Kaslo’s patience wearing very thin with Interior Health

by Jan McMurray

Disappointment, frustration and downright disgust with Interior Health were palpable in Kaslo’s Lighthouse Theatre on the evening of September 25. A huge crowd turned out for a meeting called by the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group and were told that the health authority has once again announced the closure of Kaslo’s 24/7 emergency service.

One year ago, Interior Health representatives came to Kaslo and announced that the emergency room hours would be cut back to Monday to Friday 9 to 5 because of physician and nurse shortages. After huge public outcry, they backtracked, apologized, and promised to work with the community on “the best model for services in Kaslo.” They worked well with the community until the spring. Then the collaboration abruptly stopped, and now it seems the community is back to where it was a year ago.

Maggie Winters of the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group outlined the work of the committee over the past year. She said the early months were spent gathering information to help them understand the issues. A community consultation process was designed by a steering committee of IH representatives along with Maggie Crowe and Maggie Winters of the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group. IH hired Dr. John Ross, who had written a report about emergency care in Nova Scotia, to participate in the community consultation process and to write a report with recommendations on how to improve emergency services in the Kaslo area.

A Future of State Workshop was held in April with community members, IH staff and BC Ambulance Service representatives. “Out of that workshop came many creative and forward mindset ideas for redesigning the way health care services are delivered here in Kaslo and many community members signed up with IH staff to work on those ideas,” said Winters. “Unfortunately, after the workshop, communications broke down in many respects and the stated intentions of IH to include our committee in the process moving forward caused a grinding halt.”

Winters said that following the Future of State workshop, the committee repeatedly asked IH for the Ross Report and for updates on the new model of care for Kaslo, but were basically stonewalled. In late July, IH reps met with the group and again asked them to agree to a reduction in emergency room hours.

“We refused based on the knowledge that there were so few back-up plans in place to ensure the safety of our residents,” said Winters.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack, also a member of the Kaslo and Area Health Care Working Group, added that he had recently met with Chris Mason, BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) superintendent for the area, and learned that the last time IH was in contact with BCAS was in April. “So they are trying to drop a plan on us without actually having anything in place,” he said.

Shadrack said the Ross Report was released to elected officials on Wednesday, September 11, just five days before their meeting with Dr. Halpenny, CEO of IH, at the UBCM conference. That’s where Halpenny announced that Kaslo’s emergency department would be closed — and that there would be 24/7 primary care. ""But trying to get him to explain what that (24/7 primary care) meant was like trying to understand the shape of jello,"" he said.

What can Kaslo expect from Interior Health in the coming months?

The following is from Maggie Winters’ report at the September 25 Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group meeting.

1. IH has clearly indicated that they intend to continue to work with the community in the coming months as the transition to reduced hours occurs. We do not have a firm date as yet for that transition and we have made it clear that we expect adequate support systems to be in place prior to any reduction in emergency room hours and that we see any reduction as potentially temporary as we explore options for how we might re-introduce 24/7 service once primary care is stabilized and how we can utilize the recommendations in the Ross report in designing that service.

2. IH will be putting the resources of their Practice Support Program into helping refine the operations of the Primary Care Clinic to better serve patients.

3. Clerical staff at the clinic will be trained to transition into the role of Medical Office assistants. This is a budgetary savings that has been mentioned in affecting their decision to practice in Kaslo.

4. Once the physician component is stabilized, additional training will be offered to RNs and physicians to build on skills necessary to handle high acuity patients needing resuscitation, intubation and trauma care.

5. Discussion around the role of a Nurse Practitioner (NP) in the clinic will occur with consideration given to putting in an application for an NP position in Kaslo.

6. Discussion will occur around how to prioritize the community input received in the spring and where improvements based on that input can occur.

7. Processes will be put in place to reduce the current wait time for appointments.

8. The Medical Affairs and Clinical Networks Director has agreed to come to Kaslo to discuss transportation issues and explain the role of the helicopter, fixed wing and ground transportation options and how BCAS and the HART team can assist in providing timely access to high level care for patients who are critically ill or injured. Efforts are underway to have a “Chief Pilot” visit. This involves the chief helicopter pilot designing a transfer loop coming to Kaslo and the Ladner Valley to work with first responders on how to identify and prepare a temporary landing site for emergent transfers.

Free!

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Visitor Information - Page 19
NOTICE TO REMOVE PRIVATE LAND FROM WOODLOT LICENCE W1832

Please be advised that Winlaw Creek Woodlot Ltd. is proposing to remove 21 hectares of private land from Woodlot Licence W1832. The private land is located on the lower slopes of Perry’s Ridge approximately 1 km north of Winlaw.

Comments on this proposal must be submitted to Winlaw Creek Woodlot Ltd., Box 24, Winlaw BC, V0G 2J0 by October 16, 2013.

Only written inquiries received by the above date will be responded to.

Information about this proposal can be obtained by contacting info@winlawwoodlot.ca.
Sensible BC collecting signatures for decriminalization

by Art Joyce and Jan McMillan

The campaign to get over 400,000 signatures on an initiative petition by December 5 in an attempt to decriminalize marijuana possession in BC is under way.

Vancouver resident Dara Larsen launched the initiative petition, the same process used by Bill Vander Zalm to introduce the NUTT initiative, but over two and a half weeks into the 12-week canvassing period, Larsen sounded confident when contacted by the Valley Voice.

“I’m feeling pretty good about the interior and the North in terms of how many signatures we’re getting,” says Larsen. “The most common question I get asked is where can I sign?”

As Sensible BC’s campaign materials point out, it’s well past time for archaic laws on cannabis possession to be tossed out. Millions of dollars have been spent on courts and policing, accomplishing little more than criminalizing individuals for use of a substance known to be less harmful than alcohol. And the majority of Canadians agree—a 2012 Angus Reid poll found 57 percent in favour of decriminalization. This is an average—the figure rises as high as 64 percent in the Maritime provinces and 80 percent in BC. Fully 84 percent of Canadian expect cannabis to be legalized within the next 10 years, according to a June article in Maclean’s magazine.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Conservative government is stepping up arrests for possession. Larsen estimates that sometime this year the millionth person in Canada will be arrested for possession. The Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction at Simon Fraser University calls the Conservatives’ policy on drug prohibition as “one of society’s greatest failures.” The Canadian Drug Policy Coalition is in support of decriminalizing all currently illegal drugs while regulating and taxing cannabis.

Sensible BC hopes to get the northern part of the province covered early, the strategists weren’t far off the streets in the harsh weather. The campaign’s biggest challenge, adds Larsen, is in the Lower Mainland, due to the concentration of electoral districts there.

“We’ve got a good team in place,” says Larsen. “New canvassers are coming in regularly. We’ve got just under 2,500 people registered or in the process of being confirmed by Elections BC.”

More canvassers are always welcome. Racing organizers are listed on the Sensible BC website. The Kootenay West organizer is Susan Yurychuk (susan.yurychuk@gmail.com, mobile 250-468-8202) and Nelson-Creston organizer is Herb Couch (regularguy@shaw.ca).

Smart meter opt-out fees generate province-wide controversy

by Art Joyce

BC Hydro’s opt-out for smart meters is a smart move in the long run but it’s also a neat way to make sure that the costs to customers have been revealed. And while BC Hydro residential customers are being given the choice, business clients have no such option. Meanwhile FortisBC customers can thank interviewers and expert witnesses who testified before the BC Utilities Commission (BCC) for the opt-out plan the company is currently seeking approval for, which will allow commercial opt-outs. The original Fortis application proposed allowing the opt-out for any kind.

Regional District Area D Director Andy Shadick, who was an interviewer in the BCUC proceedings for the original FortisBC application for its smart meter program, has registered once again as an interviewer against the revised BCUC application to charge opt-out fees.

The proposed FortisBC fees would be a set-up charge of $110 and $22 per month reading, or $11 per month for most customers. The rate would be the same for both residential and commercial clients. BC Hydro customers will be allowed to keep their analog meters until they expire, but then a digital meter will have to be installed with the radio transmitter turned off. BC Hydro isn’t ordering any new analogs, although they are available through the internet.

But for those on fixed incomes such as seniors or those on disability payments the extra $42 per year for the BC Hydro opt-out could mean a choice between not eating or freezing in the dark. BC’s Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) is advising customers not to sign the recent notice sent out by BC Hydro stating that fees would apply beginning in December. CST director Sharon Noble says she’s getting emails from people every day saying they can’t afford to pay their hydro bills since their new meters were put in. She urges customers to read the opt-in and BCUC expressing their outrage.

A sample letter is available on the CST website.

The response from BCUC has been very weak, but they cannot ignore the public’s reaction. It’s time ordinary people came out and said, we don’t care if it’s reasonable, we can’t afford it—you can’t get blood from a stone. It’s not reasonable, it’s extortion,” says Noble.

CST has launched a class action suit against BC Hydro, arguing for customers’ rights to keep their analog meters without having to pay fees. The suit argues for the fundamental human right to protect one’s health from potential sources of harm. If successful, it would mean those who had smart meters installed against their will could have them removed. Noble stresses that there is no financial risk or liability to becoming a member of the class action. CST is currently applying to the courts to expand the suit to include businesses. Donations to cover legal costs are certainly appreciated, she adds.

Last year, CST presented over 100 independent scientific studies citing evidence of harm from microwave radiofrequency (RF) signals to Dr. Perry Kendall, the BC Public Health Officer. The studies were then submitted to the BC Centre for Disease Control. The centre issued a statement in March this year acknowledging the potential for RF to seriously lower fertility rates and to be a factor in diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. Noble points out, however, that Dr. Kendall has done nothing so far to act on the CDC report.

“It’s often the families with children, the elderly and the elderly who are most vulnerable to the radiation,” says Noble.

CST is also providing testimony to the Consumer Product Safety Commissioner in the US, who is investigating fears caused by smart meters. Noble is asking anyone who has experienced a fire following installation of a smart meter to come forward with their story.

“Because we have the same kind of radiation in the US, they’re asking for information from us in Canada,” says Noble. “One fire inspector, speaking anonymously, said the base that’s on our homes is incompatible with the smart meters and is the cause of fires.”

For more information on the CST class action suit visit www.citizensforsaletecology.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES GRANTS AVAILABLE

The deadline for the Environmental Initiatives Program’s Large Grants stream is October 15, 2013. Applications are available now. Learn more at www.cbt.org/eip.

NEWS

The initiative petition process allows approved voters to propose new laws or changes to existing laws. The petition is available in paper form only, it is not available online. To be successful, at least 10 percent of the registered voters in each of BC’s 85 ridings must sign within a 90-day period of canvassing. An initiative vote, if required, is held every three years in September. The next possible date for an initiative vote is September 27, 2014.

If an initiative petition is submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer with enough valid signatures and the opponent has complied with the financing rules, it is referred to a Select Standing Committee of the legislature, which may choose to have an initiative vote held on the topic of the initiative petition. If successful, the petition will then be sent to a Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives to determine whether a new law or changes to an existing law should be introduced in the House or put to a province-wide initiative vote.

If more than 50 percent of all registered voters and 50 percent of all registered voters in at least two-thirds of the electoral districts vote in favour of a new law or changes to an existing law, the new law or changes must be introduced in the House. The House may pass or not pass the law.

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Community Calendar

Thursday, October 3
Audio Workshop: The Art of Presence
The Healing Dan, ND
Saturday, October 5
Texas Hold’Em Tournament
Valhalla Wilderness Program radius Drive
Sunday, October 6
Vancouver Opera – Barber of Babbercoke
Bonnington Arts Centre 2 pm
Audio Workshop: Getting Unstuck
Fall Culture Bike Ride
Wenon Station 2 - 2 pm

Tuesday, October 8
New Council
Karlo council
Council chambers 7 pm
Saturday, October 12
Thanksgiving Cornucopia in New Denver
424 – 1st Ave, New Denver
Thanksgiving Cornucopia in New Denver
424 – 1st Ave, New Denver
Tuesday, October 15
Nakusp council
Slocan council
Silverton council
Council chambers 7 pm
Council chambers 7 pm
Council chambers 7 pm

Thursday, October 17
Credit Union Day
Boox board meeting
Friday, October 18
CST Symposium
CST Symposium
CST Symposium
CST Symposium
Slocan Valley Arts Council AGM
Slocan Historical Society AGM
Monday, October 21
Slocan Valley Arts Council AGM
Vitalton Heritage Hall 7 pm
Tuesday, October 22
Aboriginal Education Agreement Public Meeting
Frog Peak Cafe 5 pm - 8 pm
Wednesday, October 23
Slocan Valley Tourism Plan Presentation
Silvertown Memorial Hall 7:30 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave
Kaslo health care problems have negative spin-off

As a resident of Argenta, I already have to drive an hour to get to Kaslo for health care. Fine — my choice to live here. But now I have had to drive several times to the walk-in clinic in Nelson to see a doctor or even get a simple drug prescription renewal, because I had to wait over a month (!!!) to see a doctor in Kaslo. That is a four-hour return trip.

A side effect of that is that many of us, once we are in Nelson, do not shopping there as well as Kaslo businesses lose out, too.

Ulrich Holtcamp
Argenta

Area H North TV Society offers radio stations

For the past two years, I've served as president of the Area H North TV Society, a position I accepted with some unease. However, it is a necessary position on a board that is necessary for the funk in the clinic in Nelson to see a board member and taxpayer, who may now be getting the free Shaw programming. I've certainly had a ton of phone calls in the past year from folks regarding the Shaw arrangement.

Please realize that Shaw provides a great choice of Canadian TV channels but no radio stations, which are a major component of the TV Society's mandate. There are five radio stations enjoyed locally on any radio anytime that are broadcast from our tower. Those signals carry from Slocan City through Hills and well towards Kaslo.

Future funding of TV Society programming will be determined by our municipal authorities who oversee tax collection and disbursement, and by the wishes of the good people who reside in New Denver, Silverton and the north part of electoral Area H. The TV Society annual general meeting is held each March in New Denver.

Peter Ronblom
New Denver

Open letter to premier re: Kaslo health care issue

Cherry, where are you? We need your help! The IHA is closing down our emergency room service here in Kaslo. They must be trying to slip this by you because the legislature is not sitting right now. I remember during your campaign you said you would protect and serve all BC residents. How does the IHA think they can get away with this? I can't imagine you letting them treat us so simpathetically. Straighten them up, Christy and get us some doctors. If things don't get resolved, I'll keep you informed on the body count, then you can step in and repatriate the IHA.

Tom Coombs
Kaslo

Copy of letter to Health Minister Terry Lake re: Kaslo health care

My name is Linda Portman. I have been a resident of Kaslo for 35 years. I have raised my family here and am thankful for the lifestyle we have enjoyed over the years. Unfortunately, that lifestyle is severely compromised by the recent cuts made to our medical services.

My daughter and her husband are raising their family here, but with the birth of their son last year, they are seriously concerned with the compromised health services.

Our grandson was born with Down syndrome so access to emergency medical care is a constant worry.

I am extremely disappointed with the response from IH in this matter. We have waited a year while the local Health Care Working Group attempted to negotiate a solution to the impending ER closures.

We need a speedy resolution to this problem so I would be very thankful for any assistance you can provide in this matter.

Linda Portman
Kaslo

Connecting the area’s trails

Let’s celebrate the achievement of the five person summer student trail crew, their supervisor, and the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, which hired them. Over an eight-week period and at a cost of $40,000, these young people cleaned up and improved a large number of trails. Here are some of the trails that benefitted from their hard work:

Earl Grey, Wagon Road, Wardner Viewpoint, Monaca, Junaba, Macbeth, Mt. Wille, Mt. Brennan, and Kaslo River and Airport Trail Network. Such work fosters a healthy outdoor fitness and a lifelong appreciation of our amazing natural surroundings. It is also a vital investment in our tourist infrastructure, which is such an important part of our local economy. In the past, Forestry would have funded this work, but this year their share had shrunk to $5,000. It is great to see our local Community Forest Society stepping in to fill this void.

On this topic, it amazes me that the communities of Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo have not combined to link the historic rail connections between their three communities, and to promote the experience internationally as a multi-day, bicycle holiday. There are European cyclists who would embrace this opportunity. We have hot springs and fine accommodation at both ends of the tour. We have recreation and shopping opportunities for the family members not taking part in the ride. We have the history, the scenery, and the adventure to rival the Bowron Lakes or the Kettle Valley Railway. At the moment there are four chokepoints, which can be solved with public goodwill and cooperation.

These are Payne Bühls, which needs a short section of contoured boardwalk, Summit Lake south to Rosebery, which needs some TLC from a student trail crew, a sturdy bridge over McGowan Creek, and, finally, a clearly marked entrance to the public right of way Wagon Road at Kaslo, which is free of vandalism, intimidation, and the deliberate creation of obstacles.

The hard work for this untapped asset was done by our ancestors 100 years ago. In comparison, it would take our generation relatively little to revive this corridor and give our communities a sounder economic base.

Next year’s Loomie Toonie 200K race during Sufferfest will highlight this connection. I believe it is a cause well worth promoting.

Gerald Garnett
Kaslo

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LETTERS

Stick to the Highway when driving through New Denver

Two Things. First, thank you to all those drivers, whether local, regional or tourist, travelling between Kalo and Nakusp and vice versa, who follow the directional signs and stay on Hwy 3A or Hwy 6 when entering New Denver and avoid using Wha 8th, Columbia and 11th Ave, aka Hwy 318, as a short cut. As this is a residential neighbourhood, any decrease in traffic - e.g. large RV’s towing boats, speeding trucks, commercial trucks (actually prohibited, but noticed nevertheless), loud motorcycles, confined tourists following their GPS’s - is greatly appreciated. It reduces noise levels and makes our neighborhood streets safer for children playing and walking to school, as well as for pedestrians. We conducted a few tests on a Sunday morning, obeying the speed limit until we reached the Wha 8th intersection and found that following the shortest exit cut off one to two minutes compared to the highway route - not much of a timesaver in my book. If more drivers followed the signs, maybe they would stop in New Denver’s downtown core and buy something instead of missing the village completely. Maybe the Village would not have to keep repairing the pathways which develop on Wha 8th Ave. Again, many grateful thanks to those who stick to the provincial highways when driving to and from those who now decide to change their route.

Second, there is a pollution on Hwy 318 just outside of New Denver where your usual Sunday drive down to Silverton starts. There is a fog on Hwy 318 you are not aware of. Misfits in Japan have been working for years. There is a No Parking sign. Unfortunately, in that yard waste were some unwelcome guests - there are now over 100 tenants instead of Japanese knotweed. Every day, they get rid of two of which are down in the stream gullily encroaching onto the forest, and some other invasive plants which I link back to Himalayan balsam and morning glory, which is spreading over the gravel berm. We need to be able to identify invasive plants, buy them and take them to the Rosebery transfer station, not dump them in the woods to spread and threaten native species.

Sue O'Donnell

New Denver

Smart meter opt-out option #4

There once was a time when I was younger than I felt an automatic respect for those people and businesses that were both older than me and in important and responsible positions. As the years pass by, I have come to realize that more of the time than not this respect is unwarranted, especially in the case of how BC Hydro is handling the ‘smart’ meter mess, and how they continue to handle it. Mr. Gary McCoubrey, Chief Project Officer, Smart Meter Program, has sent us a letter that while appears to deserve respect in presentation, is more like a trenchless rallying tell-all: I have to accept this apparently arbitrary options, which are: 'pay me $424/year and I won't have to trouble you; pay me $1000 for front and T&D only charge you $234/year not to hurt you; or of you don't, we will pound you either way with $424/year or with FR (smog)’ imagining a surprised young man with big ugly teeth and a big fist at the ready.

I want to be the contractor who reads the meters in New Denver! Do the math, 130 service addresses give or take a few, multiplied times $240 = $35,600/yr job for what might take three days a month if you spend a lot of time chatting and inspecting the service lines. And if I don’t get paid enough, I can even get in for $1000 per meter address. It is in the $3500/year for New Denver alone.

This supposedly publicly owned utility monopoly is acting like there is no tomorrow, embarrassingly trying to save face and digging themselves deeper in the hole, trying to make you sign a contract (that’s a weak contract) for a rate increase because it hasn’t been approved through the monopoly commission, the BC Utility Commission (UTC). That commission is the public guardian that should balance the needs of a utility with large investments in various areas with the needs for the public to have fair and responsible businesses selling their sole source monopolized vital services, which in this case is electricity. You can have your own assessment with them to pay 2-3 times the rate for your kilowatt hours if you want.

I reluctantly wrote in my own option #4 at the bottom of the petition with a question mark. That option is they set up an online meter reporting portal. Each month or two, you go and read the numbers on your meter. It is not hard to do. Write that down and find a computer where you can report it at the kilowatt hours/times. There can be a program written that will query you if the numbers seem out of line and BC Hydro can have an automated meter that records for the actual cost of a well-paid staff to drive around and check the meter readings and the condition of their lines. May be they learn their new meters actually capture more electrical sales! But I thought it was all approved by Measurement Canada! It still has a snitch about it. I’m trying clear, going off grid if I have to.

Kip Drobish

Hills

Petition flawed, but opens good discussion

The validity of the petition to revoke RDC funding from the TV Society is questionable.

Can the names of the people on the petition who signed it just out of the petition, whose persistence was annoying them, be considered valid?

Can the names of the people who signed the petition knowing all the facts be considered valid?

A valid petition must have all the correct information in the preamble and must be signed freely without any form of coercion.

The petition is flawed but may at least begin the process of finding out whether the TV Society is still useful and deserves RDC funding.

To that end, an email address has been set up to accumulate information: If any of the people that have been excluded from the society, which includes everyone living in Area H North of the RDCK, would like to inform the TV Society board of directors of their views, please feel free to send your opinion or questions regarding the society to shv@shvatv.com.

Michael Brown
New Denver (board member of the TV Society)

Smart meters and internet interference

Areas in BC are vulnerable to BC Hydro’s plans to implement smart meters because our areas receive internet access via satellite. There is no access to high speed cable.

BC Hydro plans to charge $35 a month to retain our old hydro meters if we don’t want smart meters. We, in Rosebery, host our internet access in the meter box. We will be remanded a Hydro Receiving because BC Hydro’s frequency interfered with the internet tower in our area. Many of us were without internet service for about three weeks until Hydro’s Chief Project Officer of the Smart Meter Program agreed to shut down the receiver.

Many of no business do not install computers, including my husband who consults for Tec, Red Mountain Internet Society, the internet provider for the area, will lose their business because of this problem. Red Mountain Internet Society was well established before the advent of smart meters.

The receiver on the hydro pole is on cogeneration, 900 Watt Spots, Spots that are the main reason our internet was off completely. The receiver on the hydro pole transmits information to a hydro tower, which only activates for a few minutes off and on during the day. BC Hydro is noticing when they state that a few minutes a day is not a problem. It is the receivers on hydro poles that are the problem and not their towers that collect the information.

Can hydro charge us for retaining our old meters when our internet access is interrupted, and force us to either pay a monthly fee or do without the internet?

I understand this problem is all throughout the Shuswap region, towns such as Likely, BC, because we receive internet signals via a mountain tower, not cable.

Motorists who take issue with BC Hydro’s unfair charges can complain to: Customer Service Specialists, British Columbia Utilities Commission, 6th Floor, 1250 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 3J1. For more information, visit: complaints@bcuc.com.

Gail Toop
Rosebery

TV Society valuable

I just read Dan’s editorial about the TV Society being obsolete and it got me thinking. He states “I’m taxed of subsidizing a service that I don’t need, use or want.” Looking at me about 40 percent of my property taxes is designated for the school, I chose not to have kids, so I didn’t need, use or want a school. Should I have to pay for the education of other people’s kids? Hummm... perhaps I should start a petition... just kidding.

I happen to be one of those people who use the TV Society’s services. I appreciate access to PBS and Kootenay Co-op Radio and would sorely miss them if the TV Society did not exist. I would have a harder time paying for it through property taxes is still cheaper than buying a package from Shaw. And there is some service... the TV Society can be approached to investigate whether other channels can be carried.

Now I can’t stop thinking about all the things I pay for through my taxes that I don’t need, use or want...

Susie O’Donnell
New Denver

FortisBC responds to letter about its (AMI) smart meter project

A letter was published in the September 18 Valley Voice discussing some safety concerns with FortisBC’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.

The BC Utilities Commission, an independent regulatory agency, approved the AMI project in July after hearing from expert witnesses who presented extensive evidence during public hearings that advanced meters are safe. Transcripts of the hearings can be found at bcuc.com.

Advanced meters fall within Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 guidelines, the relevant safety standard for RF exposure. In fact, the exposure from a bank of 10 advanced meters for about 30 minutes per day is only 0.000021 per cent of Safety Code 6 – a tiny fraction of the exposure from a cellphone during a call.

We believe advanced meters will have many benefits for our customers. Electricity rates will be lower with advanced meters than without them, and advanced meters will provide us with more informative and flexible billing, a significant reduction in electricity theft, and instant notification of power outages.

For more information, visit fortisbc.com/safety.

Ian Dry
Manager, Electric Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Area H North TV Society petition misleading

The recent petition regarding the TV Society did not provide all the information a reader needed to be able to sign with confidence that they knew the potential consequences of removing the RDCK funding. It misleads the public. The recent commentary in the Valley Voice editorial also discredits the petition. It would appear that the petitioner has allied with the publisher, and I feel a need to respond to both of them to correct a few points.

This petition primarily promotes an all-inclusive “action that seeks to eliminate the need for the TV Society to be paid for through our taxes.”

The publisher misrepresents a choice not to watch TV but appears not to have persevered in his attempt to receive a signal. Most areas around the valley require an outside directional antennas. The over the air TV channel count is seven, not four, and he fails to mention that five radio stations is broadcast by the TV Society.

The petition is contradictory in the last two paragraphs.

1) It argues that “user pay” should return to the people how a use a user pay system would work. For a volunteer group, going back to a user pay system would be an administrative nightmare. Any collection process, knocking on doors or phone solicitation is simply not practical and a non-starter. In publicly funded TV or radio, there is a hope that users would voluntarily pay.

Public stations like PBS, Knowledge or Kootenay Co-op radio are always fundraising and, frustratingly, find not all do. Do we want to decrease funding without making a monetary contribution?

2) It states the “petition does not affect or limit the TV Society from broadcasting the current TV and Radio channels.” This is a very misleading statement that is not based on fact. Yes, it will affect the operation because not all users will pay voluntarily. That’s why the taxation innovation, steered by the then TV Society president, was introduced through the plebiscite in 1995. If there is no RDCK funding, the TV Society would, in time, fold and the over the air local TV and Radio service would end.

I believe the “free” LTTSS program will not be free forever, I would expect the free LTTSS program to end after 5 years. Expect a bill then. Just wait and see.

It is unfortunate but I have learned to stay clear of anyone who signs now realize that they have been misled and now, know the facts, regret their action.

All property taxpayers in New Denver, Silverton and Area H North are members of the TV Society.

Ignore the FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt) being perpetrated. Be informed and decide for yourself.

Rod Farmsworth
New Denver
Fisheries biologist sheds light on Lemon Creek spill at BC Rivers Day presentation

by Art Joyce

It should have been a celebration of BC Rivers Day but it was more like a wake for the dead. Retired fisheries biologist Otto Langer was the special guest speaker at the Passmore Hall Sunday, September 29, hosted by Marilyn Burgess of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association and introduced by Sinist spokesperson Marilyn James.

"The government needs to be held accountable, they're trying to shift the load onto the community and it's way beyond what the community can bear," said James during her opening remarks.

Langer is a 32-year veteran with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans as well as the federal Environment ministry. As a water quality biologist, he specialized in habitat protection, in particular fish habitat protection. In addition, he taught a DFO course in chain of evidence and testifying in environmental court cases. Langer himself has testified in 120 such cases as an expert witness.

"You don't just protect trout in a stream, it's the ecosystem you have to protect, the food and support system for those fish," Langer explained.

The presentation began with a briefing in the history of Canada's environmental protection legislation, starting with the first federal fisheries act in 1856. Significant legislation was passed starting in the 1970s but the recent omnibus budget bill passed by the Conservative government has largely stripped away the last of this historic legislation.

LDC's longstanding presence in the Kootenays has fallen to the axe of layoffs and budget cuts along with every other DFO office in BC. Langer observed that this is probably why there was no DFO presence during the recent jet fuel spill in Lemon Creek.

Federal environmental assessment reviews plummeted from 497 to 5 per year, and protected waterways dropped from 100,000 nationally to 10. Similar gutting of environmental protection has occurred in BC. It began with the Glen Clark NDP government and has continued in earnest with the BC Liberals.

"You think you're a cover-up here," said Langer.

"We get the vitals that residents keep careful track of all fish and wildlife samples collected. They should be sealed, dated and frozen," Jennifer Yeow of Streamkeepers, who was present for Langer's talk, later said she's been told by Ministry of Environment staff that they have about 200 specimens in their freezer.

"We think that with 200 samples, we can get a pretty good picture of what's happening. We don't see that the ministry has anything to hide in this," says Yeow. "If that trust isn't validated then you pull out the stops and call West Coast Environmental Law. But the longer we can keep communications open the more information we're going to get from them."

Yeow also reported that Streamkeepers is circulating a petition to demand that the organization's data is included in the long-term monitoring plan for the spill site. The plan is currently being reviewed.

Langer said that despite what locals were told, all jet fuel has benzene, along with up to 200 other toxic additives. Even concentrations in parts per billion can be toxic to stream life. Another falsehood perpetuated by the media is that 80 percent of the jet fuel will evaporate within 48 hours. Langer said this is not true – jet fuel persists in cold water ecosystems and sediments. Langer will be writing a letter to BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak about the situation.

"You've got a greater problem than you've been led to believe," he said. "There seems to be a concerted effort to minimize the effects of this spill."

Langer called the Lemon Creek spill a "preventable disaster." He said the driver of the tanker truck, believed to be a rookie driver, should have been accompanied by a pilot car once off the main highway. Persistent requests for information about the accident from the Ministry of Transportation by this reporter have not been answered while the investigations is still underway.

BC Hydro claims no responsibility for internet interference

by Art Joyce

BC Hydro says its smart meter infrastructure had nothing to do with last year's internet outage experienced by customers of Red Mountain Internet Society (RMIS) in the Silverton area.

When BC Hydro began installing its first smart meters in Silverton and Rossby, Red Mountain Internet Society (RMIS) customers found themselves without service for several days. The company agreed to shut off the smart meters and work with RMIS "to explore options for co-existence between our two systems." The collectors have remained off since that time. Now however, BC Hydro is claiming no responsibility.

"We can confirm that BC Hydro's smart meters were not the cause of the interference with the Red Mountain Internet Society was experiencing," says Alexis. "Upon further investigation, we identified constant sources of radio frequency in the same frequency band that we believe are the cause of Red Mountain's issues. We also advised the ISP that adhering to manufacturer's standard would help them to serve their customers better."

Alexis claimed that because BC Hydro's smart meters transmit for only seconds a day, this allows smart meters to co-exist with broadband radios, such as those used by wireless Internet Service Providers (ISPs). BC Hydro's smart meters operate in the 900MHz unlicensed frequency band, as do many ISPs.

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New Denver Hospice Society Preserves Pavilion Memorial Gardens

The New Denver Hospice Society has accepted responsibility for protecting and maintaining the Pavilion Memorial Gardens. Requested funding for maintenance of the Memorial gardens, handled for many years by the Hospital Auxiliary Society, has expired. These gardens contain many memorials dedicated to residents who have lived in the Pavilion. The gardens provide an outdoor setting with a fabulous view of the lake and mountains that contributes to the well being of current residents and a beautiful space for those important visits with family and friends.

New Denver Hospice is committed to preserving the beauty, growth and memories of these gardens. This can only be accomplished through community support.

Would you consider making a financial gift? Your tax-deductible contribution to the Pavilion Memorial Gardens can be made on our website at www.newtonverhoopse.ca or you can write a cheque payable to New Denver Hospice Society and mail it to Box 217, New Denver, BC V0G 1B9.

The New Denver Hospice Society is a community-based charity dedicated to providing support and compassionate care to terminally ill patients, their family and friends. Our society has supported many residents of the Pavilion and their families in death and grief. The Palliative Care Room in the Pavilion is cared for by the Hospice Society, and we see this garden as a logical extension in providing compassionate care for the dying, the elderly and the dying.

Tales from the Fisherman's Market: Sometimes A Great Notion

Prawn season this year was the worst production year for me. We had a 14 day stretch where I travelled up the coast of BC and didn't catch a bloody thing. Have you heard the line, "If a fish goes into a bar it's in the process of drowning..."? Our beautiful coastlines was lost in the fog of our disappointment.

One evening in Zipper Mouth I met up with several of the local guys and we went to see a "hanging" fishing boat. We were stoked to be out at sea again. We released most of what we caught that evening, but we did decide to keep some. Dungeness crab, greenling, prawns, brill and sablefish. We had the best meal of the trip and it made me think of my other life: offering bulk packs. The three of us devoured all of our meals and discussed Fisherman's Market. We talked about catching prawns, always on land as a fisherman and we talked about bulk packs. We all agreed it's a pretty cool thing what we do both catching and selling seafood. And that evening, during some of our loudest moments, we found a little bit of happiness with the help of some old fashioned jiggling for a good meal.

-Ian Adam Fisherman's Market, Quality you deserve
Silvertown council, September 24: Meeting with Gallery Society coming soon

by Jan McMurray

• Council plans to discuss the discontinuation of the Silvertown Gallery at a meeting with the Slocan Lake Gallery Society this month. Both council and the society would like a third party to facilitate the meeting.

• Council approved a new Facilities Rental Policy. Discussion centered around requirements for third party liability insurance from renters. Staff will bring forward more information on this, including who can be insured under the Village’s policy and specific examples of “high risk” and “moderate risk” activities as defined by the Municipal Insurance Association. Council intends to re-vist this part of the policy once they have more information.

• Mayor Provan reported that Communities in Bloom was very successful. “Thanks to staff and Public Works!” she said. She will attend the annual conference in Kamloops October 4 and 5.

• Mayor Provan reported on the UBCM conference. Silvertown council met with Ministry of Transportation representatives to ask for a speeder board. The ministry is expected to get back to the Village with an answer.

Mayor Provan learned at UBCM that the Age Friendly funding program will provide only 25 grants this year, and communities that have not yet accessed the funding would be given priority. She said she would like the Village to apply again anyway, and to discuss other possible avenues of funding for Silvertown’s age-friendly program at a budget meeting.

Mayor Provan said that after attending the BC Mayors’ Caucus, she feels “the Province is getting the message they have to pay attention to rural BC.”

Councillor Main said wildfire abatement projects were discussed at UBCM and Silvertown was used as an example of a community where the program has worked very well. Both Stephen Martineau of SIFCo and Elaine Rogers were mentioned by name. The Village will send a letter to SIFCo with this acknowledgement.

Councillor Main reported that a meeting with the Attorney General at UBCM was positive, and that preventative action against flooding is being looked at seriously.

A meeting with BC Hydro was very disappointing and frustrating, she reported. Hydro reps acknowledged that the infrastructure in this area is old, but there are no plans for upgrades.

She said the Kootenay booth was “by far the best” and that Revelstoke and Golden have asked to join in future.

• Councillor Main also reported on a meeting she attended at UBCM with the premier and Silvertown council members regarding Slocan’s proposed microhydro project. When Slocan reps said they have found $2.5 million to capitalize the hydro project and are looking for $1 million more, the premier suggested private investors. Slocan reps made it clear they are committed to a public project.

Councillor Main suggested opening the request for further information as a way to capitalize the project. “Many municipalities would be willing to invest in this, instead of our money going to the Lower Mainland or the Okanagan,” she said. Main felt that the premier was receptive to this idea.

• The CAO congratulated council for doing very well on completing the priorities it set out for itself. He suggested council have a meeting to set priorities for the next year – the last year of the term. Council agreed to meet in late November or early December, after they have completed the budget, have had the meeting with the gallery society, and after the upcoming public meeting on economic development.

New Denver council, September 24: Council Cafe scheduled for November 16

by Karine Campbell

Mayor Ann Bunke, Councillor Nadine Krock and Deputy Administrator Catherine Alloway reported on the various meetings and workshops they attended at the Union of BC Municipalities conference. See Bunke’s Mayor’s Message elsewhere in this issue for her report.

Alloway said the Environment ministry had been very helpful and supportive regarding the situation the Village could face if Carpenter Creek floods again, and Highways is taking a look at the bridge. The area around and under the central piling have been caved out by the force of the water and debris that came down the creek in the spring.

• A Council Cafe to meet and talk with residents is scheduled for November 16.

Council received a letter from Anne Chambers asking for a bylaw to require warning stickers on gas pumps similar to those on cigarette packages. The letter noted a legal opinion, co whether a municipality has the legal right to draft such a bylaw, is not yet available.

• Steve Deakoff was given permission to extend his driveway pavement to the street, as no water infrastructure would be covered.

A letter from RDCK Chair John Keith asking council to write letters opposing cuts to training program funding by the federal government was received for information and no letters will be written.

“Why wouldn’t we listen to them if they don’t listen to the Province?” Mayor Bunke asked.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE OF 2014 PERMISSIBLE 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)(a) [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 the year 2013. Council meeting and will be reconsidered and finally adopted at the Regular Meeting of Council on October 8, 2013.

1. Lot 6, Block 14, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District (Tunier Memorial Church) (2014: $443.72) (2015: $448.60) (2016: $453.53);


3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District & (1) Lot 22 (2) PdA (K623543) (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 east one hundred feet to the point of commencement (2014: $955.56) (2015: $965.80) (2016: $973.12);


5. Lot 10, Block 12, Plan NEP9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District & 1/2 of Lot 8 (Bosun Hall) (2014: $437.36) (2015: $444.84) (2016: $452.73);

6. Lot 1, Block 13, Plan NEP7964, District Lot 422, Kootenay Land District (Silvery Slocan Museum) (2014: $3,935.52) (2015: $3,976.69) (2016: $4,020.64);

For the year 2014

Carol Gordon, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer

SLOCAN VALLEY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, October 27, 2013, 3 pm
SILVERTOWN GALLERY

Delicious refreshments will be served
Followed by Community Potluck at
Bosun Hall, New Denver
hosted by the
Healthy Community Society

Do you support the Silvertown Gallery?
We are at a crossroads and need your help.

The CAO reported he would look for funding to hire a student to digitize the Village Bylaws. He mentioned that a filing system was also needed.

Counsil agreed to the request from the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to increase its annual grant-in-aid to $24 per business licence fee collected. The Chamber has been receiving $12.50 per business licence fee collected from the Village of Silvertown for several years.

Council supported a motion that has been introduced in the House of Commons, calling on the government to review the Vessel Operation Restruction Regulations with the objective of allowing municipalities to better regulate the waters in their territory.

Carol Bell was appointed as the Village of Silvertown’s representative on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission. Chad Stubbs was appointed to Recreation Commission #6.

Space is filling fast! Don’t miss out!
Nakusp Mayor’s report on Union of BC Municipalities convention

by Mayor Karen Huntling

The 2013 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre with approximately 2,000 delegates attending the five-day conference.

Tuesday morning, I attended a meeting with Minister Bill Bennett, and representatives from CFT and regional districts, where we had a discussion on the membership and make-up of the board appointees from the regional districts. It was a good meeting and we will be helpful for both the CFT board and the regional districts boards.

The Small Talk Forum for small communities was held on Tuesday. The BC Ambulance Service situation in small, remote communities was also discussed, as it is felt that the system as it is no longer functions for our area and will become increasingly stressed. Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development Coralee Oakes addressed the forum. She is from a small rural community and is aware of the issues. The forum recognizes that small communities have significant impact on the province and has promised to be our champion.

Council met with BC Hydro’s

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Nakusp "DOLLAR & DOLLAR" Sale

by Ken McMullan

The Village of Nakusp is currently in negotiations to purchase the Cedar Chalets at the Hot Springs. The Village has been working with the owners of the Chalets to finalize terms, including the use of its financial resources to finance the purchase. The Chalets are a valuable asset to the Village, providing a much-needed year-round accommodation for visitors.

Several offers have been made to the owners, but none have been accepted. The Village is now considering making a final offer to purchase the Chalets. If successful, the Chalets would become part of the Village’s tourism and recreation offerings.

Val and Todd celebrate 10 years at Bon Marché Dollar Dollar Store

by Jan McMullan

Val and Todd celebrate 10 years at Bon Marché Dollar Dollar Store in Nakusp this month. The store has been a popular destination for shoppers.

30% off ladies wear (excluding garments) 30% off fabric (half-metre min.)
Oct 10 – extra 10% off ladies wear and fabric (1 metre min.)
Monday-Saturday 9:30-6:30

Bon Marché DOLLAR & DOLLAR

Nakusp

Todd & Val celebrate 10 years with a
10 DAY SALE!
Oct 2-12

Val and Todd celebrate 10 years at Bon Marché Dollar Dollar Store

Val and Todd have been working at the store for 10 years, offering great deals on a variety of products. They have been a valuable asset to the store, and their commitment to customer service has been noted by many.

Val and Todd have enjoyed working together, and they look forward to the future. They are excited to continue serving the community and providing great deals on a variety of products.

The store is located at 200th Ave., and it is open 9:30-6:30 on weekdays and 9:30-5 on Saturdays. They welcome all customers and look forward to serving them.

Val and Todd have been a valuable asset to the store and the community, and they are greatly appreciated for their hard work and dedication. The store is open 9:30-6:30, and they welcome all customers and look forward to serving them.
Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail christened September 27

submitted

On September 27, the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) organized a tour of the new Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail to recognize the groups and organizations that have supported the project since it was started in 2011. The group gathered at the Wesley Creek cross-country ski area parking lot for a short introduction before heading off on the trail to the cross-country ski club cabin for lunch.

There are two access points along the trail – from the northwest at the Wesley Creek ski trail parking lot and from the southeast off Wilson Lake Road.

Attending the event were Mayor Hamil and Councillor Duchaine, Trish Hoosken and Walf Meuse from the Nakusp Trails Society, NACFOR Director Leanne Marshall and Gordon Marshall, Mrs. McGuire’s Grade 3 class and Mrs. Buckman’s Grade 5 class from NES along with lots of parents.

One of NACFOR’s management objectives is to enhance recreational resources in the community forest area. The Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail project fits into this management commitment.

The four kilometre single track trail was completed in two phases.

Phase 1 focused on trail layout and construction in the fall of 2011. Work was carried out in partnership with the ASLCS through an employment initiative. Tree species identification and trail map signs, created by Lloyd Dennis, were installed the following summer. There is also a mountain identification sign located at the viewpoint at the southeast end of the trail.

Phase 2 focused on designing and installing interpretive signs and a map kiosk as well as publishing an informational brochure with maps. NACFOR designed the signs with help from the UBC summer forestry co-op students. The three large interpretive signs and the kiosk map were made by Osprey signs of Nakusp and installed with the help of Greenpeaks Resource Management, a local forestry contracting company. The kiosk was built by Ken Hankeff, NSS woods teacher, and Walf Meuse of the Nakusp Trails Society.

The Jackrabbit trail is truly a community-supported project. Over the two phases, the project has been supported by three CBT funding programs as well as in-kind contributions from NACFOR and the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. The Nakusp Trail Society has agreed to maintain the trail under its ongoing trail maintenance program and has put out many volunteer hours, and the Arrow Lakes Cross-Country Ski Club has provided support and direction for the project from the outset.

NACFOR would like to thank the community of Nakusp for supporting the Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail project. We hope it will be enjoyed by many.

End of an era celebrated at Cedar Creek Café

submitted

The Cedar Creek Café in Winlaw will be closing at the end of September and will reopen under new management in the New Year. The café celebrated the end of an era with a Harvest Party on September 28, highlighting once again the diverse musical talent featured under the management of owner Sarah McKay.

Some of ‘the usual suspects’ and some totally new ones helped raise the roof before the place closed down. Generating melodious sounds to dance to throughout the afternoon and evening were Pauline Lamb, Sean and Foss of Argenta, Sally T and Rob Hay, Sounds Serious, Father Paul and the Fireside Prophets, Bex and Suzan and many special guests.

Over the past few years, manager Sarah McKay and musical coordinator JC Van Breugel have provided a musical destination almost nightly during the summer months. World famous performers and up-and-coming talent have shown up in the Slocan Valley. The Harvest Party was a way to say thanks to the Cedar Creek Café for making musical magic and thanks to all the patrons who supported it.

Help Inform the Future of the Columbia River Treaty

The Province of British Columbia invites you to comment on the Draft Columbia River Treaty Review Public Consultation Report. The report, once finalized, will be submitted with recommendations to the Province on future Treaty options and reflects Basin residents’ views gathered during the Treaty review process.

To download the draft report and to provide your comments, please visit: www.gov.bc.ca/columbiariver treaty.

To provide comments or receive a copy of the report via Canada Post, please contact: columbiariver.treaty@gov.bc.ca or telephone 250-387-2820.

Credit Union Day October 17th, 2013

Join us in branch for refreshments and to celebrate International Credit Union Day:

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

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West Boundary: 256 S Copper, Greenwood

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New Denver Mayor’s report on Union of BC Municipalities convention

by Mayor Ann Buska

Councillor Reynolds and I recently returned from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual general meeting, which was held in Vancouver this year. This is a week of sessions ranging from Agricultural Study Tours to debits in Carpenter Creek and its impact on our community. I had an opportunity, previous to this, to meet with the Minister of Environment and staff as well. We explored the window to do debits removal was closing fast and that there was some urgency to this. Ministry of Environment staff contacted the Federal Department of Fisheries (DFO) on our behalf. We have now sent a request to DFO, to contact DFO for permission to remove debris from the creek. That is the first step. We are waiting to hear from FLNRO for how this can be done and how it will be paid for.

The other items of great interest and importance is the recycling issue - the Printed Paper and Packaging Stewardship Program. This was discussed at length. UBCM produced a Policy Paper seeking for an additional 90 days for local government to clarify and consider the program; a response to local government concerns; assurance that producers take full responsibility for recycling and recycling their waste; and that the issue of continuity of service to communities is addressed. This Policy Paper was passed. UBCM will now take this to the provincial government. As the program stands, rural areas and small municipalities will be left with no recycling unless we are willing to pay for a service the province does not provide. At this point, we are preparing to provide and pay for this. (I hope) a week in progress and we hope, in conjunction with Silvertone, to have a public meeting late fall to explain what is happening and discuss options. Please watch for ICDC news releases as an additional.

Area H Director Popoff brings local issues to UBCM

by Jan McMurtry

Area H Director Walker Popoff discussed several local issues with provincial ministers and municipal staff at the recent UBCM convention: Carpenter Creek - erosion, BC Hydro power outages and surges in the north valley, the future of the Girl Guide camp near Hills and the deposit of industrial biosolids on agricultural land.

Director Popoff reported that he communicated his concerns about the potential impacts of Carpenter Creek erosion, BC Hydro power outages and surges in the north valley, the future of the Girl Guide camp near Hills and the deposit of industrial biosolids on agricultural land to the provincial minister and UBCM staff.

Meanwhile, he has joined forces with two other Regional District Directors with similar concerns about creeks in their areas. Andy Shadnok and Garry Jackman. “We want to be proactive and take precautionary measures," he said. "It’s right beside the road and we want to prevent the loss of property." The directors would like to engage a geotechnical engineer to do an assessment of the creeks in question. "A professional geotechnical study would substantiate our request for provincial funding to do remedial work on the creeks," he explained. Popoff reported that RDCK Chair Keette is looking into funding to engage a geotechnical engineer.

Power surges in the north valley that have caused loss of appliances and even of protective devices were discussed with BC Hydro and the Ministry of Energy and Mines. “It’s gone beyond losing appliances - it’s a safety issue as far as we are concerned,” said Popoff. “If a house burns down, someone has to take accountability for it.” BC Hydro staff said there was no budget for upgrades in the area, but Mineral Land and Mines staff stated it was a bit more receptive, especially when they told them it was a safety issue and now that we’ve brought it to their attention, they want to look into it too." the creek is orchard," reported Popoff.

Another issue Director Popoff, with MLA Katrina Corrory, discussed with Crown Lands representatives was the Girl Guide camp near the rail trail at Hills. The Girl Guides do not wish to sell their tenure for fast property. The Hills Recreation Society would like the land for their camp, but the Cranbrook County has said it will not grant tenure to any group, and intends to put it on the open market if the provincial government does not take it over. A provincial government official said they would like to purchase the land, but the province has been told that they cannot.

“We want to maintain it in public hands and continue to make it available for public use.” The staffperson then added that they are in the process of a survey, and once that is complete, they will be looking to get the camp back to the province to help.

Finally, Director Popoff spoke to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands regarding the use of industrial biosolids on agricultural lands as a soil amendment. Biosolids from Cedar’s operation in Castlegar are being deposited on agricultural land in the area, and some Area H residents have health concerns about the material. Popoff would like to know if crops grown in soil with the biosolids can still be certified organic. The minister said he would investigate this and get back to Director Popoff.

“Last year, I met with the Minister of Environment on this issue, and they said they’d done everything they could to address the matter,” said Popoff. “Now I’ve met with the Minister of Agriculture. I am trying to get the two ministries to talk to one another and come up with a solution.” said Popoff.
Taxation for Area H North TV Society questioned

by Jan McMurray

A petition with 170 signatures calling for eliminating taxation for the TV Society in the North Stobie Valley has been submitted to the Villages of New Denver and Silverton.

New Denver resident Trevor Harrop, who sits on the board of the society, initiated the petition as a citizen. "Many are aware because of the free satellite TV now available to residents in the area," said Harrop. "Now the need for the TV Society that used to be there in 1995 and 1996 has diminished. It is no longer a need. Some people still want it, and I'm saying that if you want it, you should pay for it. But it shouldn't be forced on everyone to pay for it with their taxes."

Harrop feels the service offered by the Area H North TV Society should go back to user pay, as it was before the referendum of 1995. In that referendum, the voters of the north valley agreed to provide tax dollars to the society through the RDCK.

"The society does not affect or limit TV Society from broadcasting the current TV and radio channels," said Harrop. "All I'm saying is that the society should no longer be funded with tax dollars, but with donations and fundraising like all the other non-profit communities in our community."

Nakusp wins WoodWORKS! award for bridge

A passion and appreciation for wood use in the building and design of local government projects was celebrated at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Vancouver, as Wood WORKS! BC recognized winners of the 2013 Community Recognition Awards.

Nakusp topped all other entrants in the AKBLG (Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments) category to take the award for the Kinclaux Creek footbridge, built by Madden Timber Construction.

The awards are presented annually to local governments that have been exemplary advocates for wood, by specifying the use of wood in a community project and/or through visionary initiatives that work toward building a community culture of wood.

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COMMUNITY

Harrop has a long history on the board of the TV Society and worked on the 1995 referendum. "Back then, we needed equipment in order to get the signal out, but now the shack is well equipped," he said.

Peter Roushon, president of the TV Society, reported that the board has not yet had a meeting to discuss the petition. However, he said Area H Director Walter Popoff and the RDCK directors from the two Villages (Mayor Bunka and Councilor Mann) have let him know that they would like to meet with the society board to review the service prior to their budget deliberations this fall.

"I've spoken to various people and have been down to the Village hall about this, and it was quite sobering to me to learn how strapped for funds some of the other functions in town are," said Roushon. "The tax money we got in 1995 as a spin-off from the referendum is maybe more than what we should be getting."

Roushon said he and most of the other society board members feel that a user pay system would not be workable. "That's an archaic way of gathering funding," he said. "Some functions have to be paid for through a tax levy. I don't think that we can go around collecting fees from people to run the TV Society. It wouldn't work."

Roushon said he recognizes that the need for the TV Society's services has diminished, now that people can get almost all the TV and radio stations the society offers and more with satellite and internet. The TV Society broadcasts seven TV channels (four American and three Canadian) and five radio stations.

Roushon said all these are available elsewhere except for two radio stations. KBS Radio from Trail and Kootenay Co-op Radio from Nelson cannot be delivered without the TV Society.

"One approach would be simply not deliver anymore TV programming and become a Radio Society," said Roushon. "Technically delivering clear, reliable TV programming is a lot trickier than a radio signal. It's easy and cheap to deliver radio, so if we got cut back to half what we get now, then we could probably function as radio society and provide live radio stations."

Roushon said the society receives approximately $33,000 of taxpayer dollars per year. "The funding we have been given has been spent reasonably - this is not a Mike Duffy thing," he said. "However, we have money in the bank because we don't need it all."

New Denver Mayor and RDCK Director Ann Bunka said she, Silverton Director Leah Main and Area H Director Popoff have been wanting to meet to review all the tax services in the north valley, as reported that the TV Society has sparred on that meeting.

"These are tight times, so we are looking at where our money is going," she said. "The tax requirement for the TV Society is the second largest transfer we have to the Regional District, behind waste management (garbage and recycling). So we're looking to see what the service is, and have things changed?

This is a service that hasn't been looked at in 18 years and it's costing us more than it should be," Bunka said she has no thoughts that there is any problem with the conduct of the TV Society board. "We'd just like to have a look to see how much it's costing. We will meet with the board so they can explain their service and the costs associated with it."
The replies are in and the results encourageing from the regional survey conducted by the Slocan Lake Gallery Society for the Silverton Gallery. Respondents were virtually unanimous in their support for the gallery and praise for its arts and cultural programming. The survey also produced a vivid picture of the economic benefits to Silverton.

“It’s our community and area place of visual and performing arts. It has history and charm. It is worth fighting for and worth keeping,” was a typical comment received.

A total of 105 surveys were filled out — both online and from the survey published in the Valley Voice. It’s clear locals are fully into the digital age, since 85 of these were filled out online at the surveymonkey.com website. By far the majority of respondents — 90 percent — were full-time residents. The majority of respondents were from Area H — including Hills, Rosebery, Red Mountain Road and as far south as Enterprise Creek. A close second and third, in order, were respondents from New Denver and Silverton. But there were also those who live as far afield as Kootenay, Burton and Winlaw who said they regularly attend events at the gallery.

The survey included demographics question that broke down respondents by age range. It was no surprise that the majority of gallery users — 46 percent — were between 51-65, with the next closest age category being 66-75 (26 percent). This was closely followed by the 36-50 group at 24 percent. Put another way, the majority of users of the Silverton Gallery are in the age range 51-75, at 72 percent.

This majority age group is very supportive. The average rate of visits to gallery events per year was between 6-10 per person, with many visiting 12-20 times per year for concerts, plays or workshops. Only a minority visited less than six times per year. Some residents found it hard to estimate how often they’d attended gallery events. “I have been a resident here now for 11 years and I have lost track of how many events I have attended at Gallery,” wrote one person.

Concerts won hands-down as the most popular event attended, at over 95 percent of respondents. This was followed closely by Christmas by the Lake at 81 percent. Plays and Art Exhibits were tied in third place at 69 percent. The least popular category was Children’s Events at 23 percent but this shouldn’t be surprising given the local demographics, weighted toward an older population. When asked what kinds of events gallery visitors would like to see more of, the most popular request was for concerts. The second most requested event was more plays or community theatre and coming third was Art Exhibits or Workshops.

An often-overlooked facet of the arts in a community is the economic spin-off. The survey supported other BC studies that have been done in this regard. Fully 75 percent of respondents said they like to eat at local restaurants when they attend gallery events. This was followed by shopping for gifts (43 percent), visiting local attractions (40 percent), and finally, shopping for groceries (28 percent). With only three percent claiming to stay at local accommodations, it’s clear that most visitors to the gallery are within driving distance of their homes.

Survey respondents were also asked if they would support using regional district capital funds to help repair the gallery building. The answer was a resounding “Yes!” at 94 percent of replies.

From the glowing comments about gallery events, it’s evident that those who responded have a great affection for the facility. Given the small board of directors and limited financial resources, the gallery has provided the community with a busy and eclectic schedule of arts and cultural events throughout the year. Gallery visitors made it clear that they fully appreciate this programming. Even when it came to suggesting what people would like to see more of, respondents frequently said things like, “it’s a wonderful venue,” and, “I think that the variety and quality has been excellent,” and, “I think the current schedule of events is perfect.”

Columbia Basin CRAFT SYMPOSIUM
October 25-27
Nelson, BC

Keynote speaker:
Greg Payce
2013 Sadie Bronfman Award Winner

Presenters include:
Rebecca Harcon, Sarah Alford,
Chi Cheng Lee, Jeremy Addington,
Lou Lynn and Helen Sebules

Additional community events will be held in Kaslo and Castlegar

www.columbiabantiscraftsyposium.com

The new Kuskana Mountain Trail welcomes hikers

The summit can be accessed from two directions. From the north, take Turner Road (9 km north of the Kuskana Creek Bridge on Hwy 23) and drive 15 km to the road’s end (a rough logging road; four-wheel drive recommended). The trailhead is well marked and a leisurely hike to the summit of two km (stopping to rest, take pictures, etc.) will take about two hours.

From the south, take the Nakusp Hot Springs Road 3.5 km from Hwy 23, 23 to the trailhead that is well marked with a sign reading: “Kuskana Mountain Trail; Mac’s Trail and Vickie’s View.” You can drive to Vickie’s View (1.5 km) to or a higher parking area (another three km). This, too, is a rough road and four-wheel drive is recommended. The hike to the summit from that point is five km.

The total hike from the Hot Springs Road to Turner Road is 11.5 km.

The degree of difficulty to the summit from Turner Road is moderate and from the Hot Springs Road is difficult.

The 360-degree view from the top is spectacular. If the weather is clear, you can see for miles in every direction. In addition to good hiking shoes (flip-flops not recommended) pack a lunch, water, binoculars and a camera to fully experience this beautiful hiking trail. You won’t be disappointed.
The Valley Voice wishes to acknowledge the bravery and self-sacrifice of our local volunteer firefighters.

We salute our local heroes. Thanks for everything you do.

The Village of Kaslo

Thank you to all of the volunteer firefighters of Kaslo for keeping us safe!
The Clubhouse Restaurant at the Kaslo Golf Club

Heartfelt thanks to all volunteer firefighters! We appreciate the risks and commitment you take on in providing this oftentimes challenging and dangerous service for our community.

Eric’s Meat Market

Doug & Denise & staff want to thank the local volunteer fire departments for keeping our communities safe!

425 Front Street • Kaslo

A Big Bouquet of Thanks to our local volunteer firefighters!

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Kaslo Mohawk

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Thank you to the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department, to the volunteer firefighters in the Ainsworth and Larcheau Valley portions of Area D, First Responders and Search and Rescue for continuing to protect us and our communities.

— Andy Shadrack, Director Area D

Volunteer firefighters - the bravest among us
Lucky us in Kaslo; we’ve got YOU! A heartfelt thank you from Sunnyside Naturals

Sunnyside Naturals
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Manon van Tuyl
C.M.A.
Wishes to thank the brave men & women of our local volunteer fire departments

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Our Volunteer Firefighters deserve our heartfelt thanks for all they do for us. Keep up the great job!

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358-2293

Congratulations firefighters on a job well done!

from The Village of New Denver

Thank you to our local Volunteer fire departments for keeping our communities safe from harm

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Mountview Realty Ltd.
shirley@century21mountview.com
250.265.8840

Pleasure Spa
pleasurespa@telus.net
250.265.8840

Burton Fire Brigade 2013 report

We have been completing information sheets on the properties in our area. This will allow us to have pertinent information about the properties, i.e. hazardous materials, prior to our arrival.

We were successful in obtaining a grant to allow us to purchase much needed equipment, such as a 1000-gallon collapsible water tank, coversalls and nozzles.

We had a successful Burton City Daze in September and are currently in the planning stages for our fifth annual Christmas party.

We currently have 18 volunteers, and we practice every Monday at 7 pm.

RDCK thanks everyone who helped during Lemon Creek fuel spill

We are the Regional District of Central Kootenay extends a huge thank you to all of the volunteers, residents, emergency personnel, staff, organizations, agencies, ministries and companies who rallied after the Lemon Creek fuel spill. Your assistance was invaluable during the evacuation and the subsequent clean-up and remediation of affected waterways. The RDCK was overwhelmed with an outpouring of generosity, support and assistance during this unfortunate event. It demonstrates how strong and resilient our citizens and communities are in the face of disaster.

THE RDCK THANKS ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT!

Balfour/Harrop • Beasley • Blewett • Canyon/Lister
Crescent Valley • North Shore • Cotsicheria •
Pass Creek • Passmore • Riondel • Robson
Slocan Valley • Tarrys • Winlaw
Wynndel/Lakeview
Yahk/Kingsgate
Ymir

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 6 – 12, 2013

Now Recruiting Volunteer Firefighters!

Contact your local fire department or the Regional District of Central Kootenay.
1-800-268-RDCK (7325)

Chimney fires are 100% preventable...

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Have your wood burning system serviced by a WETT certified professional regularly to ensure chimney fire prevention.

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Burton Volunteer Fire Brigade: Lindsay Knapton, Scott Graham (Deputy Chief), Kathy Billins, Ross Billins (Deputy Chief), Cindy Strudalinsky, Brian Harsep (Chief), Brian Graham. Missing: Patti & Bob Moody, Margaret Simpson, Barb Harrison, Doug McPherson, Al Rolince, Harry May, Lai Gub and Calum McDonald.


Thank You Volunteer Firefighters! You Rock! Kootenay Lakes Community.

Wishes to thank the brave men & women of our local volunteer fire departments.

Nakusp Centennial Golf Club thanks our local volunteer firefighters for their fine community service. Hwy 6, Nakusp, BC 250-265-4531

We appreciate the hard work and long hours of our volunteer firefighters.

Box Lake Lumber
Thanks our local volunteer firemen for their brave community service.
Nakusp, BC 250-265-4767

Nakusp Glass
Our volunteer fire fighters are the best!
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We Salute all our volunteer firefighters and what they do for our community!

NORTH NAKUSP AUTOMOTIVE
service and repair
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250-265-4046
Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteer firefighters. Keep up the good work!

We wish to thank the members of our local volunteer fire departments for their dedication and courage!

Mountain Valley Station
We wish to salute the bravery and hard work of our local volunteer Fire Departments
Arlington Corner • Slocan City 355-2245

We appreciate all you do to keep our communities safe!
Smokey Creek Salvage
359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539
3453 Yeatman Rd, South Slocan

We honour the men and women of our volunteer fire departments

On behalf of the citizens of Area “H”, thank you for your time, energy and commitment for a safer community.

SPECIAL THANKS FOR A STELLAR JOB RESPONDING TO THE LEMON CREEK SPILL!


Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $10-$30

SPECIAL THANKS FOR A STELLAR JOB RESPONDING TO THE LEMON CREEK SPILL!

To our firefighters: Congratulations on a job well done!

Glacier View Service
New Denver, BC
250-358-2445

Many thanks to the brave volunteers of our local fire departments!

Integra Tire
1107 Playmoi, South Slocan
Toll-free: 877-359-6990

Our local volunteer fire departments are the best!

Stocan Village Market
250-355-7211

Many thanks to our local volunteer firefighters!

Volunteer firefighters rock!

Wolfgang's Plumbing Services
Wolfgang, BC
250-226-7220

We’d like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our volunteer firefighters!

Bill’s Heavy Duty Enterprises
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Thank you to our local volunteer firefighters for their exemplary community service.

Westside Small Engines
3637 Hwy 6 • Passmore
250-226-7145

Thank you to the volunteer fire people in the Arrow Lakes
Paul Peterson, director
Area K, RDCK

The Valley Voice wishes to acknowledge the bravery and self-sacrifice of our local volunteer firefighters
Kasl & District

Kaslo council, September 24: Firehall construction bids due October 9

by Jan McMurray

• CAO Neil Smith reported that the RDCK issued the tender documents for the construction of the new firehall, with a submission deadline of October 9. Staff was asked to have a hard copy of the tender documents available at the Village office for public viewing.

• Work on the boat ramp will resume shortly, provided lake levels allow for it. The project was halted on April 9 after First Nations artifacts were found on the site. The Village received the permit from the Archaeology Branch to complete the project on August 8.

• Council decided to send a policy that aerodrome reserve funds are set aside for major infrastructure upgrades, such as runway replacement, which are necessary for ongoing operation of a registered uncertified aerodrome. Mayor Lay voted against this motion.

Councillor Lang said he had nothing to add to the discussion and resolutions from the previous regular meeting regarding the airport, indicating that the airport group had essentially been set up as a task of forming a viable partner organization for the municipality to work with.

• A report on RDCK and Village property taxes on airport hangars was provided to council. Council was curious as to why one particular hangar does not pay tax for fire protection. The CAO will look into it.

Councillor Lang gave notice of his intention to propose a motion with respect to Regional District taxation of the airport land at the next regular meeting.

• Council received a copy of a letter from the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce to the CAO, urging the Village to proceed with airport improvements as determined at the special council meeting on September 12. The CAO will inform the Chamber that all these improvements have been completed, i.e., maintaining the airport runway, runway shoulder graveling, and windsock installation. CAO Smith reported that Aerial Paving will be resuming the airport runway lines on September 30.

• Council received two letters regarding Water Street – one from Sandy McLeod and the other from Tyler Dobie. McLeod, a decorated Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, finds it “totally unacceptable” “deplorable” and “disrespectful” that Water Street has not been beautified – and especially so because the cenotaph lies on one end of it. He asks that improvements be made and the street renamed “Kaslo Veterans Water Street” or “Veterans Water Street.” Dobie, a member of the most recent Water Street Committee that submitted its recommendations to council in January 2012, expresses frustration at the lack of action on the plan. He asks council to revisit the plan and repair Water Street in 2014 if it cannot be done before winter.

A letter will be sent to both McLeod and Dobie, outlining existing council commitments to the redevelopment of Water Street and also outlining the rationale for the timeline.

McLeod suggested Water Street name change will be posted on the Village website with an invitation for residents to provide input.

• A letter from Kaslo resident Renella Glorioso, executive director of the International Anonymity Migration Centre (IAMC), a non-profit society, asks council for a letter of support for a CBT grant application. The IAMC’s proposed project “will study how values and behaviour of Kaslo and Area’s residents affect land use change and landscape change. The results of the study will help the Village make informed decisions on land use change & management that promotes environmental & economic sustainability.”

Council decided to invite Renella to the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 1 as a delegation to present her proposal, with a copy provided to staff for review in advance.

• Council will apply to the Province to effectively write off the property taxes in the amount of $4,647.88 that are owing from Kaslo Cable Ltd. As the property is a cable system with no land, it cannot be offered in a tax sale. The Village will be able to recover the $2,524.28 levied from and already remitted to other levels of government, leaving the Village with $1,332.30 less tax revenue than expected this year.

• CAO Neil Smith informed council of a federal grant opportunity that focuses on the attraction, retention, and development of talent and the creative economy in communities. Council asked the CAO to develop a proposal for a submission to the grant program based on concepts developed by the SEDS Committee.

• Council granted approval in principle to the Pêcêre Cheetah proposal, subject to the application for federal and provincial approvals and issuance of a temporary land use permit and demonstration of community support.

• Councils Lang reported back on his meetings at UBCOM, commenting on the challenges of paramedic recruitment in rural areas.

• A Request for Proposals has been issued for streetlight replacement (budgeted for 2013) and for Kaslo River intake options for a 2014 project.

• Councillor Holland reported on recent Regional District activities, with particular reference to the Sustainability Services project on 1st Nation reserves. He invites the public to see Committee of the Whole discussion on this.

Kaslo Institute concept gets enthusiastic kick-off

by Art Joyce

Imagine a regional institute that utilizes the trust pool of local talent to stimulate a sustainable economy and even create a global presence. That’s exactly what the audience was asked to do the evening of September 19 when Kaslo artist and entrepreneur Randy Moore explained his idea for the Kaslo Institute. A packed house attended the Langham Theatre to see his multi-media presentation.

“We’re interested in ways of supporting creative, cultural organizations and existing businesses, augmented by new and emerging technologies,” says Moore.

The Kaslo Institute will be established as a non-profit corporation that Moore describes as “a think tank and do tank.” It will combine aspects of traditional research institutes with arts and cultural communities like the Banff Centre, hosting conferences, concerts and other events. Thought leaders from around the world would be invited to present cutting edge approaches to generating sustainable economies, either in the arts or cultural sectors.

Very few boards have paid staff and long-term volunteers are burning out, leaving them unable to capitalize on potential opportunities. The institute would provide the missing link for these groups. He foresees a partnership role with other existing agencies in the Stikine area such as the Stikine Development Corporation, the Stikine Arts and Culture Council, the newly formed Sicna group, the Springer Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance.

Next steps for the institute will be the forming of a board, which would include both local and international directors. An advisory committee will also be established with local input for board and staff. Moore is also working on a business plan for the Kaslo Institute which will be followed by fundraising to capitalize the institute, from both public and private foundations. There will also be some in-house means of generating revenue such as a digital publishing arm, the Nirvana Chronicles and, and even an online radio station.

For those people who are from Missoula, Vermont or Stikine, we’re going to show them. I don’t want this to be yet another debating club. I want it done in an open, collaborative way so community groups can understand what the implications are for them.”
Local artists invited to participate in Columbia Basin Craft Symposium

Columbia Basin residents are invited to participate in the Columbia Basin Craft Symposium to be held October 25 to 27 at Nelson. This event will feature local professional and contemporary craft artists with a variety of workshops, discussions, and presentations by some of the most influential artists in the field today.

The symposium will touch upon many aspects of contemporary crafters' face today: creativity, sustainability, globalization, technology, and business models such as marketing, pricing, and social media. It is an opportunity to learn, share, and get feedback from artists who are visionary in their respective fields.

There is also an opportunity for the Fine Craft Council of Canada to exhibit for the first time in October and space is limited. Travel subsidies will be available for residents of the Columbia Basin who live more than 50 km from Nelson. For more information: info@finecraft.ca. The keynote speaker will be Greg Pyzer, artist, potter, and winner of the 2013 Sasakawa Human Award, Canada’s foremost prize for excellence in the fine arts. Greg has been making ceramics for over 35 years. He has exhibited and given numerous lectures, workshops, and presentations on his practice, both in Canada and internationally.

Registration for this event will open in early October and space is limited. Travel subsidies will be available for residents of the Columbia Basin who live more than 50 km from Nelson. For more information: info@finecraft.ca.

Golf Courses
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Phone/Fax: (250) 265-4511
www.nakuspgolf.com
ngc.nakusp.net
GREEN FEES: Adults $25.00/9 holes, $34.00/18 holes
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10 game punch card available
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THE MONTAIN 18 HOLE - fully licensed restaurant.
Phone: (250) 265-3181. Walk-on tee times, no reservations required.
Ladies' nights: Tuesday 4:00-6:00 Guests welcome
Men's nights: Thursday 4:00-6:00 Guests welcome.

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Highlands Hot Springs Village and Spa Lakeshore Resort is open year-round.
Ancient healing water at its purest. More than just a soak. Soothe and rejuvenate your self in our Spa. Relax in our cozy cabins or luxurious chalets. RV hook ups available. Enjoy gourmet food and beautiful views from the Kingfisher Restaurant.
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Centennial Campground - New Denver
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www.lakesidecottages.com
Open May 22 to Sept. 7. Enjoy all that New Denver and the Kootenay Lake have to offer. Campgrounds offer a choice of modern and rustic cottages, sites and camping. Relax in the comfort of a cabin or the serenity of the outdoors.
Silverton Municipal Campground - Silverton
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www.silverton.ca
At Leadville and Turner Streets. 40 sites: $15/regular site or $25/leakeshore site. Open May 21 to Sept 7. Tent and trailer sites, rv, firewood, picnic tables, boat launch, beach, close to amenities. Discounted for advanced reservations.
Springfield River RV Park & Campground - Silverton
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springfieldrvpark@gmail.com
Open May 15 till Oct. 15. Located on the Kootenay Lake and 500 feet from Silverton. Sites for RV’s, Trucks and Trailers.
Lemon Creek Campground & Campground - Lemon Creek
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www.lemoncreekcamping.com
7680 Kennedy Rd., 9 km south of Silverton and 40 km south of Nelson. Great camping. Great views. Power and water. 20 amp service. 10 tents sites, all with fire pits and tables. Indoor washrooms with hot showers included in price. Lemon Creek Camp Resort.
Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo
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www.kaslo.ca/kaslocalmunicipalcampground vs.com/yahoo.ca/April 1 - October 15, weather permitting. Serviced ($77) un serviced sites ($52). Water and electric hook-up, water fountain, restroom with baby changing facilities, pet friendly, dog friendly, free firewood. Kayak, canoe and paddle board rentals.
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(250) 353-7626
www.kaslo.com/woodbury Wharf, Marina, 52 site marina, full service and fuel码头

Restaurants & Accommodations
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Creekside and Lakefront Cabin & RV Resort
1200 Hwy 23N, Silverton, You’ll Love It! 40 acre Private Resort, walking distance to town. Very clean 1 bedroom Cabins & Chalet with loft. Fully equipped accommodations, kitchen, laundry, TV, phone/WiFi, air conditioning etc. Spacious 30-amp full service RV sites, fully contained indoor, beach, natural pool, private decks. RBQ’s, Reheteenet are recommended.
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Islamic Heritage and Cultural Society - Kaslo
Kaslo Islamic Heritage and Cultural Society – Kaslo

Museums
Silvery Slocan Museum - New Denver
(250) 353-2201
The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of New Denver's main street, remodeled to circa 1900. Special tours welcome 250-353-2201 or 250-353-2666 for further information. See you soon!

Nikkel Internment Memorial Centre - New Denver
(250) 353-7286
306 Josephine St. The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the White Russian’s story. Located in The Orchard, in New Denver, open 7 days a week 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Sandon Museum & Visitors’ Centre - Sandon
(250) 353-2288
www.sandanmuseum.com
Open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy 224. Great history and old mining town. Collection of surfing and fishing photos, memorabilia, etc. Entrance for cash only ($6 per adult), or $4 for students & seniors 65+. Children under 12 admitted free. Group rates available.

S.S. Moyie National Historic Site - Kaslo
Ph/Fax: (250) 353-3525
www.klhs.bc.ca.
324 Front Street, Kaslo, BC. Visit the world’s oldest intact sternwheeler. S.S. Moyie is berthed at the Waterfront Park, located on Kaslo’s Historic Waterfront. Admission is free.

Buy a copy of the Sandon Paystreak - the newspaper of the Sandon Boom Years! Only $2!!
Available at the Sandon Museum until October 13, 2013 and the offices of the Valley Voice 406 - 6th Avenue, New Denver all year round.

Olivia Mansveld will take you through her process of turning recycled frames, materials, and objects into an objet d’art using collage, stitching, and assemblage in her workshop Framing the Past. Olivia will also present both the workshop and the Kootenay Gallery in Castlegar. Workshop registration is now open.

For more information visit www.columbiabasinhandycraftsymposium.com or contact the West Kootenay Regional Arts Council at 250-352-2421; toll free: 1-888-800-2877.
Kaslo volunteers repair vandalized Old Wagon Road

by Jan McMurray

A group of 12 volunteers came out to repair damage done to Kaslo’s Old Wagon Road on Thursday, September 26 so the route could be used during Sufferfest this past weekend.

Unfortunately, damage has been done repeatedly over the years to this area of the old road, near the entrance to the trail on Zwicki Road in Kaslo, where the right-of-way crosses a private property.

Herb Thompson, president of the society that looks after the trail, reported that the perpetrator blocks the road with rocks and tree stumps, and digs trenches into the trail. Signage the society has erected to guide hikers along the route has been taken down, and intimidating signs have been posted.

Bruce Freeman, one of the volunteers, reported that the property owner approached some of the people at work bee on Thursday and told them he would destroy the trail again after Sufferfest.

A Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure official has confirmed that the route through the private property is still a ministry right-of-way. This was the old highway, in use from 1893 to 1956, before the highway moved down onto the railway grade where it is today.

Thompson said RCMP officers have spoken to the landowner at least once in the past, and recently have become more involved. “We listened to call a meeting with the landowner and various officials and try to resolve the problems,” said Thompson. “It would be great if we could come to an agreement. It’s quite a bit of work to keep fixing the trail, and it’s inconvenient for users. We have brochures out inviting people to use the trail, but then there are no signs so people can’t find it, this sort of thing. It’s not a good scene right now.”

Kaslo Mayor Greg Lay and Area D Director Andy Suckuck showed up at the work bee, and Constable Tim McDonald attended to keep watch. A tractor with a front end loader was donated for the job, as was a load of gravel.

“There is quite a lot of support for the society and the trail in the community,” said Thompson.

Vancouver Opera opens concert series

submitted

On Sunday, October 6, Vancouver Opera is opening this season’s Arrow Lakes Arts Council concert series with The Barber of Barkerville. The performance will start at 2 pm at the Bonnington Arts Centre.

Vancouver Opera is one of the largest opera touring programs of its kind in Canada. Started over 40 years ago, VOS (Vancouver Opera in Schools) maintains a tradition of professional opera performances in schools throughout BC.

The Barber of Barkerville is based on Rossini’s comic masterpiece The Barber of Seville. Figaro, a crafty and endearing barber, tries to help Al, a love-struck young man, in his quest to win back the beautiful Rosine and must outwit the devious landlord, Bart. This opera has been set in BC’s historic Barkerville, during the exciting Gold Rush era.

This comic opera will be performed in the first half. After intermission, there will be solo, duets and ensembles from various other operas.

Come and join us on Sunday, October 6, at 2 pm in the Bonnington Arts Centre. Doors will be open at 1:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the Bon March Dollar Store until Saturday afternoon, then at the door on Sunday. For season tickets, contact Marilyn Mason at 250-265-4087.

SLOCAN VALLEY TOURISM PLAN

A PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Wednesday, October 23
7-9 pm
Silverton Memorial Hall
Refreshments will be served

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Destination British Columbia and Kootenay Rockies Tourism, has created a tourism plan for the Slocan Valley. Please come learn about the plan and how you can be a part of it!

Nakusp and Area Community Forest:

PUBLIC NOTICE

NACFOR will be conducting controlled slash burning in the vicinity of McDonald Creek, Baerg Creek and Fosthall from October 1 to November 15, 2013.

Smoke will be visible at various times during this period. Burning is carried out to reduce the fire hazard in harvested areas.

Please call NACFOR at 250 265 3656 for further information.
Slokan Vision 2020 kicks off conversation about Slokan's future
by Art Joyce

All good ideas have to start somewhere. And for communities that historically relied on resource-based industries, that means brainstorming economic alternatives. About 35 people showed up at the Slokan Legion the evening of September 24 to do just that – come up with a vision for the Slokan waterfront and the former mill site.

The event was hosted by Abram Davis, who formed the Springer Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance (SCRAPSA) to foster the visioning process. Ana H Director Walter Popoff was also present, along with Mayor Perriens and Councillor Elliott. Davis said he sees the sawmill site and waterfront as a perfect opportunity to “build resiliency” in the local economy.

“The most important thing we can do in the community is to build resilience,” said Davis. “There’s always a divergence of opinion in a community as diverse as Slokan so building common ground is important. It takes a certain amount of unity to achieve a vision.”

He acknowledged that the mill site is private property but is hopeful Springer Creek Forest Products will be open to negotiating with the community. No representatives from the mill were present due to a miscommunication. However, when contacted later, mill manager Ralph Tomlin said they “are certainly willing to talk and get everything out on the table.” He said the company has no plans for the property at present beyond demolition of the mill.

Davis stressed that he wants to see Springer Creek and its watershed conserved as a whole, with any economic development respectful of the environment. This fit with many residents’ concern, and with Slokan Valley Streamkeepers. Jennifer Yew of Streamkeepers was not present but wrote in an email: “The most important issue for the Springer Creek flood plain is cleanup of the contaminated surrounding land. This needs to be done before any restoration of the creek channel. Why? Because if we don’t, the creek will wash hydrocarbons and other contaminants into the lake and river.”

Streamkeepers are willing to help plan and assist in planting trees, native vegetation and creating habitat for wildlife. Sharon Bennett added that the Village microhydro project must be done in an ecologically sensitive manner.

Several people at the meeting said they would like to see bio remediation carried out on the mill site. One young man had the idea of turning a liability into an asset by establishing a bio-remediation institute that would work on the site and train people in these techniques. Another person saw it as a Selkirk College campus for environmentally appropriate technology where people could train for green jobs.

A similar idea was to turn the waterfront into a combined community park and zero impact energy generation plant using biomass, carefully designed not to look like a factory. Additional features could include an interpretive centre, community garden using permaculture methods, and an institute devoted to studying and promoting sustainable economy. Another resident suggested creating a boardwalk or waterfront walkway similar to those in Nelson and Nakusp.

The need for affordable housing and seniors residences was also mentioned. Someone else wanted to see a micro-brew pub on the site. But as one man pointed out, employment is needed for any such vision to happen, perhaps some form of light industry with a low environmental impact. One resident pointed out that the Village of Slokan already has many of these ideas in its OCP – itself a visioning document.

There were as many questions as answers. For example, what are the landowner’s environmental remediation responsibilities? Is it possible to buy land that has had an industrial history without having remediation done first? This province has a long history of used up industrial sites being allowed to sit idle for years or even decades due to the high costs of remediation. The CFR land on the Nelson waterfront is a prime example. Director Popoff said the group should contact Port Alberni, which is in a similar situation and has managed to come to a solution acceptable to the community. Mayor Perriens advised that a well-organized group with a specific focus will have more credibility with the mill owners when it comes time to negotiate. The group authorized Davis to speak on their behalf with the Village and Springer Creek once the necessary research has been done.