allows treated Village wastewater to be discharged either to the deep water lagoon or to the reclaimed water storage pond that will allow water to be used for irrigation.

• Council spent much time debating the Multi Material BC (MMBC) plan for recycling organizing services in BC. Municipalities are being asked to sign on by mid September to ensure that the program will work said CAO Linda Tymson. Expenses for contamination rates of over three percent could end up nullifying the financial incentives for municipalities. Current contamination rates are 2-3 percent.

“Heralded on the BC Radio Service Press Release BC Hydro is replacing aging switchgear equipment at Mica Generating Station and installing additional equipment that will be needed to support the new fifth and sixth units currently being commissioned at Mica. The switchgear project is expected to be completed next year. Mica Unit 5 is expected to be in service by late 2014, and Mica Unit 6 is expected to be in service in 2015. Coles said BC Hydro negotiated a summer storage agreement with the US to help keep the Arrow Lakes Reservoir water level higher. Water levels in July would have been about five feet lower without this agreement, she said.

As of Wednesday, September 11, the Arrow Lakes reservoir was at 432.5 metres (1419.4 feet). The reservoir is expected to drop between 242.8 to 431.6 metres (800 to 1416 feet) by September 30, and to between 425.8 - 430.6 metres (1397-1412 feet) by the end of October. Kinsbasket Reservoir is currently about 754.5 metres (2475.4 feet), which is 0.18 metres (0.6 feet) below the maximum storage level. BC Hydro was spilling about 325 cubic metres per second (10,000 cubic feet per second) last week, with plans to cease spilling by September 13 to allow the reservoir to refill to within 0.06 metres (0.2 feet) of full pool.

The mayor said she’ll continue to push for cell phone service at the钢厂 during the UBCM convention this fall.

• Councillor Zaleznik reported on the Community Forest, which has had surplus funds to distribute to the community for the first time. Council thinks these funds should be distributed as outlined in the current business plan. NACFOR however has other ideas for distribution. “These are 2012 funds so they should be distributed according to that model,” said Tynan. A decision was tabled pending further consideration.

• Councillor Mueller reported that she has had meetings aimed at providing electronic waste recycling in the community.

• The Permissive Tax Exemption bylaw was adopted.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

P.A.L.S. is hosting the creative hands fair once again!

If you have some homemade wares you wish to sell, here’s your chance to do so!

Tables are $25 each and have to be booked in advance.

Please call Kathy Smith at 250-285-4960 to reserve your spot.

Date: November 30th, 2013

Time: 10am - 4pm

Location: Nakusp Arena

www.aslcs.com

ARROW AND SLOCAN LAKES COMMUNITY SERVICES

Project Coordinator

The Project Coordinator will consult with residents and community groups in the region in order to identify service gaps and needs of the various communities served by ASLCS. They will conduct literature reviews of existing community plans and will develop a regional advisory committee to provide advice and feedback from the various communities. The Project Coordinator will encourage partnerships, write funding proposals and complete various tasks and ad hoc projects as directed by the Executive Director.

Terms and Hours:

Full time contract position from October 15, 2013 to September 15, 2014.

Qualifications:

Post-secondary degree or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience determined by the Executive Director to be reasonable and relevant. Must also have excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills and have experience dealing with community groups and local government.

Closing Date: September 30, 2013 at 4 pm.

Please respond in writing with resume and cover letter to: Human Resources, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services by mail: Box 100, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0, fax: 250-265-3378 or email: hiring@aslcs.com

The Valley Voice September 18, 2013

Mica project causes low Arrow Lakes levels by Jan McMurray

This summer’s lower than average Arrow Lakes reservoir water levels were primarily the result of a major power plant outage at Mica that was needed to carry out important capital upgrades, reports Mary Anne Coles of BC Hydro.

BC Hydro is replacing aging switchgear equipment at Mica Generating Station and installing additional equipment that will be needed to support the new fifth and sixth units currently being commissioned at Mica. The switchgear project is expected to be completed next year. Mica Unit 5 is expected to be in service by late 2014, and Mica Unit 6 is expected to be in service in 2015. Coles said BC Hydro negotiated a summer storage agreement with the US to help keep the Arrow Lakes Reservoir water level higher. Water levels in July would have been about five feet lower without this agreement, she said.

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New Denver council, September 10: Recycling changes discussed

by Karine Campbell

Mayor Catherine Altalune reported on Multis Material BC (MMBC), the new producer group which has taken on recycling in the province. Councillors had no questions and council was to meet September 13 and discuss the situation, following the RDCK meeting September 12.

The program, which has raised concern in communities throughout the province, is reported on fully elsewhere in this issue.

Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on Public Works activities. The wharf has been repaired and reinstalled; the crew sandbagged at the east end of 10th Avenue to keep water out of a resident’s basement; pumphouse #1 has been cleaned and repainted; trees on the north dyke were limbed; the old crematorium was torn down; and Greer park was cleaned up.

The department has also produced comprehensive sidewalk and building inspection policies, which council voted for. Also von Krogh said, they are still working on ways of saving money on cement maintenance.

With Councillor Nadine Raynolds met with Nickel Interment Memorial Centre Manager Memoko Ito and Deputy Administrator Altalune to discuss the centre. She advised the season went well; the two students had a great experience and Ito reported she learned a lot about managing the centre and the staff. About 2,000 items in the archives were digitized, but there are still thousands left to go.

Council approved Memoko Ito’s request to travel to Vancouver to meet with the president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. The president, Ken Nomura, invited Ito to meet with the association of plans for the site and to discuss fundraising options.

Council felt it would be an invaluable networking opportunity for the Nickel Centre manager. Council also approved Ito’s recommendation to hire a qualified professional to inspect and repair the fire suppression system at the Nickel Interment Memorial Centre at a total cost not exceeding $30,000.

Councillor David Hodsdon, on behalf of Rec Commission #6, reported the summer swim program didn’t work because of the Nelson pool’s emergency shut down. New Denver’s program is delivered by Nelson instructors, who had to find work elsewhere this summer. Many kids who signed up for New Denver’s summer program will be notified that lessons will happen in the fall. Rec 6 is trying to arrange with Interior Health to get the gym cleaned up, and to hire a person to maintain and repair the facility.

A new garbage bag dispenser has been bought for Bigelow Bay, and is waiting to be installed.

Raynolds, as Chamber of Commerce liaison, reported that Visitor Centre numbers were up this year, but that most people are coming in to ask directions or to access WiFi. Most visitors are here for the day and aren’t staying longer.

Council passed a resolution to allocate funds in the 2014 budget for flood protection on Carpenter Creek. This will also enable the Village to apply for grant funding for dyke works.

Richard Allin was confirmed as the Village’s representative on the Galena Trail/Roseberry Parklands Commission. He was the only volunteer to step forward.

A request from the Silver Slocan Historical Society for a new toilet in the museum was referred to 2014 budget meetings.

SOME CONCERNS ARIED AT PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING BYLAW IN SLOCAN

by Jan McMurray

Slocan council held a public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaw on September 5.

Trish Delahun, consultant, explained the proposed bylaw was very similar to the existing bylaw, and the reason the bylaw is being amended is to bring it line with the current OCP. The Community Plan (OCP), adopted one year ago. Delahun was also the consultant for the OCP process.

Bernadette Robichaud asked if the bylaw would address an issue she has with her neighbors, who have four vehicles stored in their backyard.

Robichaud said the vehicles are “an eyesore.”

CAA Jack Richardson said this was more an issue between neighbors, but that the Village intends to apply the bylaw throughout the town. The bylaw provides homeowners more control than one vehicle that has not been licensed for a period of one year.

This will require that staff check to see Failed equipment replaced at New Denver substation by Mal MacAfee

BC Hydro crews replaced a failed voltage regulator at the New Denver substation last week, reports Hydro spokesperson Mary Anne Condole. A voltage regulator provides a correct and consistent voltage to customers. The work was completed on September 13.

Hydro workers experienced a brief outage when the failure occurred on August 18, but there was no interruption to service when the new regulator was installed as our customers were transferred to the second regulator when the power was restored,” she explained.

BC Hydro also removed soil that was contaminated by oil that leaked from the failed voltage regulator. This soil has been contained in yard waste bins, on site, and will be sent for disposal at an approved facility.

Some concerns aired at public hearing on zoning bylaw in Slocan

by Jan McMurray

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This will require that staff check to see whether vehicles licensed on properties in the village are licensed or not. Carol Barclay stated she does not feel the area closer to the school should be zoned commercial, pointing out that most of the properties there are residential. She said she bought three lots next to her house three years ago, and would like to change the zoning from Residential to Residential.

Leonard and Sophia Antonius were concerned that the proposed bylaw placed more restrictions on the uses of the properties on their property on Harold Street. “With the mill closed and the population declining, I don’t think there should be anymore restrictions,” said Leonard. Sophia added, “We have to be careful how much we restrict – we have to work to attract people.” Sophia also pointed out that there were not many people at the public hearing, and asked council to “pay attention” to that, saying the poor attendance was an indication that people felt “their voices were silenced.”

Delahun explained that the bylaw is very similar to the old one. She said many of the permitted uses in the C1 (Highway Commercial) and the C2 (Commercial) zones are the same. However, she said anything to do with automobiles was allowed only in C1 (in the area of Mountain Valley Station), and C2 (Harold Street) was more for grocery, retail and personal services. “This is in line with the OCP, adopted one year ago,” she said.

“People wanted automobile services near the highway.”

Council also received one written comment, from Leonard Booth, who stated he was opposed to allowing shipping containers to be permanently placed in residential areas. The bylaw allows shipping containers for storage only in C1 (Highway Commercial), M1 (Mill Industrial) and M2 (light Industrial) zones. They must be screened from view of the roadway and their residential up.

SLOCAN FOOD PROGRAM PRESENTS:

Lucerne 6th Annual Harvest Festival—Join the kids for harvest, fun and food on Friday Sept. 27 from 9:30-3:30. Bring entries for the harvest display (produce, baking, etc)

Know Your Mushrooms Day—With Tyson Elthers and Dr. Doug McBride on Sunday Oct. 6. Space is limited. Pre-register at healthycommunitysocie-ty@yahoo.com or call 358-2745.

Harvest Dinner—Community Potluck Dinner on October 27 at 5pm at the Bosun Hall. All ages!

SLOCAN LAKE PUTTS AND SUCH

This is the final report from the clubhouse for the season... and what a great season it has been. The clubhouse was a fun place to be for the biweekly Saturday night couples journeys that Alex and Donna Frithrubber ran, and Dave Welsh did a fantastic job running our tournaments... although some would say he never could have done it without Shelly Welsh and Pat Cowen’s assistance.

The Whitebushers tournament on Sept 7th saw Lorne McMillan carry Barb Renaud to the prize table to take the over all prize. Great way to finish our Season’s tournaments will be the Club Closing on the 22nd of Sept...

The Annual General Meeting of the golf club is on September 30th at 7:00 pm in the clubhouse at 101 Golf Course Road. You do not have to be a member to attend but all members are encouraged to get out and vote on the matters that will affect the running of your club in the next year.

When the club closes many of us will go south to keep our game in shape, some will wear a path in the bag of home, some will do what you do... keep on putting... see you in the spring.
By Jan McMurray
• Council discussed the recycling dilemma that has arisen, thanks to a change in provincial regulations. A new non-profit organization, Multi Material BC (MMBC), has been set up to develop a new recycling system. Local governments were given a deadline of September 16 to decide whether they want to deliver recycling collection service to their residents under an agreement with MMBC, or if they want to give MMBC full responsibility for delivering the service. Concerns that have been raised province-wide about the new system include low prices offered to local governments by MMBC for collecting recyclables, high financial penalties for “contamination,” costly requirements of fencing and staffing recycling depots, and problematic MMBC contract clauses. Slocan council decided not to deliver the service under an agreement with MMBC, but rather to give MMBC responsibility for the service. Currently, the RDCK defines the recycling service in Slocan; the RDCK has also declined to enter into an agreement with MMBC to continue delivering the service.

• Carol Basley attended as a delegate to ask council to consider changing the zoning of three of her lots from commercial to residential. She purchased the three lots with the intention of adding one onto her property and selling the other two. She questions the commercial zoning of the lots, as “everyone around me is residential.” She also asked, “Do you want commercial right near the school?”

• Council scheduled Clean-up Week (organic materials only) for October 24.

• Council received a request from the District of Slocan to support a resolution regarding an ambulance service in BC communities. The resolution will be discussed at the UBCM convention, taking place September 15-19. The resolution calls on the Health Minister to “require the BC Ambulance Service to amend its service model to meet the actual needs of communities, and for the Minister to provide adequate funding to implement that model.” Representatives from the paramedics’ union will be attending UBCM and have invited local governments to meet with them there.

• Council suggested discussing the ambulance issue at the Slocan Valley Local Governments Forum prior to the UBCM convention. Councillor Elliott reminded council that two Regional District directors are working on this issue.

• Council also decided to discuss advertising in International Selkirk Loop publications and on the website of the Slocan Valley Local Governments Forum.

• The Village will provide the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society with letter of support in principle to accompany two grant applications. One application is to Mountain Equipment Co-op to replace testing equipment, develop a training protocol and train volunteers to use the equipment. This is in the Real Estate Foundation to hire someone to take the data collected by the society and create an engaging one-hour program to be offered at local campgrounds.

• The Slocan Ener-vation (Energie Vert) was launched September 10.

Ply Gem Windows & Doors
Solid and efficient Window and Door systems for all your home and cottage needs

by Jan McMurray
Mudslinger Alyssand Ollivill and Mulvey Creeks caused heavy rain on Friday, September 6 forced the shut-down of Slocan’s water treatment plant for several hours on Saturday, September 7.

Fortunately, there was no interruption in water supply to Slocan homes and businesses, as the reservoir had enough water to meet the demand until Public Works was able to get the plant back up and running on Saturday evening.

The heavy rains and flood waters caused by the mudslides is that the sediment moving through the water would have absorbed a lot of the toxic hydrocarbons from the fuel spill, reported Jennifer Yow of the Slocan River Streamkeepers. “It was like a big cleaning action — as good bioremediation as you can get!” she said. The heavy rainfall would have helped wash out some of the fuel on the sides of the banks, as well, she said.

Slocan CAO Jack Richardson reported on the incident at the September 10 council meeting. He said Public Works Foreman Tim Hill was visiting in Creston when he was alerted in the wee hours of Saturday morning that both Mulvey and Mudslinger Creeks at the water plant were extremely high. Hill drove back to Slocan right away and shut off the treatment plant.

He called me at 4:30 in the morning to tell me that the creek looked like a Tim Horton’s double double,” said Richardson. Richardson reported that Emergency Coordinator Terry Warren came to Slocan on Saturday afternoon, and “they were ready to set up an Emergency Operation Centre, but fortunately the flood was over.”

CAO Brian Cardinall arranged for a helicopter, and by air, they found the small slide affecting Ollivill Creek and “a major slide” at Mulvey. The slides did not block the creeks and caused no threat to infrastructure or public safety, so there was no need for an EOC.

The RDCK issued a press release Saturday afternoon asking Slocan water users to conserve water for a few days and informing residents who draw water from Slocan River about the increased turbidity levels.

Slocan Public Works staff cleaned out the filtration screens and got the plant back up and running by Saturday evening. The reservoir was full by Sunday, and residents were notified on Monday that the system was back to normal.

“I’d like to publicly thank Tim for driving home in the dark,” said Richardson. “He didn’t get much sleep all weekend. He was going up there every two hours to check on the system.” Richardson also acknowledged Administrative Assistant Michelle Gordon and Councillors Patterson and Lunn for posting notices around town asking residents to conserve water. Councillor Lunn said this backfired somewhat because some residents stockpiled water.

Richardson also said the incident got them thinking of a back-up water resource for the Village. As part of the micro hydro project, he suggested they may be able to find a way to direct Springer Creek water into the treatment plant “even if it’s just a standpipe.” Currently, the Village has a water collection box on Springer Creek to irrigate the ball park.

An evening of song in Silverton
submitted

Most of us greatly appreciate the natural beauty and richness of our region with its mountains and valleys, rivers and lakes. But there is also the beauty and greatness of human culture, the treasures from afar and near that we can appreciate here.

On Saturday, September 28, we can hear works of the great masters of classical and romantic music: Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Wagner, along with traditional Canadian folk songs. This concert will feature local singers Marion Mason Martin and Sophia Gray with pianist Peter Krack, and folk singers Eric Faulks. Come and enjoy the fun and depth and the contrasts of this evening of quality music on September 28, 7 p.m. at the Silverton Memorial Hall. Admission is by donation.

Residents can sign up for a home energy assessment (HEA) program and are eligible to provide $25 of that fee for the first ten Slocan residents who sign up. The RDCK has a similar program for rural areas.

Michelle Godden, Administrative Assistant, attended a training program August 11-16. She received two certificates in Municipal Administration.

Staff was asked to develop a policy about social media, with the goal of having a Village Facebook page.

At the request of Counsellor Patterson it was brought to discuss the concept of becoming a CE (Genetically Engineered) - Free Zone at the October Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mudslide shuts down Slocan water plant but helps flush river of fuel

by Jan McMurray

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Silverton resident survives serious accident

by Ian McMurray

Silverton resident Steve Hammond, 62 years old, is very sure but happy to be alive after a cut accident on Monday, Sept. 16 near Silverton High School.

Hammond was travelling north when a 2000 red Pontiac Grand Am, travelling south, was suddenly coming towards him. Hammond veered right, but did not succeed in avoiding the head-on collision. His 2000 Ford pickup rolled twice before coming to rest in the ditch.

“That’s the first thing I knew I was hanging upside down,” recalled Hammond. “It just happened so quickly.”

Hammond says that by a stroke of luck, there just happened to be a paramedic in the line-up of vehicles stopped to help someone, and he was there to do the repairs. Farsworth is a self-taught technician who began his career in the early days of the computer industry. While he was in the Royal Air Force during the 1960s, he was assigned to British Forces broadcasting, doing a Sunday afternoon pop music show. It was the age of pirate radio, when legendary broadcasters like the BBC’s John Peel got their start. After the Air Force, Farsworth went on to work for the computer industry and ended up moving to Montreal and later Vancouver. This was 1967, when a single computer filled up a room, and was still using punch cards and magnetic tape. Meanwhile, by the mid-’70s, analogue stereo systems were reaching a high state of refinement. So what accounts for the sudden resurgence in the popularity of analogue? “The analogue sound to me is much more pleasing, a more rounded sound,” says Farsworth. “That’s why record producers are using vinyl again. Historically digital has always had a gritty sounding top end to it, although they’re getting much better at it now.”

Farthing Vintage Electronics Service makes old stereos new again

by Art Joyce

In a recent late night talk show, Keith Richards said he still prefers vinyl over all other sound formats. When you grow up analogue, nothing else quite does it. Sound becomes an experience, not just another digital sludge in a clotted background. In fact, analogue formats in both audio and photography are experiencing a revival. In eBay search trends, ‘vinyl’ is the most popular term in music category searches. And we have our own analogue wizard right in New Denver, Rod Farnsworth of Vintage Audio, capable of bringing new life to old sound systems.

A vinyl record—or any recording— is only as good as the equipment used to reproduce its sound. The ‘golden age’ of analogue stereo, from roughly 1970 to about 1980, produced a wide range of affordable, high-quality sound systems. Many of them are still in use today, testifying to the craftsmanship that went into their construction. Now a similar quality system will cost you thousands of dollars. So don’t throw away that old receiver or those big old speakers—chances are they’re worth ten times better than most digital systems.

Garage sales and the like are a ready source for albums and old stereo noir,” says Farnsworth. “A lot of people are happy with an iPod and a pair of ear buds but I think they’re beginning to realize that analogue is infinitely superior to any MP3 sound.”

Thank you...

The Hills Recreation Society would like to extend a hearty and heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make the Hills Garlic Festival a success on September 8. In particular we would like to thank the following:

• the people of the Village of New Denver, especially the residents of the Orchard, for welcoming the Garlic Festival into Centennial Park again
• the mayor, council, and village staff for their support and assistance
• Mel and Gayle Swanson, campground hosts, for their help throughout the weekend
• all the volunteers from Hills and elsewhere who cheerfully contributed their time and energy
• The kids from The Outlet youth centre for welcoming over 5000 people to the Festival and keeping the lines moving
• Katrina Sumrall and all the Green Team volunteers for managing waste and recyclables, especially for their efforts in making the composting system a success
• Mountain Station and Motes & Oats for fantastic music, Flydani the Magician and Visions Alive Puppetry for great family entertainment, and Bubbles the Clown for bringing joy and smiles throughout the day
• Bill Johnston for being an awesome MC throughout the day
• all the growers, craftspersons, and vendors who brought their produce, food, wares, services, and information to the Garlic Festival and who contributed to the Hills Rec Society raffle baskets
• the community at large for supporting the Garlic Festival as a fun event and a fundraiser for the entire community.

Proceeds from the Garlic Festival provide support for the following organizations and projects:
• Hills Community Park tennis court maintenance
• Hills community recreation activities, including ski trail grooming, summer trail maintenance, family picnic, summer youth recreation program, volunteer appreciation dinner, youth education bursaries, and involvement in development of rail corridor for public recreation
• Hills Fire/Community Hall maintenance
• Hills Community Doukhobor Society
• Hills Nordic Ski Club
• Lucerne School programs
• New Denver Early Learning Society and friends
• Summit Lake Ski Hill
• The Outlet youth centre

Raffle basket winners: John Powers, Yvonne Boyd, Linda Chabot, Vern Onciul, Barbara Ballachey, Pat Crowe, Richard Strand, Richard Harwood

Visit our website: hillsgarlicfest.ca

Thank you one and all!!
See you next year on September 7!!
FALL CELEBRATIONS

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Get-away Package for $179
Includes:
- Lake-view room with either 2 queen beds or a single king bed
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Neil Allkins, Store Manager
Barbara Maye returns with new show at Studio Connexion

by Art Joyce

You might wonder how two widely differing media like stone and canvas could come together in an art show. Wonder no more—Barbara Maye’s return to Studio Connexion will feature her latest exhibition, *Pigment: Abstractions in Stone and Paint.* The show, which runs from September 24 to October 12, will be the last of the 2013 exhibition season for the gallery. The opening reception will be held Friday, September 27 from 5 to 8 pm.

For *Pigment,* Maye demonstrates her selectiveness, having created both stone carvings and acrylic paintings. In a stroke of good timing, shortly after she completed her art studies at the University of Calgary, she met Stone carver Chaka Chikudho, who grew up in Zimbabwe but is now a Canadian citizen. Considered a master of the ancient Shona art of stone carving, he also taught her the spiritual aspects of the art. “The Shona people believe stone has an existence and they’re the key people that inspire me,” explains Maye. “I went to a trip to Bali thinking I was going to be inspired to do more painting and I came back instead inspired by their stone carving and went right into that.”

Another mentor for Maye has been Cree elder Bob Wapagenko, when she was working with bees and wood. Cree spirituality sees a tree as a living being. Over thousands of millions of years a tree or a leaf might end up becoming part of a stone, so it has a kind of compressed life energy. This realization changes the perception of the observer and therefore their relationship with these fundamental elements of the landscape. The artist articulates this shift in perception.

“It’s about working with the stone and going back and forth between what it’s trying to tell me and what I want,” says Maye. “One of my stones is from Zimbabwe and I was very aware that I was working with a stone that’s very old and from another part of the world. I was paying attention to that while I was carving.”

She decided renderings of the carvings in the medium of paint would complete the series. It was also a welcome relief from the physically strenuous work of carving stone without power tools—she says she was taught. And it energized a different part of the brain. Whereas carving is very physical, almost instinctive, painting requires a more intellectually engaged approach. Yet the work was done with the intense rigor of Pointillism, requiring intense focus and concentration. After Maye finished a carving she took close-up photographs of the stone and then used acrylics to translate her emotional response on canvas.

“When it comes to painting, I’m fascinated with how close I can get, how much detail. I always leave some of the tool work on the stones, so the process of carving is represented in the stone. And that translates into the paintings.”

Maye, a former Nakusp resident, now lives in Revelstoke but retains close ties to the community. She first came here about five years ago to do a show at the ALFA Guild and fell in love with the Arrow Lakes. *Pigment* will be her fourth solo exhibition at Studio Connexion Gallery after the series *Abstract: Lusinio and Ausoni.* Her work has been featured at Touchstones Nelson and she has gone on to influence other artists in the area through her classes. “She truly is the darling child of the place,” says gallery owner Anne Balven. “Barbara is a gifted artist who always pushes the boundaries and a fabulous art teacher and mentor.”

Studio Connexion is located at 203 Fifth Avenue near downtown Nakusp, open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 am – 4 pm. For a private viewing, please book an appointment with Anne Balven at 250-265-8888 (cell) or fax 250-265-3586.

To see Barbara Maye’s works online, visit www.barbaramaye.com or Facebook.com/BarbaraMaye-Info.

New safety equipment at Castlegar airport submitted

The federal government has announced more than $630,000 in funding for safety improvement projects at the West Kootenay Regional Airport in Castlegar.

Through the Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP), the airport will get $365,612 to replace a self-propelled snow blower, $230,756 for a runway sweeper and $37,041 to purchase a runway condition reporting system. The reporting system will provide timely, accurate and precise weather reporting and recording of runway conditions.

The airport handles more than 70,000 passengers per year and is one of the main economic drivers for the region’s economic growth and prosperity. To date, through ACAP, the West Kootenay Regional Airport has received more than $4 million for seven projects including those above.

House and 33 acres (mostly level) for sale. Large, partially covered deck with hot tub and mountain views. 2 pastures and 6 out buildings including a small cabin. Excellent access and only 10 minutes to Silverton. See all the details at www.33acres.ca or call Bob and Myrna at 250-358-2426. Price recently reduced to $589,000.

REPORT TO RESIDENTS

As CBT evolves, we’ve been placing decision making in the hands of Basin communities, supporting you as you make your own choices on issues that affect your futures. The result: communities empowered to take action and create positive outcomes. Read highlights of successes from around the Basin in our annual Report to Residents: Evolving & Empowering.

If you have not yet received your copy, please contact us to have one mailed to you.

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Report to Residents is in your mailbox and online at:

www.cbt.org/r2r
Arrow Lakes Grape Growers plant test plot for 21 varieties in Burton

by Jan McMurray

Is a vineyard industry viable in the Arrow Lakes Valley?

The Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society is getting closer to answering this question now that they have planted 21 different varieties in a test plot in Burton. The planting took place June 1 this year.

“Our focus is research,” explained Jerry Botti, society president. “We are doing this test plot to see how the vines grow – will they consistently grow and have ripened fruit every year?”

The test plot was planted with 21 grape varieties – 10 reds and 11 whites – for a total of 840 vines. The plot is a little less than one acre in size.

Most of the varieties are German, because Germany’s climate is similar to the valley’s, Botti explained. Six of them are Blatter varieties, known to be highly disease-resistant and to produce a very nice European-tasting wine. The Blatter were developed by a Swiss grape breeder in Ontario and subsequently brought to the Okanagan and the coast.

Botti says the vines are being grown to the Kootenay Mountain Crown organic standard.

The first batch of wine from grapes growing on the test plot will not come until 2016. “We won’t let the vines fruit for two years, because we want production in the cane and roots,” explained Botti. “In 2015, we’ll let them fruit, and in 2016, we’ll make the first batch of wine with a couple of the white varieties. We’ll probably wait on the reds because they take longer.”

The test plot is on Botti’s land. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Botti and the society, the society does not pay a fee to use the land. When the research is completed in 2020, Botti will have the option to purchase the test plot vines. If he chooses not to purchase them, the society will remove them.

Botti said there was no cost benefit to himself for having the test plot on his land. “A vineyard with 21 varieties is not worth much. The value here is the research,” he said, then added jokingly, “Having it here just means that it’s really handy for me to put in a ton of hours as a volunteer.”

The Burton property is ideal, as it is centrally located in the valley, visible from the highway to give the project exposure, was already cleared, already had a water source for irrigation, and came with a barn to store tools and equipment.

The test plot was made possible with grants from CBZ, BC Hydro, Nakusp and Area Community Foundation, RDCK Area K, revenues from fundraising events, “and a hoop of volunteer labour – not just society members, but people from the Arrow Lakes communities,” said Botti. The plot cost about $14,000 to put in.

The Arrow Lakes Grape Growers are also currently doing a three-year climate study, from 2011 to 2013. Forty temperature stations that take temperature readings every 12 minutes 365 days per year have been installed throughout the valley. The data is downloaded, and then must be transferred manually to a database for analysis. “The climate data will help not only for grape growing, but for other agricultural crops as well if people are interested,” said Botti.

The Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society formed in 2010 to research the viability of a wine industry in the valley and to promote wine and wine awareness. They have held a wine tasting event in Burton and are exploring the idea of bringing a wine tasting event to Nakusp in partnership with the Rotary Club.

Lemon Creek fuel spill: Streamkeepers seek active role in long-term monitoring

continued from page 6

Columbia Power Corporation, the RDCK, Environment Canada and other partners to do fish studies, invertebrate studies, and water chemistry testing on the river for several years.

“What’s good here is we have so much data for many years. Events like the fuel spill have long-term impacts, so the monitoring has to be done over at least five years. It’s not sufficient to focus on the presence of fuel. They have to be monitoring the same things we are looking at.”

SNC Lavalin released maps on August 4 showing their sampling locations, and Yeow said the Streamkeepers were “critical of that” because they collected samples from only one site just downstream of the Lemon Creek confluence with the Slocan River.

“To us, that area just below Lemon – the channels, islands and wetlands – are the most critical for the ecology and habitat of the river. We’d like to see more sampling in those areas.” Yeow said that the Streamkeepers have started collecting sediment and water samples from these important areas.

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String quartet to perform fiery Latin music in Silverton and Winlaw

Larry Skaggs, Liz Masoi and Maritime denBok to form a quirky, eclectic and passionate quartet with a sound that will leave you speechless. This concert promises to be an experience that will be remembered.

Auction by donations (suggested $10 man) Show starts at 7:30.

Can’t make it on Wednesday? Join us Tuesday the 26th for a Mexican night at Sleep in for Sisineen in Winlaw or on Thursday the 27th. Call 250-354-3910 for information.

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Museums
Silver Lake Museum - Silverhawk
250-358-7580 www.silverlakemuseum.com 1km south of town on Hwy 6. Silverlake is an open-air museum and regional history museum and features exhibits on Silver Lake history, including the history of the silver industry in the area.

Silver Star Museum - Silver Star
250-358-7290 www.silverstarmuseum.com Located at the foot of Silver Star’s main street, restored to circa 1900. Special tours available. 250-358-2624 for further information. See the local history with a tour.

Nielsen Interlaken Memorial Centennial - Nakusp
250-358-7580 www.nelseninterlaken.com Located on the corner of Main and Young, Nielsen Interlaken is a 19th-century building that was once a hotel, and now serves as a community center.

S.S. Moyie National Historic Site - Kaslo
Ph/ Fax: 250-353-2253 www.klsh.bc.ca
Located on the Moyie River near Kaslo, this site includes the original steamboat S.S. Moyie, which played a key role in the development of the Moyie River area.

Learder Hall Museum - Kaslo
250-358-7714
Located in downtown Kaslo, this museum features exhibits on local history, including the history of mining in the area.

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KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo council, September 10: Airport dominates discussion

by Ian McMurray

Karen MacDonald and Case Grymna of the Nelson Pilots Association made a presentation to council about the benefits of developing small municipal airports like Kaslo's. MacDonald pointed out that airports can be very useful in emergencies, and can generate employment. She said they can be financially self-supporting through fees and leases, Grymna said most small airports are managed by non-profit societies.

Grymna explained that the Nelson Airport is not certified – certification is only necessary when there is regularly scheduled passenger service, "which is not going to happen." As far as funding goes, Grymna said the City of Nelson puts aside any profits from the airport into a fund for capital improvements at the facility. Grymna said the runway will need to be repaved in future, and all three levels of government will be asked to contribute.

Later in the meeting, council agreed that certification of the Kaslo Airport would not be pursued at this time.

- As requested by council, the CAO provided a preliminary report to the Kaslo Airport on the possible options for development and governance of the airport.
- Councilor Holland noted that the council will bring two motions to the next meeting. The first is that the Village establish a policy that large expenditures for the airport be done with matching funds from granting sources only. The second will be for staff to do an analysis on the tax implications for Area D property owners who would be brought into the Village if amendment of the airport lands goes through.
- The CAO reported that Public Works had completed gravel and surface operations at the airport September 4 and 5. The estimated cost of the operations in time, equipment and materials was $4,000.
- The Village will partner with the Golf Club to screen soil as needed from the airport properties this fall.
- Council received the good news that the $50,000 fee for application for the Kaslo InfNet broadband was approved, on the condition that all other funding for the project is in place within 90 days.
- Council received a letter from the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (CUPF Local 873), inviting council to meet with them at the UBCM convention September 16-20 "to discuss emergency healthcare issues specific to our community." Councilor Lang agreed to try to find time to meet with the group during UBCM, and to hand deliver a letter, to be written by the CAO, addressing the health care concerns. Mayor Lay said he would like a written response from the paramedics group, as this would assist the Kaslo Health Care Working Group.
- The Water Street development plan was discussed at the September 4 Development Services Committee meeting. It was noted that no funds had been budgeted for the project in 2013 with the exception of building the pavement reserve for 2014. Council asked staff to invite the owner of the liquor store to a subsequent committee meeting, and to correspond with property owners further regarding potential expropriation if necessary.
- A letter will go out to all Front Street business owners, reminding them of the two-hour parking limit on Front Street in the vicinity of the municipal parking lot.
- There is insufficient budget this year for a generator for the Kaslo River water system. The CAO indicated that grants may be available for a larger project that would include both the generator and intake improvements for the secondary water system.
- Council agreed to change its committee structure. The three standing committees (Development Services, Municipal Services and Development Services - City Hall) will be replaced by one committee – the Committee of the Whole – consisting of all council members. Effective October 1, there will be a Committee of the Whole on the first Tuesday of every month and three weekly regular council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays (as has been the case for years). Mayor Lay made it clear that he would not reappoint the three standing committees of council for next year.
- Mayor Lay indicated that he would like to hold the Committee of the Whole on the first Tuesday of every month, but some councillors felt this would make for a much-too-long evening in council chambers.
- Mayor Lay ordered staff to send the Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw. There are no changes from last year, but council agreed to review this for next year.

VWS: Timber grab threatens Kaslo, Kootenay Lake with clearcuts

The BC government is quietly reversing decades of forest policy that preserved scenic quality around parks and watersheds -- to the benefit of the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

"Many years of logging too much too fast means the logging companies are suffering a fallow-year effect in which they must drastically reduce their rate of cut," says Craig Pettitt, a VWS director.

"Instead of doing that, the government is opening up our most valued tourism resources for increased clearcutting. The tragedy is that in the past, companies will run out of wood and the tourism businesses needed to support our communities will have lost their prime resources too."

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources wants to change the Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) of major areas around Kootenay Lake, from 'retention' (very little logging) to 'partial retention'.

"This is a dramatic change that occurred around the north end of Slocan Lake in the last few years," says Pettitt. "The logging has already badly damaged the scenic quality from the highway, from the lake, outside Valhalla Park and from the community of Hills. They leave a few trees on the cutblocks, but they are still clearcutting.

The Retention VQOs are part of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan that was adopted by the government in 1998. It is CORE land use planning process. Parts of the plan, including the VQOs around Kootenay Lake, were legislated in the Higher Level Plan. Now the government is telling Timber Sales to unilaterally re-visualise the visual quality around Kootenay Lake according to lower provincial standards.

"BC Timber Sales would profit from the logging," says Pettitt. "It is the fox being given control of the hen house. If approved, these biased new VQOS assessments would override the land use plan and scrap part of the legislation that was based on a whole year of public review and consultation by all the stakeholders in this region.

The government claims that the VQO change is needed to compensate timber interests for forest lost because of the mountain carbon recovery plan.

"That's very misleading," says Pettitt. "When the mountain carbon plan was passed, Kootenay Lake timber interests claimed then that the plan would have significant impacts on their timber supply. As a result, the government took 3,008 hectares of timber harvesting land base away from the mountain carbon. In addition, high quality forest assigned to the caribou was replaced by low quality forest.

"This is one of the reasons government released the final forest carbon plan, dated December 2008, stating that any losses to the Kootenay Lake TSA had been 'fully mitigated.' Now it appears we're being fooled into giving up scenic protection to compensate them again."

The ministry claims that, during the last timber supply review, the impact to the Kootenay Lake TSA from the caribou plan was seen to be "minimal.

"That also is misleading," says Pettitt. "The Chief Forester's AAC report states that the impact on the Kootenay Lake TSA was 'not very significant."

The central interior, roughly the Cariboo region, has already gone through a proposal to downgrade sensitive areas for logging, to compensate companies for losses due to the Mountain Pine Beetle. A Special Committee on Timber Supply was struck to reconsider the proposal. The committee gathered widespread public input from across the province. It recommended that timber companies make an extra effort to ensure that no land use plans should be changed without a science-based review process with community participation, and no logging of sensitive areas through 'advanced broad concensus. (See http://www. leg.bc.ca/timbercommittee/ for a copy of the report).

The local community has had infinitely more accountability and credibility than the kangaroo courts set up to log our scenic areas in the Kootenays," says Pettitt. "Why are its findings being ignored?"
Rita Moir to work on Slocan Valley history project

The Slocan Valley Historical Society is thrilled to announce that author Rita Moir has been contracted to carry out an exciting project. "Photo Albums and Shoeboxes of the Slocan Valley" will see Moir visiting with those who have old photographs, documents and other materials of historical significance to the lower Slocan Valley, defined as the area from Slocan City to South Slocan. She will arrange for originals or digital copies to be donated to the new Slocan Valley Archives located in the Village of Slocan.

Moir will use a portable digital scanner to make electronic copies of photos and documents. A memory stick containing everything she scans will be given to each donor to edit or make enlargements, create postcards or to send copies to family members. Where necessary, Moir do all the scanning right in the donor's home without ever having to remove the photo from the donor's possession.

In some ways, this project will be a follow-up to the work Rita did in creating her recent book "The Third Crop." "Since "The Third Crop" was published several people have come forward who, unknown to me at the time, have photograph collections and family stories that could have been included in my book," Moir says. "This project will at least preserve those photographs and stories and make them available in the Slocan Valley Archives for consideration by other authors and researchers. Who knows, I may even put together another book on Slocan Valley families and history one day!"

Unfortunately, it is the fate of many family photo collections to be damaged by water, mold or fire — even to be thrown out, divided up or lost when the owner dies or is moved out of their home. Bins of our history disappear this way almost every day. If you have, or know someone who has, photographs, documents or stories that might be of historical interest, you are encouraged to immediately contact the Slocan Valley Historical Society at 250-355-2220, or contact Moir directly at 250-226-7759, to arrange a visit. The project is now up and running and will be available at least to the end of the year.

The Slocan Valley Historical Society is grateful to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance for funding this project. The Society also appreciates the donation of the top floor of the Slocan Village Office building where a professional humidity-controlled archive has been set up to house the growing collection of historical documents and photos.

The Village of Nakusp

Notice of 2013 Tax Sale

Notice is hereby given that the following described properties will be sold by Public Auction, to be held under the provisions of Part II of the Local Government Act. The auction will be held on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the Village of Nakusp Council Chambers, 91-1st Street NW, Nakusp, British Columbia.

At the time of the bid, successful bidders are required to deposit CASH, BANK DRAFT, INTERAC or a CERTIFIED CHEQUE only with the Collector. Any person placing successful bids on behalf of a Company must be prepared to affix the Company's Corporate Seal to documents.

The purchase of a Tax Sale property is subject to tax under the PROPERTY PURCHASE TAX ACT on the fair market value of the property.

Properties must be withdrawn from the Tax Sale upon payment of delinquent taxes, plus interest, from January 1, 2013, or date of last payment to the date of payment. This payment must be by CASH, CERTIFIED CHEQUE, BANK DRAFT or INTERAC and must be received in the Village Office prior to 10:00 a.m. Monday, September 30, 2013.

Folio No. | Civic Address | Legal Description
--- | --- | ---
553-00204.000 | 202 2nd AVENUE NW | LT 10 BLK 19 PL NEP4944 DL 397
553-00232.000 | 202 5th AVENUE NW | LT 9 BLK 22 PL NEP4944 DL 397
553-00300.000 | 201 1st AVENUE NW | LT 8 BLK 43 PL NEP4944 DL 397
553-00312.500 | 212 NELSON AVENUE N | LT 15 BLK 43 PL NEP4944 DL 397
553-00435.000 | 307 1st AVENUE NW | LT 5 PL NEP2527 DL 397
553-00467.000 | 802 HIGHWAY 23 NORTH | LT 5 PL NEP2820 DL 397
553-00528.000 | 106 6th STREET NW | LT 26 PL NEP4467 DL 397
553-00559.045 | 833 COLUMBIA CRESCENT | LT 45 PL NEP4948 DL 397

This notice is published in accordance with Section 404(1) of the Local Government Act.

- The lowest amount for which parcels may be sold is the “Upset Price.” The Upset Price includes:
  - (a) delinquent and arrears taxes plus interest to date of sale;
  - (b) current years taxes plus penalty;
  - (c) the sum of 5% of the foregoing amounts; and
  - (d) Land Title fees.
- The highest bidder at or above the upset price shall be declared the purchaser. If no bids are received, the Village will be declared the purchaser.
- The purchaser has no legal rights to the property until one (1) year has expired from the date of the Tax Sale.
- The owner has one year in which to redeem the property; paying back the upset price plus interest accrued to the date of redemption.
- At redemption, the purchaser is paid back their bid plus interest accrued from the date of the Tax Sale. PURCHASERS MUST PAY BY CERTIFIED CHEQUE, BANK DRAFT, INTERAC OR CASH (Purchasers are given one (1) hour to secure funds)
- Title to property not redeemed within one year from the date of the tax sale will be transferred to the purchaser on receipt of Land Title Act fee.
- Photos and video will be available to pay the Property Purchase Tax on the fair market value of the property at the time of the transfer of the title.
- The Property Purchase Tax rates are 1% on the first $200,000 of fair market value and 2% on the balance.

Robert Richards, CFO
Village of Nakusp
Music time with the Slocan Valley Community Band

Submitted
Looking for a fun opportunity to play a variety of music with a great group of people? Ready to dust off that French horn, saxophone, flute or other instrument and get back into playing music? Or learning a new instrument and looking for a challenge? If this is you, come and join the Slocan Valley Community Band and we’ll make beautiful music together.

The band practices every Thursday at 6-8 p.m. in the band room in W.E. Graham School in Slocan Village. We play a variety of music including light-hearted pop medleys, orchestral music, old-time swing and jazz, show tunes — everything from marches to mambos. The band is suitable for anyone who can read music and has a couple of years’ experience playing their instrument, plus we need some more intermediate and even advanced players to help keep everyone on track and fill out the sound.

The band plays at community events and seniors’ facilities and has been a favourite performer at Silverton’s Christmas on the Lake and New Denver’s May Days, as well as the spring garden tour.

Slocan Valley Community Band is for you. Cost is $30/year per person (to cover your property taxes helps subsidize the cost of services).

Come on in to browse the mobile collection, to check out books, DVDs, CDs, or to register for membership. The knowledgeable librarian will also help you learn to use our online library services or order books.

Please call 535-5053 or check out our website for more information.

The Valley Voice October 16, 2013

Nelson library mobile unit returns to Winlaw

Submitted
The Nelson Public Library’s outreach service to Slocan Valley residents continues. The mobile collection will return to Winlaw School from 3 pm to 7 pm every third Thursday of the month from September to November 2013 and January to June 2014.

Residents in Regional District Area H South can now sign up for library membership at no cost; a portion of your property taxes helps subsidize the cost of services.

Please contact the library at 250-352-6333 or nelson.lib@rogers.com for more information.

Community

Holly and Jon awarded touring grant

Submitted
The Slocan Valley’s Holly and Jon Burdon have been awarded a touring grant from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) and continue their CD release tour of the Columbia Basin with dates at the Laugham in Kaslo, the Castle Theatre in Castlegar and Selkirk Pro-Musica Concert in Nelson, and in Creston, Invermere, Golden and Kimberley.

Their latest release, 1929: The Summit Sessions is being played internationally on stations such as Blues Roots Radio in Toronto, Blues Beat Radio in Australia, Blues Train Radio in the UK and many US stations, with more adding the CD to their playlists all the time.

Rave reviews have appeared in international music magazines such as Blues In Britain: “Such is the quality of the self-penned originals, that you could be forgiven for thinking that these old classics had been unearthed” and New Blues Canada: “Oh, Lord It Feels Good to Hear the Soulful Ooovre”, a review from the Holly & Jon’s current release...and that line pretty well sums up how I felt while listening to this thoroughly enjoyable album.”

Please check out the website for dates: www.hollyandjon.com

Help clean up the Slocan River

Submitted
On Sunday, September 29, all are welcome to join in the Slocan Riverwatch Society’s annual river clean-up day. Meeting time is 10 am at the Crescent Valley Rail Trail parking lot.

Free composting workshop - Passmore Poultry Mushrooms, the West Kootenay’s poultry outfit, is offering a free composting workshop. The Composting Poultry Processing Waste Workshop aims to help you use waste materials from chicken processing. You can save valuable nutrients as fertilizer and reduce material going to landfill. There will be a demonstration about how to compost chicken feathers, intestines, heads and feet. The four hour event will be held on Saturday September 21 from 10-2 pm. This workshop is funded in part by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through programs it delivers on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture, as there will be no charge for the event. Please phone 250-256-7103 to register.

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

Development on Land Adjacent to the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

Owners of land bordering the Slocan Valley Rail Trail are reminded that the Rail Trail land extends at least 50 feet (15.24 meters) on each side of the trail as measured from the centre of the trail. If you are in doubt about where your property meets the Rail Trail land, please contact the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society at 1-888-505-SVRT or info@slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca.
JV Humphries Secondary looks to the future!

Teachers left excited about the possibilities; students were also excited about the possibilities. All of our Lakeside students were part of these discussions and will join us on Wednesdays. There is a real buzz about what is possible in school.

The major changes in the secondary include:
- Teacher advisory time in the morning to set goals and at the end of the day to review the goals;
- Fenser blocks during the day (from 5 to 4) to permit deeper learning and more hands-on activities;
- Seminar time twice a week for all students to have time to work on projects, to collaborate and to get help from teachers;
- Wednesdays are set aside for elective focus to time on project-based learning, giving students time to do meaningful projects linked to the community and a variety of learning outcomes.

Change is exciting...but also challenging as we work through the details. We are now on a roll and it looks like things will actually come together! Thanks for the input from staff, students and community to make this a truly new year at JHV!

We are excited to be back for another year. Staff have rested over the summer and major projects have happened and are happening around the building.

Last year, due to a large grade 12 class graduating and a small kindergarten class coming in, we projected that we would have 221 students from K-12. Much to our surprise we are thrilled to welcome 38 (17) new students, mainly elementary students. Some of them were previously home-schooled or in Homelinks. We also have welcomed students from many different places including one from Hong Kong and one from Korea. This large number has balanced the departure of the grad class, meaning that we have actually had an increase in school population to 229 students so far. This has meant quite large classes in the elementary wing.

With the retirement of Yvonne Dodd and the large number of new students in the building, staffing is still in flux. We are pleased to welcome Rick Boothier and Chrie Dicken as new members of our EA staff.

Collier takes One Book, One Kootenay

It was a hard fought three-way race as the polls closed and the votes were counted — and the suspense was palpable. In fact, the process was almost as suspenseful as the plot of this year’s One Book, One Kootenay selection, Confined Space by Deryn Collier (Simco & Schuster, 2012) is this year’s One Book, One Kootenay official selection.

"OBOK is a wonderful way to support local writers and the exposure throughout the region for Confined Space has been fantastic," said Collier when she heard her book was voted as the one Kootenay booklovers should read. "I really hope the program continues." Confined Space is a locally written mystery with universal appeal. The characters feel real, the plot is believable and readers don’t need to live in the Kootenays to picture the novel’s setting of construction and teaching happening at the same time.

We look forward to another excellent year of teaching and learning at JHV. Please come and visit.

Coline Schondie and Megan Fossey work on a project at JHV school.
The SILVER SLOCAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY would like to thank Carol Sell for the donation of her old underwear. The museum will display the underwear in a prominent place.

THE SLOCAN VALLEY CULTURAL ALLIANCE and The Utky Music Festival organizers would like to thank the truly talented crew, the musicians, volunteers and all the people that came out to the Slocan City Beach for the weekend and made it a Utky Music Festival indeed. We would like to thank the Village of Slocan for helping to host this event during a very challenging time for the valley, and the following sponsors. The Slocan Valley Legacy Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK Area H, Sockeye Enterprises, RDCK Area H, White Pines Day, Mountain Valley Stations, Village of Slocan, Silverton Building Supplies, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Heritage Credit Union, Slocan Valley Market, Slocan Valley Horse Handicap, Spring Face Products, Kootenay Co-op Radio, Naiomi Clothing, Fantes Pyrocan, Slocan Park Co-op, Maple Leaf Store, Integra Tire, Coin Times White Foods, Kootenay CLASSIFIED ADS

Co-op: Everything, Kootenay Baker, Pot’s Bakery, Save-On Foods Nelson, Emery Gless, David Ireland and stage crew, Yvon Courrier and Geography.

COMING EVENTS

THE NEW DENVER FRIDAY MARKET happens every Friday 10 am to 2 pm. Loudly grows produce, breads, goods, plants, fruit products and homemade wares. info: mdnrmarket@gmail.com.

PASSMORE GAZE BALL PLUCKERS is offering a free workshop on composting waste from chicken processing on Saturday September 21 from 10-11 am. This will show you how to compost chicken feathers, intestines, heads and feet. Phone 250-226-7101 for more details.

AWARD WINNING Vancouver Island Folk Musicians tour the Kootenays in September. See folks like The Great Plains (Saile and Derk are well-known throughout Canada for their years of playing with Gary Fjellgard and more recently also with folk legend Valdy). Thursday, September 19 at the Silverton Gallery, 7-9 pm. Advance available at Mercado’s or at the door. Friday, September 20 at the Kootenay United Church at 7-10 pm.

Tickets $12 at Sassyfied Market or call 250-353-7123 or at the door. Saturday, September 21 at Expressions in Nelson. Tickets at the door. A heart-warming evening of music, movement, and mayhem, as Saile & Derk entertain with tales of war, trade, miners, ghost town, and Cladlin Jim from the Arrow Lakes.

TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT Saturday Sept. 5-6 noon. Legion Hall 502 Harland St. Nelson. $30 Buy In. Tickets at Mountain Valley Stations in Slocan or phone 250-355-2672 to reserve.

18TH ANNUAL PASSMORE FALL FEST Sept. 21 & 22, 8-5 daily. $5 per person, age 6 and under free. Great Old Fashion Fall Fun dedicated to farming, heritage, & education. Events all weekend are 2nd Annual Dirty Digger Weekend, Live Entertainment and Dance Night, Horse Show, Vendor Village, Exhibitions Competitions, Kootenay Fish, Golf, Fun Skiing Carnival, Bowles House, clown, Vintage Car Show (Sat.), Dog Show (Sun.). Great food concessions. ATMP on site. $5 for youth exhibit entry.
Valley Sea Cadet wins Medal of Merit

Sea Cadet Kaden Ellis, a Slocan Valley resident in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Hampton Gray VC in Nelson, BC was recently awarded the Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans (ANAVETS) Medal of Merit as the top sail cadet on the six-week sail instructor course at HMCS Quadra’s Cadet Summer Training Centre, located in Quadra.

The ANAVETS medal of merit is awarded to the top cadet in each senior course at centres across Canada. Kaden was selected based on his overall achievement on the course, leadership qualities, instructional abilities, dress and deportment, motivation, and cooperation with others.

Kaden spent the past six weeks in Quadra learning advanced sailing skills, instructional techniques, and participating in numerous regattas throughout the summer. He is part of the only second ever CanStall class of certified cadets in the new Sea Cadet program.

World Rivers Day – Celebrate the Slocan River

This year there will be two opportunities to attend a BC Rivers Day Event, the first on September 22 at the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society which will include a salmon luncheon. The second is on the 33rd annual BC Rivers Day on September 29, also with a salmon luncheon and a field trip to the river. Check our websites for further information: www.slnsatinmotion.org and www.pensyridge.org.

Thank you to Area H Director

A sculpture by David Ducharme, titled The River’s Edge, celebrates the Slocan River.

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 towards a new contract agreement for the coming camp season(s), November 2013 to October 2014.

The campground and park is an appreciable community asset and serves residents and visitors alike. Located in Burton, the campground is surrounded by beach/lake 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 though their skills and efforts.

Should you wish to participate or learn more about this opportunity &/or would like to submit a proposal you can contact one of the following BC Parks representatives as listed below for more information: John Horne (jhorne@burtonlacky.ca), Brian Harrop (bhrap@burtonlacky.ca), Harry May (hmay@burtonlacky.ca), Wayne Cromwell (cromwell@burtonlacky.ca), Al Rafton (rafton@burtonlacky.ca)

This opportunity expires September 30, 2013.
Sufferfest coming to Kaslo and New Denver, September 27-29

by Jan McMurray

The fourth annual Sufferfest takes place September 27-29 in the Kaslo and New Denver areas.

This year, participants can choose between four running races and three mountain bike races—or do a combination of them—on the area’s amazing trail system. Some of the trails utilized in the races are the Old Wagon Road, Kaslo River Trail, Gileana Trail, Jackson Basin Trail, Buchanan Access Trail, Old Sndon Road, Alamo Wagon Road, Queen Bess Mining Road and the True Blue Recreation Area.

The event also includes six kids’ races on Saturday in Kaslo. “I encourage families racing together, and I love hearing about all the families and extended families who come every year,” said Janis Neufeld, event director and founder. She said last year’s races ranged in age from four to 71.

This year, there are about 600 entrants and 450 unique racers registered for the event, just slightly down from last year. Volunteers are also a huge part of the event. “Volunteering is another fun way to be involved in a race—it’s the next best thing to racing,” says Janis. “You really get the feel of the event.” She says it takes 200 volunteers to make Sufferfest happen and they too span in age—from 7 to 80 last year.

Spectators are also welcome and encouraged to come out and cheer the racers on. Janis says the kids’ races in Kaslo are particularly spectator friendly this year. The race directors for the two events starting in New Denver, Tim Sandor and Mike Koolen, are hoping people will come out to Centennial Park early Saturday morning (before 7 a.m.) to see the races off. “You can even watch Idaho racers on the event webcam,” says Tim.

The 100-km mountain bike race starts from Centennial Park in New Denver at 7 a.m. on Saturday, followed closely by the Idaho Peak run at 7:05. The Idaho Peak run is a new race this year and Janis says Tim Sandor has done a great job of organizing it. Contact him if you are interested in volunteering. Mike Koolen has been organizing the 100-km bike race for three years now, and Janis says it is one of the most successful events of the weekend.

One woman will be very much missed at this year’s event. Bernice Gilbert was a stellar Sufferfest volunteer and participant in the 10-km run. Sadly, she died on a camping trip this summer. “She was in my very first running clinic in Kaslo, and was always there, helping me with anything she could,” said Janis. The 10 km run is dedicated to her memory. The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society has also produced a plaque in her memory for the new Unity Bridge on the Kaslo River Trail.

New this year is a fun bike race, the Martin Denain, taking place in Vinnie Park on Friday evening at 5 p.m. Participants must be wearing denim and must be riding a single speed bike. “This will be a lot of fun! There should be some really funny costumes,” said Janis.

The event will expand to New Denver next year, and will be called Kootenay Sufferfest. Steve Anderson will be taking over as race director of the running races next year, so is working closely with Janis this year.

Check www.kaslosufferfest.com for more information.

New Denver teacher Gary Parmenter placed first in the 100 km bike race at Sufferfest 2012.

Presenting a ‘Portrait of South America’ in Kaslo

submitted

Local veteran professional photographer and global multimedia journalist Doug Pyper will be presenting an interactive evening at the Langham Cultural Center in Kaslo, Friday September 27 at 7:30 p.m. His visually captivating ‘Portrait of South America’ evolved from 18 months of travel and assignment work throughout Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Columbia since 2010.

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