Sufferfest 2013 will be remembered as Survivalfest

by Jan McMurray

The third annual Sufferfest has been coined “Survivalfest!” Held September 27-29 this year in the Kaslo-New Denver area, the race event took place in sunny, rainy and extremely cold weather conditions.

Jainse Neufeld, Race Director, says she received some humorous feedback after the event, like “It sure wasn’t Sufferfest!” and “It’s no wonder we didn’t suffer back in Sufferfest.”

“Over 30 km bike race is freezing around the internet as the hardest mountain bike race in Canada in 2013,” said Jainis.

New Denver’s own Gary Parkston placed third in this very tough mountain bike race, which started at Centennial Park in New Denver, climbed up 1,600 metres to Idaho Peak and back down to Centennial Park, then up over Reo Mountain to Retallack and through to Kaslo.

Mike Kooien of New Denver, race director for the 100-km mountain bike race, reported that 30 people started the race and only 23 finished. “Nice weather did not prevent because of the cold,” he said.

Mike and Jainis both gave accolades to Retallack employees, who sent a good wish for Jainis and helped make sure the race was okay. “They took people in, warmed them up at the fireplace, dried their clothes, and gave them food and drink. As a result, some who were going to quit carried on,” said Mike.

The weather did not affect participation much, reports Jainis. There were 996 Sufferfest racers this year, about the same number as last year. Most come from the local region, but a good number come from out of town (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Okanagan, Lower Mainland). There were 56 from the Kaslo area, 26 from the Nakusp area, and 18 from New Denver-Silverton.

Results of note for local racers included Winlaw’s Jeanie Dyer, the first and only woman to cross the finish line of the 100-km bike race and Scott Kigas of Hills, who came third in the Idaho Peak running race.

A couple of local kids had impressive results, as well. Twelve-year-old Kyle Waterfield of Nakusp came in fifth overall in the 10-km running race, and won the kids’ bike and running races. “He’s a superstar in the making,” said Jainis.

Elisa Lampianiki won two medals: gold in the kids’ run and bronze in the kids’ bike race.

Jainis put in a special thanks for the crew of 177 volunteers. “I got so many comments about our wonderful volunteers who were cheerful even in the pouring rain and snow!” she said.

“I can’t do it without the volunteers, sponsors and supporters,” said Jainis. “It’s a big deal putting the event on, and the participants don’t even need to cover the cost, so thanks to everyone who donates their time, money and expertise to make the event happen.”

Next year, the event will take place over the Labour Day weekend and will bring in Nakusp. Jainis says Saturday will be based in Kaslo, Sunday in New Denver and Monday in Nakusp. Plans include a new cylocross event and an off-road duathalon. The Lions Tootie epic trail run will finish in Nakusp on Monday.

The event is growing, and I need the help of these communities to keep it going,” said Jainis.
Long-term monitoring plan for Lemon Creek spill released

by Art Joyce

The Ministry of Environment has released the long-term monitoring plan for the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill. The plan was prepared by SNC Lavalin for the firm hired by Executive Flight Centre (EFC) as its lead environmental consultant. The plan was released in two parts, the Biological Monitoring Plan and the Water and Sediment Plan, comprising some 72 pages. The good news is that Slocan Valley Streamkeepers have been included as a local stakeholder and its data will be considered in the monitoring. Another local firm, Midwood Ecological Consultants, owned by fisheries biologist Peter Corbet, will work with SNC Lavalin to provide data. Corbet has been active with Streamkeepers during the post-spill period, assessing the impact to fish spawning near the spill, and with the Slocan River/Steele Creek monitoring group.

A cover document titled ‘Environmental Management Plans – April 2012’ is sent to Wayne Snook at EFC that states “sites with historic data monitored by Slocan River Streamkeepers, MoE, etc...” should be identified on maps. “When analyzing and reporting data, please identify any beneficial invertebrates metrics/indices that Slocan River Streamkeepers have utilized on historical data collected from the Slocan River or Lemon Creek,” it adds.

Many residents reported concerns with an observable increase in algae blooms since the spill. The MoE cover document states “Please consider addressing recent observations of unusual abundance of phytoplankton growth identified by Slocan River Streamkeepers.”

Another understandable concern for residents has been the potential for ongoing contamination of aquifers in the Lemon Creek delta. The Ministry has urged residents that “While surface water and well water quality data collected in August, 2013 may lead to the expectation that the spilled product likely did not reach and through shallow groundwater areas, it is important to use empirical evidence to confirm this especially since shallow alluvial aquifers may be recharged during higher flow periods.”

Since few of the major fish killed by the spill were mountain whitefish it has been identified as the “indicator species” for local fish populations. A sample size of 10 species, — five impact samples from Slocan River near Lemon Creek confluence and five impact samples from Qualicum River — is considered to be “adequate to distinguish exposed from reference sites...” There are plans to deploy Gill net and trap water capture fishing for testing at Brilliant data and in the Slocan River. The Gill net sites will be “upper bradley reach of Slocan River to 1.5 km downstream of the Lemon Creek confluence.”

Data collected by Streamkeepers over the past 15 years on rainbow trout will be used as a baseline for that species during the post-spill period. However, ongoing past and through discussions with Peter Corbet (Midwood Ecological Consultants) has been one of the main drivers of the Lemon Creek monitoring for the last seven years, funding to analyze the data collected (including comparing data across years) has been extremely limited. Thus, results are lacking over the last several years to fully assess the Lemon Creek spilling data and Slocan River system.

Another species of special concern is bull trout, which is listed by blue-listed as a species in decline across their traditional range. “No bull trout mortalities were collected during seven days of post-impact samples. However, the Lemon Creek spawning area and adjacent areas will be monitored for future years.” A team of six surveyors will be partnered in teams of two to assess isolated bull trout populations in tributaries around Slocan Lake.

A further consideration will be what is known as ‘fish tainting,’ living fish with a distinctive fishy odour when caught by anglers. However, as yet “there are no standards or guidelines for the results to be compared to...” The Biological Monitoring Plan states that “the magnitude of the impact is currently unknown.”

FortisBC lockdown enters fourth month with no end in sight

by Art Joyce

The labour dispute between FortisBC and the BCTU has reached a stalemate that got the union into the courts last week. A recent offer was voted on by BCTU Local 213 membership in the Kootenays and Okanagan in October but returned a 63 percent no vote. Picket lines are also supported by COPE 578 (Canadian Office and Professional Employees union). An earlier “no” vote in June resulted in the lockout.

The deal was broken by independent mediator Vincent Wagnen early after about four weeks of negotiation. Rod Russell, Assistant Business Manager of BCTU Local 213, says the many concessions required by FortisBC were likely responsible for the overwhelming no vote. Russell says the union did not want to continue negotiations which way to vote but left it to its individual members.

“We are not seeking for something ridiculous,” says Russell, “just trying to keep pace with the cost of living. We all know that the cost of living increase is between two and three percent. But the huge increase for FortisBC was making $49 million in profit per year, why do you even need concessions?”

FortisBC Director of Communications Joyce Wagener says Ready’s recommendations included no concessions to benefits, a signing bonus and cost of living increases over five years. The company was looking for “productivity enhancement” without any salary or benefits increase.

Ready had previously stated that whether these productivity measures included reductions in work weeks. FortisBC employees currently enjoy 3.75 weeks of annual vacation; 14 days off per year to observe statutory holidays in addition to BC Family Day (except for essential service staffs); and receive an additional 15 days of vacation time after five years of employment.

In one respect two parties don’t see that far apart. The union in the recent negotiation had asked for a cost of living increase for each year the first time, and in the proceeding two years, retroactive to the end of their contract February 1 this year. Russell responded with an offer of a two percent increase each year, or a five-year deal with a 2.5 percent increase in the final two years.

But as the saying goes, the devil is in the details, and it was those details that killed the deal. Among them was the company’s insistence on total control of job descriptions and the right to set four-day work weeks with no time off. The free Shaw satellite TV will not be forever

by Jan McMurray

The free satellite TV service offered by Shaw to eligible residents in this area will not be forever.

Cynthia Rathwell, Vice-President of Regulatory Affairs at Shaw, explained that starting September 1, 2012 homes will have to pay to start paying for the service. There is no obligation to become a subscriber – people can sign up with any satellite provider or cable company.

Rathwell explained that the LSST program (Local TV Satellite Solution) came about as a public interest benefit from the Shaw purchase of the Caswell assets. There’s a requirement when you purchase a broadcasting undertaking that you pay approximately 10 000 000 dollars a year to benefit the public, she said.

The Caswell purchase price was $2 billion, so Shaw was required to become a LSST subscriber – can sign up with any satellite provider or cable company.

The LSST program was only one of these projects.

“It’s not government money that pays for these programs,” she said. “They use the company’s tax paid to require, but can come up with proposals for the kinds of benefits it would like to fund.”

In this case, the CRTC suggested that providing a satellite dish, receiver and a basic package of TV stations to people who lost their free TV in the conversion from analog to digital would be in the public interest. We agree and that’s why we offered it,” said Rathwell.

Rathwell explained that an estimated 31 500 households across Canada were affected by the conversion from analogue to digital TV, so Shaw set aside $15 000 000 for the LSST program. This would cover the one free installation, satellite dish and receiver for 31 500 households. Of the amount budgeted, 20 000 households had taken advantage of the program. “We will carry on with the installations until we have serviced 31 500 households,” she said.

Although the offer is advertised to end November 30 this year, Rathwell said the company would extend it another year and would continue doing so until it reached the 31 500 target.

Rathwell denied that the program was a way for Shaw to get rid of its older equipment. “It’s possible that Shaw will provide older equipment – we provide what’s necessary in the particular area to receive the package of services. In some cases, it’s new equipment, in other cases it’s refurbished – it’s designed on a regional basis.” She said the receivers are warranted the way they would be for any subscriber, so if they break down, they will be replaced at no charge.

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Community Meeting – Oct 23, 2012

School District No. 8 is currently in the process of renewing our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. An Enhancement Agreement is an agreement between the school district, the local Aboriginal communities, and the Ministry of Education developed to enhance the educational achievement and school experience for all Aboriginal students. Community input is very important to renewing our agreement. We need to hear from Aboriginal parents, students, and community members. Please join us when we meet in your community. Contact Danica Lee at 250-777-1537 for more information. Food provided.

October 22nd – Frog Peak Cafe – 5pm to 8pm

More information about our current Enhancement Agreement can be found at: http://www.dvdsdata.com/abed/about-us/2/about-uns
Public invited to Columbia River Treaty workshop in Nakusp November 6

by Jan McMurray

The provincial Columbia River Treaty Review Team will soon make a recommendation to the Province on whether or not it should give notice to the federal government before the historic treaty is modified. A public hearing will be held in Nakusp on November 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. Workshops will also take place in Castlegar, Golden and Jaffrey.

The focus of the workshops will be to gather public input on the draft reports. The first is the draft ‘Public Consultation Report’ produced by the provincial Columbia River Treaty Review Team, which will be discussed from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at each of the upcoming workshops. The second is the ‘Columbia River Treaty: Draft Recommendations’ report produced by the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments’ Committee, which will be discussed from 8 to 9 p.m. at each workshop.

Both reports highlight the views and priorities of Basin residents, so there is considerable overlap in the two documents. The main difference between them is in their scope and purpose.

The provincial Columbia River Treaty Review Team’s report supplements the key areas of interests conveyed by Basin residents during the 2012-13 public consultation process, with a view to assisting the Province in its decision to give notice or not to give notice in 2014 to terminate the treaty in 2024. The finalized report will be submitted to the government along with the team’s recommendations on future treaty options.

The Local Governments’ Committee report is broader in scope, containing recommendations related to the treaty and BC Hydro operations, with a view to an improved quality of life for Basin residents. The committee will use the report as a platform to request the provincial and federal governments in December.

Meanwhile, the US Entity has released its Draft Regional Recommendation, which is out for public review in the Pacific Northwest until October 25. The final recommendation document will be submitted to the US Department of State in December.

In the Draft Regional Recommendation, the US Entity recommends “modernization” of the treaty. The modernized treaty would include an ecosystem-based function as a third primary purpose of the treaty (alongside power production and flood control), a greatly reduced Canadian Entitlement payment “to address the region’s need for a reliable and economically efficient hydro power system,” and continued coordinated flood risk management with Canada. In addition, the modernized treaty would provide support for recreation and navigation in the US, provide for increasing water supply needs south of the border, and take climate change into consideration.

TEACHERS ON CALL NEEDED

Are you a certified teacher? Do you love working with students and inspiring them? SD10, Arrow Lakes is looking for passionate, committed teachers to be in our ‘Teachers-On-Call’ pool. Please send your resume with cover letter including your school preference(s) by October 2, 2013 to: School District #10 Arrow Lakes 986 6th Ave NW, Trail, BC Canada V0G 1R0

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CEDAR CHALET MANAGER/ CARETAKER

The Village of Nakusp is looking for a Manager and/or Caretaker for the Cedar Chalet at the Nakusp Hot Springs. The Village expects to take over the operation of the Chalets in November 2013. An exciting opportunity exists for an individual who is experienced in the hospitality field, is personable and who is able to help successfully integrate the Cedar Chalets operation with the Hot Springs.

The Village is looking for a Manager for the Chalets, a live-in Caretaker and part time housekeeping staff. It is preferred that the Manager live on-site at the Hot Springs accommodation (provided, however), this may be negotiable if we identify an individual or couple interested in a separate live-in Caretaker/part-time housekeeping role.

If you are interested in learning more about either of these opportunities available at the Cedar Chalet, please contact Robert Richards (CFO) in the Village office 250-265-3699 to discuss or email him at richardsr@nakusp.com.

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Community Calendar

Thursday, October 17
Credit Union Day
MEI board meeting
Friday, October 18
CBI Symposium
Saturday, October 19
BCI Symposium
Sunday, October 20
CBI Symposium
Monday, October 21
Nakusp Valley Arts Council AGM
Tuesday, October 22
Aboriginal Education Agreement Public Meeting
Slocan Lake Early Learning Society AGM
New Denice council
Kaish council
Wednesday, October 23
Slocan Valley Tourism Plan Presentation
Saturday, October 26
Adrian Wagner, pianist concert
Sunday, October 27
Walk to Beat Breast Cancer/Spinal Cord Injury
Slocan Lake Gallery Society AGM
Community Politic Harvest Dinner
Thursday, October 31
Hallowen Events Show
Saturday, November 2
The Rivet & The Road
An Evening of Art
Hills Nordic Ski Club AGM
Nakusp Rotary Club
Nakusp Rotary Club
Meet every Wednesday at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 207 - 7th Ave

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BC Hydro to build trust and goodwill with Basin communities following the legacy of negative impacts from the CRTC. The committee also expects the provincial and federal governments to assist Columbia Basin communities with economic development and in particular asks the Province to do a study on the CRTC’s impacts on agriculture “to evaluate whether some form of agricultural mitigation or compensation is warranted.” Finally, the committee asks the Province to direct BC Hydro to include Basin residents in decision-making about operations.

Find these and more reports at gov.bc.ca/committeeandtreaty and www.crtc.gc.ca.icommittee.
Find a way to maintain 24/7 emergency service in Kaslo

The Interior Health Authority’s decision to reduce emergency services in Kaslo will only result in hardship to the members of that community, and those members who live in outlying communities which are serviced by Kaslo.

Contrary to the Ministry of Health’s strategic goal #3, which speaks to accessibility of timely, safe, and appropriate hospital services that support the needs of the patients and their families, the IHAs decision to reduce services at the Victorian Hospital in Kaslo will do exactly the opposite.

Losing the emergency services in Kaslo will reduce the ability to triage and stabilize patients with medical emergencies. The loss of these services will result in patients having to travel to Nelson, by either private vehicle or the provincial ambulance service. Those patients may then require more critical intervention and the delay in providing service may result in increased complications and deaths.

In light of the negative impact to our families and communities, urge the IHAs to look at all modes of care, including the use of nurse practitioners, promotion of Nurse First Call and Remote Nursing Practice Certification for RNs, in order to maintain 24/7 services in Kaslo.

Lorne Burbart Regional Chairperson
West Kootenay Region
British Columbia Nurses’ Union

Smart meters are a good idea

There is too much misinformation on the street about smart meters. I believe the general public is not aware of two important scientific and economic facts at the root of this issue.

First, a BC Centre for Disease Control (BCDC) report that can be found on the BCDC website compares radiofrequency (RF) exposure of household devices, baby monitors, microwave ovens, cell phones and smart meters. Not only do the meters emit a fraction of the RF of the other devices, but they also only do it for one minute per day.

Second, BC Hydro is the largest single contributor of tax dollars in the province, almost one billion annually. Its most valuable public asset. Why wouldn’t we want to support its ability to manage our assets ‘smartly’? We buy and sell electricity on the spot market. Therefore, timely demand driven information becomes extremely valuable to all British Columbians.

BC Hydro is not some big multinational company profiting by putting the public at risk. It’s our own company (one of the few public utilities left in the world struggling in the current climate) to remain viable. Let’s also exercise our public ‘power of one’ and do our homework on this issue.

Jim Bivens
South Slocan

Thank you for donation of baby toques to Kootenay Lake Hospital

Recently, after a Nakazle mother gave birth to her baby at the Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson, the great-grandmother of the baby left a very generous gift of baby toques with the management of the Nelson City campground, to be donated at the hospital in honour of the child’s birth. No identification of any kind was left with the donation, however.

As a member of the Kootenay Lake Hospital Auxiliary (and a nearby neighbour of the campground), I was asked by the manager to deliver the gift to the courtesy mail. Needless to say, the donation was welcomed with open arms – the three nurses at the desk were most excited and delighted with these adorable and colourful toques.

Because we’ve been unable to identify our kind benefactor, our hope is that the parents or some member of the baby’s family will read this note and can share with her our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation for this excellent contribution to the nursery’s baby toque ‘cache’! There will be many more happy young mums going home with her comfort, warm baby in a toque from an anonymous angel.

Thank you Great-Grandma, whoever and wherever you are!

The ladies of the Hospital Auxiliary and staff of the maternity ward of Kootenay Lake Hospital

Smart meters

In Alberta, the gas company has meters in the homes that tie in to the phone line and automatically have the meter read through the phone line on a monthly basis. Why can’t this be done here? Instead, it will cost more money to receive power with these new smart meters? It seems ridiculing that the meters run all day, does this not use power? Can meters reduce electricity rates when the fees are increasing so much? The monthly bills just keep getting higher. This is the last thing we all need.

Pat Roby
Kaslo

Re: IH approval of point of entry water systems for Johnsons Landing

It was very good interest that I read the article in the October 2 edition of the Valley Voice entitled ‘Johnson’s Landing agreement with IH a breakthrough for small water systems.’ This is because I am a member of the board of CAWST, the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology. CAWST is a non-profit organization headquartered in Calgary which provides training and consulting in water and sanitation to organizations which serve the poor in developing countries. It is a strong advocate for household water treatment and a subsequent and been a member of the International Network to Promote Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (http://www.wat.en/incorrect_ water/). Almost since inception of the Network in 2003.

CAWST provided input to the UN’s global future sustainable development goals which included the recommendation that the quantity and quality of water used in the home be measured more directly on a global basis than is current practice, http://www.caawst.org/publications. This will encourage a greater variety of solutions for drinking water delivery, including consideration of household water treatment.

I have shared your article with the board and senior management of CAWST, and I am delighted at the leadership shown by the Province of BC in regulating the use of point of water treatment systems.

Congratulations on your excellent newspaper. I continue to be grateful that I am a resident of Kootenay Lake.

Camille Dow Baker
Cute Creek

Letter to BC Justice Minister Anton re: Johnson’s Landing

It’s been over 14 months since Premier Clark committed the government’s full support to help the residents of Johnson’s Landing recover from the massive landslide that tore through their community. The landslide engulfed homes, destroyed property and claimed the lives of four people. Survivors of this tragedy have been resilient and want to rebuild their homes and their community. However, your government’s negligence has failed to help them.

You and I met shortly after the one-year anniversary of the tragic events at Johnson’s Landing, I shared with you the disappointment that community members felt about the lack of support they have received from the Liberal government. Right now, they cannot move on from properties that are in hazard zones defined by the geological report as too dangerous for them to return. Rather, they must still pay property taxes and cannot sell. As I asked you several times, they need your help with a buy-out plan.

Since we met, the Alberta government has taken action with a buy-out plan for residents of over 250 homes hit by flooding earlier this year. This time this temporary response in Alberta has left many in Johnson’s Landing disillusioned that the BC’s Liberal government has overlooked them for so long. We ask you to follow Alberta’s lead and support those who have lost their homes to this major natural disaster.

The Johnson’s Landing residents, like the Albertans floods of this year and the 2005 landslide in North Vancouver that saw government respond with a buy-out plan for affected homes, is an extraordinary situation that requires an extraordinary response. The people of Johnson’s Landing deserve better than to be ignored and given broken promises. They deserve to be treated fairly. I would like to again urge you to do what is right and work with the residents of Johnson’s Landing on a buy-out plan.

Michelle Munagall, MLA
Nelson-Creston

Comments on FortisBC smart meter opt-out application due October 22

The deadline for submitting a ‘letter of concern’ to the BC Utilities Commission regarding Fortis BC’s AMI radio-off meter option it October 22. A letter of concern can be emailed toCommission.Secretary@bcc.com with the email subject: FortisBC AMI Radio-Off Meter. Write your email to Eric Hamilton, Commission Secretary Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission Order C-7-13, FortisBC Inc. Radio-Off AMI Meter Option Application. Your email include your name, street address and that you are writing a letter of concern. At this point, only two letters of concern have been submitted.

Fortis’s proposal is to allow customers (who phone them) to choose a smart meter with the radio turned off, and off in such a way that it cannot be turned on remotely, i.e. a technician has to come to turn it on. Fortis’s proposal does not include an option for customers to keep their analogue meters.

Fortis also proposes to charge customers a one-time $100 administrative fee for the AMI radio-off option $22 per billing, and an extra one-time administration and infrastructure fee of $110. All of this amount could be coerced? The Fortis representative that I spoke with today (October 9) told me they don’t want people to choose the radio-off option.

Fortis customers are already paying a service charge of $30.33 per billing. This service charge already covers the cost of having your meter read manually. The proposed extra $22 per top of that is doubling billing.

Please email the commission and let them know your opinion on this topic. My opinion is that these fees are continued on page 5

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continued from page 4
discriminatory and punitive against those choosing the radio-off option. Remember, let them know by October 22.
You can read Fortis’s opt-out application to the BCUC at www.bcuc.
.com. Click on: Current Applications, then Fortis AMI/Radio-off meter option. Go to Exhibits, “E” exhibits, B-1. Click on FORTIS INC. (FBC) Letter Dated August 30, 2013 Advanced Metering Infrastructure Radio-Off Option Public Participation zone. You can also scroll down to Exhibit “E” to read the letters of comment.
I hope to see more letters from you.
Allan Lang
Winlaw
Rosebery to Nakusp Trail must be motorized
I have followed for years with growing consternation the efforts to ban motorized use of the section of old railroad between Rosebery and Hills. Such de-motorization efforts are aimed at the north end of the Ohda Creek Road, the north end of the Glenola Trestle in Rosebery and Nakusp, and maybe also K&S railway and wagon road sections where possible between Three Forks and Kaslo. RDCK Director Walter Popoff says that the ....intent is to make the (Rosebery-Summit Lake) trail available for public recreation. My view is this must include motorized traffic on some reasonable access. Public access points should be added for example using the GitGuide camp-driveway.
The current challenge is by the North Kootenay Trail Society. It is in the process of applying to the Province to manage the trail for non-motorized use only as a “mission”, a power play that if successful would finance potential multi-use status. It claims that...some people need to look after the trail it is self-limiting.
In addition, the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society may become involved in the trail use and beach access issue. This section of the railroad is mostly within the Kootenay National Park, and has the lake shoreline and thus indescribable other than for the last two kilometres at the Hills end and possibly for a short distance at Rosebery where the railroad crosses or borders private land. The RDCK-involved Kootenay Lake Partnership “Sheolina Guidelines Document” is in the works, and it could impact the riparian zone, the beach-to-wetlands zone and even the shore adjacent to the mouth of Bonanza Creek by using existing and newly addresed bylaw.
Access may be further restricted by the Lake Management Plan (when it appears) through the publicly-stated aim of superseding laws via invocation of Community Values gleaned from the “Imagine Slocan Lake Project” survey.
I am opposed to all efforts to establish the exclusively non-motorized access. A balance of provision of reasonably well maintained bike trail, we (me and wife) have cycled lots of with “ordinary” bikes. It’s not “hardcore” ATV or rail trail bike terrain. I have seen no more than mosaic use, motorized or otherwise.
This trail should not be alienated to a few statutorily legitimized and mostly seasonal users and “European cyclists.” How many of them will see a use permit from the BC Government? Even if they do, they will be the only group used to the governance of Rosebery. It’s the Rosebery to Hills section. There’s nowhere else.
Stephen L. Philips
New Denver
Jumbo Wild thanks Mother Nature etc.
Even though Glacier Resorts Ltd. (GRL), the development arm of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Group, has issued a road use permit in spring 2013, no industrial vehicles travelled into Jumbo Valley this season, with the main resort to be completed by 2018. BC’s closure of the valley was limited until late in the season, as a bridge was out and the road closed by a slide. Again GRL advertised for ski team candidates, used to cut the old-growth forest, and sightseeing on the Fairhand Glacier June 29, 2013. Fairhand Glacier is one of the four glaciers within the JGR Controlled Recreation Area. But it alone is accessed via Highway Creek and Fairhand Creek roads, both of which were washed out frequently, and was not accessible until late July.
The Environment Assessment Office’s (EAO) October 2004 conditional approval of the GRL has 199 conditions and commitments that are legally binding attached to it. An “at-10-year” review clause. In order to gain full approval, on October 12, 2013 GRL must show substantial start to construction. The problem is how the Environment Minister makes the determination.
The conservation community is concerned with Committee #35 Appendix F, “No artificial modifications of the glaciers will occur other than snow covered structures (wooden roof) over open creeves and roping off danger areas.” Glacier Management concludes “glacier modification...rope of explosives, salting or bulldozer work is proposed.” In years Fairhand Glacier, observed by the author, has been extensively, leaving primarily icy conditions during the summer ski season. As the terminal end, it leaves a relatively rough terrain on its fractured base with nothing onto the glacier possible only with extensive excavator work. The JUMBO WILD Citizens Development Camp (JWCD) was setup a bit before the entrance to the Fairhand Glacier to monitor and observe GRL’s activities on the glacier, where they hold a Lease of Occupation for a ski lift on the glacier and a sky-bridge to be built on the alpine adjacent to the glacier. Before they start to build, they must obtain pre-construction permits from the EAO.
Mid-season, GRL obtained an injunction against the JWDC on the grounds that JWDC vehicles were blockaded, which prevented their access to the glacier. The JWDC said they only made a check-stop point to investigate the purpose of going on toward the glacier, as one vehicle carried an excavator.
After 26 years (and counting) immersed in helping to Keep Jumbo Wild, I reflect on the 1998 previously funded exposure by the investigative reporter, Joyce Nelson, which she recently substantiated in this spring’s Watershed Sentinel. Behind it, she discloses, are a consortium of international water privatizers and exporters. This makes even more sense now than it did 15 years ago when we recently learned BC’s Water Law was penned in 1909. This fact is of grave concern to the municipality of Hope, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Corp removing undeclared amounts from their aquifer for many years.
And... the West Kootenay Eco-

Society’s Judicial Review (J.R.) challenging the BC Government’s closure of the Master Development Agreement so Jumbo Glacier Resort can proceed possibly to completion by 2014. The Kwikun Nation have consistently opposed the creation of the Jumbo Valley area holds cultural, spiritual and environmental and spiritual values for them.
Rowena Elison, Argenta West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild
Open letter to Minister of Health Terry Lake et al.,
I am writing to express my concern with the health service delivery provided in Kaslo. In a word, INSUFFICIENT.
Last fall, IGA agreed to find a way to continue to provide emergency services at the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo (and henceforth in this letter known as VCHC). After efforts in the spring, which were time-consuming, energy draining, but designed to look hopeful to the locals, nothing has changed. EB services are continually on diversion and now decreased to office hours (9-5, Monday–Friday). This would be satisfactory in an area where the nearest ER is not, minimally one hour distant as it is for us.
IHA assures us that they are doing, have done, and will continue to do their utmost to advertise and attract patients. That is something in this somewhat that also has not changed — advertising is restricted and difficult to find, contacts from local residents not followed up on, and SHAME SHAME emergency, willing doctor not paid!!
At the spring meetings and in Dr. Ross’ report many alternative suggestions were put forward to provide the services needed in a cost efficient and novel way. In fact, IHA put itself on the back foot as the agreement reached in Kaslo would be the model of rural health delivery in their region, noting that most rural areas were having similar difficulties.
But the reality words from IHA yet again. Replacing services is not novel, nor does it solve the issues in rural areas. An excellent opportunity was at hand to create something unique, efficient and valuable. That opportunity still exists, if the political will is there.
I pay the same rates for medical services as my friends in urban centres. Yet, I and my neighbours do not expect the same services as urbanites. We expect to have physician services during regular office hours; we expect emergency services within an hour, as promised; we expect to travel 1-3 hours for specialty services; and we expect to travel much further for tertiary services. This is not something we expect.
On a personal note, I live in Johnson’s Landing which is one hour’s travel from VCHC in good weather. I expect to travel this distance for both regular and emergency services; and I expect that travel to all other health service needs will be 2-3 hours and more. Notably, IHA promised a novel, creative, state of the art Primary Health Care Centre for Kaslo. Instead, they used a “come-along” model. There is nothing creative about the PCF, although the committee of local residents again input, workable, cost-efficient ideas. Note also: the money spent to bring Dr. Ross (a wonderful resource and human being) from across the country, to bring several dozen IHA staff to Kaslo, to create pages and pages of documents could have better been used to find a physician...
And note again: best practices utilize local input in creating workable/ conditioned medical facilities; something IHA failed to do. IHA provided 24/7 emergency coverage for us.
I would like you, Terry Lake, to instruct IHA to create a new, unique, creative solution to providing 24/7 emergency coverage for us.
I would like you, Dr. Halpenny, to provide direction to appropriate staff to create a new, unique, creative solution to providing 24/7 emergency coverage for us.
I would like you, Michelle Mungall, to push for “demand consistently” as my dictionary defines it the political will to provide 24/7 emergency coverage in rural areas, noting that urban solutions are not the “creative” model needed for rural situations.
Kate O’Keefe
Johnson’s Landing
Open letter to Dr. Halpenny et al re: Kaslo health care
Over the past 35 plus years that I have lived in the north Kootenay Lake area, I have watched our health care services going from accessible, timely and affordable to the current deplorable state. This decline in services has happened primarily during the past 11 years under the management of Interior Health. IHFs’ reduction in the delivery of health care services is disenchanting, dangerous and demoralizing for the residents of this community.
I attended the meeting held in September 2013 at Kaslo when it was announced that it was closing the 24/7 Victoria Primary Care Emergency services. These services were provided as a replacement to the closing of the crease hospital in Kaslo, reevaluating, health care delivery in this community to a series of bus and the occasional service from IHA solicited physicians. Promises were made that IHA would work with the Kaslo and area Community Health Care Committee to ensure that safe and continuing health care would be provided in our community.
At a meeting this past Wednesday, held one year after, the Kaslo Health Care Committee reported on the current level of resident and the lack of progress that has been made in retaining our emergency services and the recruitment of additional physicians who are at the Victorian Primary Health Care Center. As we learned via CBC and a press release earlier in the day, IHA has made a unilateral decision to proceed with the closure of the 24/7 emergency service, other than during “weekday office hours” and IHA has made no progress in hiring additional physicians just to bring the staffing levels up to the two FTE physicians Kaslo is allocated.
This is more than disappointing. It is a violation of our entitlement to health care. When the Liberal government brought in the Health Act back in 2002 they guaranteed that BC residents would not be more than one hour from full emergency services. However, IHA seems to be hell bent on complying to this guarantee, at least for those of us in rural areas dependant on the supply of health care services from the Victorian Primary Health Care Center. There is a rural areas now are more than two hours from emergency services from the closure of Kaslo’s Emergency services.
While IHA claims it has not been able to recruit physicians for Kaslo, due to the onerous requirement of being on call to provide 24/7 Emergency Room services, it appears that IHA has not even advertised for new doctors in the professional journals, despite spending considerable financial resources in advertising for doctors for other communities. Evidently, your agreement to work with the Kaslo community to provide the required physicians and nurses to ensure emergency services went out the window. Many north Kooteneys continue IHA further discourages finding new doctors for this community by requiring potential prospects to sign unfair and unforeseeable contracts. There has been no effort to work with the BC Ambulance Service to increase ambulance service to this area as required by the closure of the Emergency Services.
IHA’s able to pay very large salaries continued on page 6
Call for support for Mobile Home Park Closure/Redevelopment Policy in Nakusp

As many of you may be aware, the new owner of Coachman Mobile Home Park and Campground plan to redevelop, and the mobile home owners have been told they will be receiving a Notice to End Tenancy in the near future, giving them 12 months to vacate. These mobile homes have been tenants at Coachman for years, actually decades. Some are not physically able to be moved due to age, and renovations and additions. Others that are to be moved have nowhere to move to, since no other mobile home park in Nakusp and area will accept new tenants with mobile homes older than 10 years old. We have found that most mobile home parks in BC will not accept new tenants with older homes.

Under current BC law within the Mobile Home Tenancy Act, the two requirements to end tenancy of mobile homes are: 1) Give the homeowners 12 months notice to vacate; and 2) Give the homeowners 12 months’ paid rent in cash with that notice to vacate for compensation for moving. This would border on $3,000 for Coachman homeowners.

The actual costs of moving a mobile to a new pad are over $10,000, and demolition/clean-up of mobiles that cannot be moved costs thousands of dollars. This does not include the loss of investment/equity of our homes if moving them is not possible. We are all facing financial and personal devastation with our park closure under the current Mobile Home Tenancy Act. Some of us will be left with a mortgage to pay but no home to live in.

Through the BC Mobile Homeowners Association at www.mhbc.ca we have found some hope. Other homeowners associations, cities, villages, etc. in BC have developed and brought in policy to protect their citizens who are mobile home owners living in rental parks from facing this kind of financial and personal devastation from eviction of rental parks for the purpose of closure or redevelopment.

These policies do not prevent the landlord from redeveloping, but instead require the landlord to pay the REAL costs of development by requiring the landowners to pay the actual moving costs of mobile homes to another rental pad within the area, and if the home cannot be safely moved or a suitable rental pad cannot be found in the area, then the landlord is required to pay the appraised value of the mobile home to the homeowner. In 2010, NDP MLA Sharmaine Thomas tabled Bill 208. This bill states that the Mobile Home Tenancy Act be amended, requiring the landlord to pay actual moving costs up to $25,000 and if the mobile cannot be moved safely or has no other rental pad to move to, then the landowners would be required to pay the appraised value of the mobile to the homeowner.

Unfortunately this bill has only had first reading and is not law, so the Act has not been amended. Thus BC communities have created their own policies to protect their mobile home owners. These communities include Kelowna, Vernon, Peachland, Osoyoos, Oliver, Lake Country municipality, many Lower Mainland communities, and many island communities.

We are asking our mayor and council to develop a policy to protect Nakusp mobile home owners living in rental parks. There are over 40 mobile home owners living in the few rental parks within the Nakusp area. In the case of Coachman homeowners, it could happen to the homeowners in the other parks. We feel it is necessary for our Village to have a policy that addresses the displacement of mobile homes if landowners close or redevelop the mobile home parks. These may be older mobile homes, but they are far from run down, unsightly homes as has been put forward to us. In addition, knowing our home owners had just suffered a major stroke, was a two-hour drive away. So again, no sleep for me.

In the morning, I got a call from the social worker saying she just got word that my husband was being released from Trail hospital and they were going to send him to Castlegar on the bus alone, where I would then switch buses and get another one to Nelson, and then I could catch a taxi to Kaslo! This is a man who had just had a major stroke 48 hours before. He had to walk with a walker because he was so unsteady on his feet and very dizzy with a headache. He had no shoes, and had to carry all his duffel bag full of clothes and toiletries! I told the social worker he was not to leave that hospital until I sent someone to pick him up. The only person I could think of was my brother, who was working that day as was his sister in Yakut. She drove two hours to Trail, then two hours to Kaslo. By the time they arrived here in Kaslo, my husband was warm right out, very dizzy, tired, pale and exhausted.

They sent him home with a prescription that he needed by morning, so I had to quickly go to town before the drugstore closed in half an hour. Now he needs to see a doctor in Kaslo for a follow-up but the earliest they can get him in is in October 17, which is 10 days after being released from hospital. I left a message for the home nurse to come check on him, but still no answer back from her, as I believe her hours were cut as well.

However, it is scary to try to look after a sick family member when you are getting no answers, not getting phone calls returned, not knowing if the ER will be open from day to day, having to wait a long time to get in to see a doctor in an emergency case and then the thought of having our one ambulance out of town on another call. This could happen again! IHA – you co-op systems does not work and your hearts are not in the right place. Get it together or get out of the business.

Theresa Laybourne
Kaslo
Bear calls on upswing after a good start to the year submitted

Even though bear-related calls are down in comparison to last year, WildSafeBC warns residents that the fall season is about to heat up with regards to human-bear conflicts.

“We’re down about 20 percent province-wide in terms of bear-related calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line,” says Frank Ritcey, WildSafeBC provincial coordinator.

“However, that could all change with the fall season. Natural food sources have been good with a long wet spring but the dry hot summer could have reduced the availability of natural foods.”

Bears are entering a phase of their yearly cycle called ‘hyperphagia,’ a time when they can take in up to 20,000 calories in a single day to create enough fat to make it through their winter hibernation period.

“Garbage, unpicked fruit, bird feeders, pet food, outdoor freezers, and small livestock all become targets for the bears,” warns Ritcey.

“Preventing bears from accessing these attractants will help to keep the wildlife wild and our communities safe.”

New Denver’s WildSafeBC coordinator Bev Lillies and Kaslo co-ordinator Gillian Sanders are pleased with their communities’ efforts to reduce conflicts with bears.

“The Village of Kaslo and New Denver have replaced all open garbage bins on Village property with bear-resistant bins. An increasing number of residents are installing electric fencing around their chicken coops, livestock pens, and fruit trees, and many more are calling with questions about attractant management. It’s great to see people being proactive to manage and prevent conflicts with wildlife,” say Lillies and Sanders.

Since the inception of Bear Aware (the forerunner of WildSafeBC), the annual destruction of bears has been halved from about 1,000 animals a year to approximately 500.

The program, run by the BC Conservation Foundation, can find more information at wildsafebc.com or follow at facebook.com/wildsafebc.

Locally, you can reach your community coordinator in Kaslo call 250-353-1137 or email kaslo@wildsafebc.com or New Denver: call 250-354-8120 or email: newdenver@wildsafebc.com.

Local programs are sponsored by Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Village of New Denver and Kaslo, and Columbia Basin Trust.

THE UNWANTED LIST

Large and small mounted birds and entire perch are exotic invasives introduced to the W. Kootenays. These efficient carnivores eat any native fish they can fit in their mouths. Their spiny dorsal fin makes them unpalatable food for other fish.

Lucerne Harvest Festival leads local Fall food events by Art Joyce

Things don’t get much more wholesome—or fun—than the Lucerne school Harvest Festival every fall. Parents and kids and community members come out on Friday, September 27 to see the fruits of the harvest and enjoy sumptuous soup for lunch.

For the kids it was a chance to get busy hands involved in garden cleanup and composting, pince apples, prepare Stone Soup and process the

greenhouse produce. The first crop of quinoa was harvested and winnowed. Local residents brought in goats, sheep, rabbits, a rooster and a horse—a big hit with the little ones.

The harvest display and competition showed a wide range of garden produce, with some truly gargantuan examples of pumpkin, zucchini and squash, along with beautiful bouquets of locally grown flowers. And, like any fall fair, many brought in preserves, pies and other

delicious baked goods. Deserving of special mention was the display of kids’ veggie art, with dolphins and other ingenious figures.

But Harvest Festival is just the beginning, thanks to our local Healthy Community Society. As Thanksgiving approaches, the community is invited to gather for the second annual Harvest Dinner on October 27 at 5 p.m. at Bosun Hall, New Denver. Turkey and beverages are provided. It’s a chance to share some of the bounty from the growing season and enjoy each other’s company in the Thanksgiving season. All ages are welcome. At 7:15, Peter Forbes will speak on the topic Thinking Like a Food Shed in part of the Power of Place series sponsored by Heart’s East Retreat Centre. Forbes is a director with the Vennut-based Centre for Whole Communities, a land-based leadership development organization. One of its key questions is: What might we achieve if movements for environmental and social change worked together for healthy, whole communities?

SLOCAN LAKE GALLERY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday, October 27, 2013, 3 pm SILVERTON 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 Silverton Gallery? We are at a crossroads and need your help.

GALLERY

Walk for Breast Cancer/ Spinal Cord Injury Sunday October 27 Show your support and come join the Darkwater Dragons at the New Denver Marina at 11:00 am. Donation jars will be available at local businesses instead of pledges.

Tales from the Fisherman’s Market: It’s All About Who You Know

The Fisherman’s Market lives and breathes seafood. Anything the waters of the West Coast have to offer us, we take seriously.

It’s not just enough to get the fish when it becomes available. It becomes a quest to find the freshest sources, the best boats, and the finest processors this industry can offer.

The Fisherman’s Market has well over 100 years combined experience between its owners and managers and we are confident when we say, we know the industries’ finest. From the most prominent fishing vessels to the best areas for prime catches, we are out there every day strengthening old contacts and making new ones to assure that every piece of fish that comes into our shops is nothing but the best. Whether it’s solid fresh fish to your showcase or vacuum sealed and blast frozen for a family dinner down the road, we put a piece of our knowledge and experience in every pack.

The month of October is bulk pack month. Whether you choose from one of our 8 pre made packs, like the mouth

watering halibut lovers, or build your own pack with all your favorite seafood. Each pack is cut to your very own specifications and you can rest assured the quality will be magnificent. Every bulk pack purchased comes with a $20.00 gift card as the caviar on the canape, our way of saying “have a meal on us.”

“We believe the bulk pack helps families and individuals alike save money on the seafood they love, while promoting healthier living and environmental awareness as well. We really want to make seafood an everyday occurrence on people’s plates and the bulk pack special is a great way to start.”

Certified Ocean Wise supplier

-Cory S Fisherman’s Market owner and father of two salmon-loving children

October Special: SEAFOOD BULK PACKS We Deliver

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Follow at facebook.com/wildsafebc.
Arrow Lakes Arts Council opens new season with jazz ensemble

by Cdra Einichemau

This year, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council arranged to kick off its concert season on September 28 with a jazz ensemble. The group was comprised of three veteran musicians – Patrick MacGibbon on saxophone with Suee Parish on drums and Doug Stevenson on bass, both of Nelson. They were joined by two Nakusp Senior Secondary (NSS) students: Rene Goodman on cello and trombone, and Cyra Caglaway on alto sax.

Then MacGibbon got word that pianist (and now sax player) Phil Dwyer was travelling in the Southern Interior and asked if he’d like to join the gig. The result was an energetic and entertaining start to the season. The evening included music by well-known artists such as Dave Brubeck, Henry Mancini and Thelonious Monk, as well as pieces composed by MacGibbon and several others.

Goodman played the cello in a Kenny Wheeler tune – MacGibbon’s reading that Wheeler liked listening to classical music inspired this choice. Both students took part in a Miles Davis tune with Goodman on trombone. Caglaway took his turn with short solos.

MacGibbon dedicated his first piece to his students, his inspiration and incentive to practice. Later he dedicated another to his father, with whom he used to hike frequently. One of these hikes inspired Meeting of the Waters, named for the journey of two streams in Glacier National Park on a trail of the same name near the Illecillewaet Glacier.

The closing number had everyone on stage again. It was great fun to watch these musicians play together. It was obvious they all enjoyed themselves, each other and the music. Although the music was finished, the evening was not yet over. The final event was the drawing of aaffle ticket for Ton Fugayas’s sculpture Bird of Peace. The winner was Nakusp resident Cdra Einichemau (car).
The Slocan Valley Legacy Fund has kicked off a new campaign to raise $50,000 to be distributed to the community. The campaign, called the Legacy Fund, aims to provide grants to local organizations and individuals. The money raised will be matched with a $50,000 donation from the Columbia Basin Trust, bringing the total to $100,000. The funds will be distributed to community projects, arts and culture, education, health, and the environment. The deadline for applications is October 31, and more information can be found at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com.
Book by New Denver author Art Joyce to be published in spring of 2014

by Jan McMurray

An important yet little known part of Canadian history will get some exposure when a book by local author and Valley Voice reporter, Art Joyce, is released in May 2014.

The book, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: Canada’s Home Children is the West, gives an account of the children of poor British families who were sent to Western Canada as cheap farm labour between 1869 and 1945.

“There are about four million descendants of Home Children in Canada now, so roughly one in eight Canadians. This is a part of our history.”

by Smokey Creek Salvage

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that we were never taught in school, and yet it is as Canadian as hockey and maple syrup,” said Joyce.

Joyce became interested in the Home Children when he was doing genealogical research about seven years ago and discovered that his grandfather had been a Home Child.

“My grandfather went to his grave without telling us what happened,” said Joyce. “The Home Children were stigmatized as the scum of society. The idea behind the program in Britain was that by sending these children to a new country, the class system would no longer exist and people would accept them, but that didn’t turn out to be the case. Consequently, many went to their graves without telling their own children their stories. This is why so little is known about it.”

Joyce explained that the Home Children Program was a way of dealing with the massive unemployment and social disruption caused by the industrial revolution. With no welfare system in Britain at the time, poor families turned to the church. But the churches were overwhelmed with the number of people in need, so they arranged to send the children to the colonies. Of the 130,000 to 140,000 children sent away, about 100,000 of them came to Canada, mostly to work on farms.

To write the book, Joyce took a year off from his Valley Voice duties in 2012. With the assistance of a $5,000 CRT grant through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, he visited archives in Ottawa, Peterborough, Nelson, Vernon and Victoria. He also toured the Columbia Basin, giving talks on the topic. Consequently, he met many families of descendants of Home Children who now live in the Columbia Basin. Many of these people’s stories are included in the book.

The book is being published by Hagos Press, based in Regina. When it is released nationally in May 2014, Joyce will be off on a book tour.

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Sherril McCoy shows the results of her water test at her property in Carpenter Creek. Students during CRT’s Know Your Watershed field trip practiced techniques for measuring the quality of water and learned what conditions are necessary to support healthy aquatic organisms like fish and insects.

Lucienne School students from BC’s Starcheston science class spent a day along Carpenter Creek with CRT’s Know Your Watershed program. Students enjoyed catching and identifying macroinvertebrates in vineyard water insects, and touring the Village of New Denver’s water system. From left, Jodie Nicholson-Chisholm, Shauna McCoy, Anthony Marvin, Duane Nicholson-Chisholm, Ginger Woessner, Marlyss Van Zyl, and Fans Buntstolder. Back row Richard Johnson of the Starcheston Stewardship Society, Maryn Mohr, and Bree Lillis.

Small Prices Sale for Small Business Week

Task 16 Oz Hammer
Bamboo Handle
Sale $7.99

Fat Max Wrecking Bar 14" Sale $10.95

Stanley 1" X 26" Tape Measure
Sale $6.59

Task Bow Saw 21" Sale $8.89

Value Pack Mens Socks 10 Pair Sale $8.79

Gojo Natural Orange Hand Cleaner 3.78 L Sale $11.90

Sanoma 3 Pack 6 ½" Carbide Blades 187/247/40T Sale $12.80

Clc Work Gloves Latex Dip Med./Large/Extra Large Sale $3.29

Watson WAT Pack 3 Pair Special Sale $7.89

Charmin 16 Roll Toilet Paper/Septic Safe Sale $8.49/PK

Circuit Alert Voltage Sensing Tools Sale 25% Off

Sylvania 100 Watt Rought Service Light Bulbs 2PK Sale $2.89/PK

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Bc Hydro

Bc Hydro has started planning work to allow Revelstoke Unit 6 Project to be constructed by 2020. The project is being advanced as a contingency project should future electricity demand be higher than expected as described in BC Hydro's August 2013 Integrated Resource Plan. As outlined in that plan, BC Hydro’s expected electricity demand would be met by other projects and conservation measures.

Planning work for the Revelstoke Unit 6 Project includes seeking regulatory approvals for the project. The BC Environmental Assessment Office has determined that the project will be reviewed under the BC Environmental Assessment Act. BC Hydro is convening a Core Committee to help with the review.

Do you represent an interest that would be affected by the construction or operation of a sixth generating unit at Revelstoke Generating Station? Are you interested in getting involved to help recommend mitigation measures?

BC Hydro is accepting committee member applications until November 4, 2013. If you are not interested in participating but want to follow the work of the Core Committee, then you can sign up as an observer to receive project information.

For more information visit bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/revelstoke-unit-6

To get involved please contact:
John Walker-Larsen
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Revelstoke
250 814-6645
jennifer.walker-larsen@bchydro.com

Bc Hydro

Bc Hydro

For Generations.

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For Generations.
New Denver council, October 8: Reduced hydro rates requested for area residents

by Ian McMurtry

Council agreed to write a letter to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), requesting a BC Hydro rate reduction for area residents due to the inferior quality of electrical service being provided. Mayor Burkuda stated that according to BC Hydro statistics, the New Denver area has more power outages than the provincial average. Councillor Haddad said that even compared to other rural areas in BC with single line service, New Denver has more outages. He also pointed out that New Denver’s BC Hydro power is generated in this region.

Council will ask the fire chief to file a complaint with the BCUC regarding the fire hazard associated with the frequent power surges in the area. This decision was prompted by the BCUC’s response to an area resident’s complaint about the power surges. The resident had informed BCUC that the New Denver and Area Fire Chief was aware of damages to homes resulting from the surges. The BCUC response states that if the fire chief has concerns, he should file a complaint with BCUC.

Council received a letter from Cam Mathison of BC Hydro to follow up on the meeting at TBCG and the concerns expressed about the surges and brownouts in the area. Mathison states in the letter that some reliability issues cannot be addressed without installing a redundant line, which he indicates will not be happening anytime soon. However, he lists the things BC Hydro will do: continue annual vegetation management, maintain investor-owned distribution and transmission lines with hazard trees outside of BC Hydro right of ways; complete a thermal rating study and correct deficiencies found in that study in 2014 and 2015; and install surge arresting devices by the end of November this year.

Surge arresting devices are “a larger-scale version of the protection offered by the home power bars with a surge protector,” according to BC Hydro spokesperson Mary Anne Coles.

She explained in an interview that some of the distribution lines in the New Denver area are strung on the same poles as the transmission line. So, the two lines sometimes contact each other during extreme events such as a severe vehicle accident, a tree falling on the line, an accumulation of snow and ice on the wires, or conductor sag caused by heavy thermal loading. When such contacts occur, there is a temporary overvoltage on the distribution line, and this can damage electrical equipment in people’s homes in New Denver.

The surge arresting devices will provide protection from these overvoltage events so that equipment damage, if any, is minimized, said Coles. She said local crews will begin the installation work very soon and it will be finished by the end of November.

Council directed a petition with 172 signatures calling for a stop to the collection of tax dollars to fund the Area H North TV Society. Mayor Burkuda said she would meet with fellow RDCK Directors Man and Popoff, and they would meet with the TV Society board, as well. “It has been a service for 18 years and it’s never been reviewed,” she said, adding that this was New Denver’s second highest tax requisition for the RDCK.

After receiving a letter and more information about the new recycling program from Multi Material BC (MMBC), council decided to express an interest in operating a recycling depot in New Denver.

Council had decided at its September meeting not to participate in the new program because the financial incentives offered by MMBC would not cover the costs of recycling services. The director of MMBC said there were no plans to be funded and staffed, but bias need to be able to be locked. With this new information, Allaway feels that the financial incentives offered by MMBC for the Village to provide the recycling depot service will cover the cost. “Everything to do with the depot would be negotiable, according to Catherine,” said Mayor Burkuda. The mayor said they still don’t have answers about the number of bins and frequency of pick-ups, but it is doable if there is cooperation from the public. We can’t have contamination - there is a $5,000 maximum penalty if there is more than 3 percent contamination, so it will take some consultation,” she said.

Council agreed to express an interest in the financial incentives for depot operation, acknowledging that there was no obligation to participate until they sign a contract with MMBC.

Emergency Management BC will provide up to $51,279 for repairs andrelief on the east side of Carpenter Creek, damaged during the flooding June 19-21. This funding comes from the Disaster Financial Assistance program, which will cover 80 percent of the repair costs.

CAO Carol O’Connor reported that the Village’s application for a funding for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of $51,279 for repairs andrelief on the east side of Carpenter Creek had “made at least tier two,” so a detailed report would now have to be submitted to the Building Canada Flood Protection funding program. If the application is successful, the cost of the project will be covered with one-third federal funding, one-third provincial funding and one-third municipal funding.

Mayor Burkuda reported on a Snow Valley Economic Development Commission meeting held on September 23. The commission has the mandate to manage the CST Community Directed Funds of $100,000 per year for the next three years for the purpose of tourism in the Village. They said they were looking for a consultant to gather public input on project ideas that would benefit Area H. “It has to be something that people in the area believe in,” she said.

She also reported that the Business Expansion and Retention project has been well received by businesses, especially in the food sector, and they were having some difficulty getting the contractor to finish the website project in a timely manner.

The Village will provide a letter of support to the Snow Lake Stewardship Society for a volunteer coordinator. The coordinator “will work with the board to develop a series of volunteer opportunities intended to create a culture of stewardship for Snow Lake,” according to a letter from the SSLS.

Council granted permission to close the main street between McKender and Josephine on October 17 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm for the New Denver Nursery School’s annual Toddle-a-thon.

Councillor Raymonds reported that the next Council Cafes will be held November 16 at Nairn Cafe, 2-4 pm. She also informed council of the Chamber’s public meeting on October 25 at Silverton Memorial Hall on the Snow Valley Tourism Plan.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMISSED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW

Pursuant to Section 227 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of Silverton hereby gives notice by Bylaw No. 483, 2013.

The intent of this bylaw is to give the following properties a permissible exemption from property taxation for the years 2014 - 2016 under the authority of the Community Charter Section 224. Council intends to adopt the bylaw at a Special Meeting on October 22, 2013 which will be held in the Municipal Office Council Chambers.

1. The Municipal building known as "The Gallery" being leased to the Snow Lake Gallery Society (Incorporation # 5-0071694), being Parcel A, Plan 14048, Lot 434, Kootenay Land District, (SEE XJ11564), PID # (019-209-274) (Former Lots 6-21, Bls 5, Lot 574, Bl.434, KL), estimated municipal tax $229.00, 2015 - $664.17, 2016 - $870.60, and;

2. The Municipal building known as "The Amara/Curling Rink" being leased to the Snow Lake Arena Society (Incorporation # 5-0020155), being Lot A, Plan NE21554, Kootenay Land District PID#908108.489-932 (former lots 18-23, Block 13, Lot 574 DLD), estimated municipal tax $1181.47, 2015 - $748.77, 2016 - $767.17, and;

3. The property known as "Colleen's Beach Park" owned by the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice (Registered Charity 8898793746-4), being Lot 23, Block 15, Plan NE21558, Kootenay Land District PID#909010.507-281, estimated municipal tax $71.86, 2015 - $74.02, 2016 - $78.24

Bob Lalaur
Chief Administrative Officer

PO Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, British Columbia V0G 1S0
Phone: 250-358-2472 Fax: 250-358-2321
Email: admin@silverton.ca
Completed Slocan Valley Co-op renos result in vastly improved store

by Jan McMurray and Art Joyce

Why did the Slocan Valley Co-op renovate? Simple — because it was necessary to keep the operation functioning. It’s also the realization of a dream of generations of co-op directors — at last they could afford it. As manager Chris Siprikov notes, the co-op has never been rich in resources, struggling to simply maintain operations, many times with an annual net loss. To keep prices low, past directors had to stick to basic maintenance and fixtures upgrades. Recent upgrades have included the 2002 expansion allowing for a new administration office and the building of the new liquor section, and the 2006 addition of the Carlford/Gras Bar. The current renovation had become necessary as aging facilities made operations financially marginal. That has included replacing expensive standalone compressors — open-air coolers with self-contained, glass-door units operating on a compact, technologically superior compressor system.

"Despite those prior renovations, we still had an aging facility with old, inefficient equipment that required constant expensive maintenance," says Siprikov. "The cost to operate the store was exceeding the bottom-line returns. The renovations were meant to address much of the cost of operations by installing energy-efficient equipment."

The new design will enhance services, such as a new, expanded walk-in lager cooler that now has chilled white wine available. The renovation will allow the co-op to add new food and beverage products, such as F'Real Milkshakes; expanded hot media, latte and cappuccino beverage selections; iced espresso beverage products; and more organic, fair trade hot coffee selections. Other items soon to come will be expanded hot foods such as breakfast sandwiches. The new floor layout will also allow space for a dedicated organic section.

When the Slocan Valley Co-op acquired the Genesee bulk petroleum facility in the轰ackers mill area, the co-op was finally able to begin setting funds aside to pay for a full-scale renovation.

"By early 2012, the hurricanes started swinging," says Siprikov. "All of the dreaming of the past for a new store could finally come to be."

The entire facility received upgrades that not only included new concrete slabs. Some improvements had to be made to the structure to meet building codes. The building has seen a number of additions, upgrades and repairs over the years, so management knew it was "opening a can of worms." Hence the need for a complete redesign of the entire store, from the basement up. All coolers and freezers — as well as the warehouse — have been replaced with new equipment. All of the plumbing and electrical circuitry has been completely upgraded. New counters, fixtures and equipment have been installed at the coffee, beverage and food counters. The entire exterior was redesigned by landscape architect Eric Colden to include a new cedar surface and vinyl siding. To increase energy efficiency, LED light fixtures were utilized outside, and new fluorescent lighting installed inside.

"In fact, combined with the upgrades to insulation, new heating and cooling equipment, and the overall design, the store is expected to see a decrease in overall energy consumption of around 25 percent," Siprikov notes. Many have wondered why the renovation took so long, given that it started last year. Partly this was due to the 'down time' of the two-month summer rush period when construction was temporarily suspended. The plan was to have substantial completion this summer. This goal was within a month of being reached when the labour dispute began with FortisBC at the end of June. The ongoing strike caused the completion of the basement to meet fire protection codes and work on the back warehouse.

"Renovating a building that has stood since the late '50s, has seen a lot of changes over those years, and was in no way up to code was certain to take a while," explains Siprikov.

He adds that overall, customers were patient, and seemed to grasp the greater vision being realized. It was a huge challenge to remain open for business in the middle of a construction zone. The majority of negative comments revolved around the disruptive nature of the renovations, notes Siprikov. But most were understanding.

Even with a construction dust levels rose, or lack of product selection dragged on, customers ended their comments with a positive outlook, saying, "It sure is looking good!"

Normally an expensive renovation like this could cause a serious drop in co-op member benefits. However, because it was mostly paid for from cash reserves, this should not be the case. Siprikov estimates the total project cost at $1.3 million. He says besides long-suffering staff and customers, thanks are due Project Manager Mohamed Harron and Construction Supervisor Jessi Novak.

Watch for news of a Grand Re-Opening celebration.

Kootenay Co-op

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The Valley Vicer October 16, 2013
VantageOne launches credit union history book

1944 - a very significant year.

In war-torn Europe, the massive undertaking that was D-Day in France was well underway. Russian troops recaptured Minsk, the last Nazi stronghold in their over-run country. Thousands of miles away in the Pacific Ocean, American forces pushed their way towards the enemy homeland— that year saw new names echoed around the world: Bougainville, Leyte, Saipan and Guam.

In Vernon, the army camp was again tremendously active with the retraining of allied troops, already battle-worn, for the last remaining offensive of World War II in the Far East.

One evening, in amongst all of the whirling international war news, a small group of Vernon men sat around a kitchen table with one thing in mind — to improve their own lot in life and to provide for the then returning veteran men and women, who fought and worked for victory during the ongoing war, with an easier and more accessible system of money management and personal financial control. A system that would never more echo the high-handedness exercised by the national banks during the Great Depression that preceded the Second World War.

Who were these men? At the time of this writing, no one remembers their names. However, we are confident the instant this article is read by the population of Vernon city and its district, they will be identified. We also know one other thing — these men were an integral part of the continuing credit union movement rapidly increasing in popularity in this country and particularly in Western Canada during those mid to ending years of the 1940s.

Emerging credit unions in the 1940s were hardly anything new. The history of credit unions began in 1844, with a group of weavers in England, who established the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers. They sold shares to members to raise the capital necessary to buy goods at lower than retail prices, and then sold the goods at a savings to members. In doing so, they became the first credit union. The movement then spread to Germany in 1850, Canada in 1901 and the United States in 1908.

But, let’s get back to that kitchen table one evening in Vernon in the year 1944. No one is quite sure just how many people threw money into that first pot, nor how much it was, but that was the beginning of the Vernon and District Credit Union, which today is known as VantageOne Credit Union, the only North Okanagan based credit union.

Next year, 2014, will be the 70-year anniversary of this financial organization, and the board of directors is excited to celebrate the credit union’s birthday, having completed the Credit Union History Book project containing the history of the Credit Union and our community.

Glenn Benischek, CEO of VantageOne says, “We originally discussed several ideas for commemorating this anniversary event, and a book made the most sense of all. A book means that individual credit union members, or in-house personnel, or people who have served on the board—all through the years—can be identified and showcased as to their valuable contribution. It also means that unlike any other memory token, a book has a life of its own during the compilation process, and a continuing life thereafter as a reference for all of the people in our community.”

The book, From Cookie Jar to Computer, was officially launched at the Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the newest branch location – North Vernon – on September 5, 2013. VantageOne is encouraging all of its members, or anyone else in the community, to come in to any of its five branch locations to pick up a Credit Union History book for a minimum $10 donation — all proceeds go to the Vernon Museum. The book was published by Kettle Valley Publishing Inc., the company of the late George Mathison, author. We invite all members of the community to help us celebrate International Credit Union Day on October 17 by dropping by one of our branches to pick up a copy of this book for a donation as detailed above.

Submit an event to be featured in the next issue of The Observer.
Mountain Sky Soap celebrates 20 years in the valley

by Ian McMurray and Arl Joyce

Given that many businesses fail within the first two years, what’s the secret of Mountain Sky Soap reaching 20 years? Business owner Nina George says the secret of managing a successful business that sells across the country and internationally is about being flexible, open-minded and resilient. That includes the ability to respond and adapt quickly to market trends and new competition. “Many people see successful business owners as people who have an upper hand in life,” says George. “They don’t see how much sweating at night we do and how often we risk all of our assets to keep the business going.” Mountain Sky Soap has certainly had to change over the years, starting from an operation run out of the George’s basement in Warfield. They produce bar soaps, liquid soaps, massage bars and lip balms, importing over 100 ingredients to make their products. Since the early days the company has expanded to a larger production facility in Creston Valley. As George notes, “The only thing certain about business is change,” and that can mean new regulations, changes to tax regulations and other challenges that must be met.

The company is still run by Nina and her husband Raynold, though their daughters worked for them while growing up. Currently they employ five staff members, whose hard work and dedication Nina cites as an important part of their success. “Working in the business gave our daughters a good work ethic and they learned that to achieve their goals they had to work for it. And Raynold’s jokes helped.”

George says the biggest challenge for a business like Mountain Sky operating in the Kootenays is shipping and our remoteness from major markets. To retain staff and maintain their price points requires the company to buy its ingredients in bulk. Although many people say they buy local, the evidence of the store is that customers buy products from everywhere according to brand, price and packaging.

“If everyone in the Kootenays only bought from local suppliers, we and the local suppliers could live solely off the local market. However this does not happen, so we must compete and ship to other markets.”

There have been many high and low points at Mountain Sky over the past 20 years. On the plus side is the Kootenay lifestyle. The Georges can watch horses at play from their window, don’t have to dress up to go to work, and enjoy a lower cost of living. George lists “working with our staff, donating to local causes and being able to go swimming after work” as other high points. And she sees low points as “lessons and opportunities to learn something.”

As to the future, George says Mountain Sky “always has plans,” which can be as simple as the common Kootenay problem of what to do with their bear-proof composting unit. “It’s too bear-proof, we can’t empty it,” she jokes. She thanks all the staff that has worked with them over the years, and “we still here laughing and crying with us,” and of course the customers that have supported Mountain Sky.

Raynold and I are just one small pebble of Mountain Sky. There are many pebbles, rocks and trees that make a mountain.”
Community Futures’ self-employment program aids in entrepreneurial success

Submitted

With job prospects in their hometown of Nakusp bleak after getting laid off due to insufficient work, Hans Colen and Slavomirna Estek felt locked into a corner. The sense of doom turned to gloom when a financial institution rejected what they considered a well-supported plan for starting their own business, along with a third partner.

Then a light at the end of the tunnel appeared – Community Futures – and “that’s where our success story began,” says Colen, co-owner of Sunnyside Naturals in Nakusp, which opened in 1999.

“Fourteen years later here we are, in constant steady growth, with a firm foot in the fabric of our local business economy and a happy and dedicated clientele. It would simply not have happened without Community Futures. We dread to contemplate where we would be without them.”

Indeed, clients throughout the region have been singing the praises of Community Futures since its inception. Since then, through the self-employment program, the professional staff at Community Futures has helped local entrepreneurs launch nearly 1,500 businesses, accounting for more than 2,200 jobs.

Businesses started through the Self-Employment Program over the past eight years have collectively averaged annual sales in excess of $1.3 million. In the case of Sunnyside Naturals, ‘Nakusp’s organic and fair trade place,’ Colen and Estek are selling food, supplements, body care products and apparel from suppliers at home and abroad.

They didn’t exactly enter the field cold, having a combined 20 plus years of retail experience. Nonetheless, the

value of the self-employment program “cannot be overestimated,” Estek says. “They supported us from day one, coached us and fine-tuned us in every possible way. We interact and purchase from numerous small cottage industries in our village and surrounding area, all thriving, living honourably and contributing to all of us, thanks to Community Futures.”

Similarly, Alexander Krajewski of the Peacock Collective in Nakusp found that the self-employment program opened previously hidden doors to personal and professional growth. “The encouragement I received was exciting and empowering, building my confidence right along with my business vision,” she says. “The opportunity to create something entirely self supporting while being mentored was priceless. I am so grateful for the freedom this program has given me.”

The program is open to people who are either receiving Employment Insurance or have done so in the past three years, and to persons with disabilities and persistent multiple barriers. They receive free access to professional business counselling and up to 48 weeks of financial support while developing and implementing their business plans. They say’s the limit as far as possible ideas.

“The support the program provides in the first year is critical,” Ryan says. “Many businesses fail in the first five years but about 85 percent of the clients helped through the self-employment program are still in business five years later, and that’s partly because they’ve developed their business plan, kept up their bookkeeping and have a marketing plan.”

For more information, contact 265-3074 (ext 201) or 352-1933 (ext 100).

Lance and Maureen

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Central Kootenay

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Brian
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5th Ave Slocan
250-359-6990
South Slocan
Change is coming to the Cedar Creek Café / Gaia Tree Whole Foods Store

by Jan McMurray

The Clothes Hanger in Kaslo won the title of Best Clothing Store in the Interior in the second annual BC’s Best People’s Choice Awards, sponsored by the online magazine, BCLiving.ca.

Other businesses in our area that did well in the same contest were Jennifer Chocolates in Nakusp (Best Desserts, first runner up); Bluebell Bistro in Kaslo (Best Café, second runner up); Willow Home Gallery in Kaslo (Best Home Décor store, first runner up), the Broken Pot in Kaslo (Best Gardening store, second runner up), Kaslo Bay Liquor Store (Best Wine) and Kaslo Observer (Best Newspaper). The Kaslo Observer also won a People’s Choice Award for their Facebook page.

Local resident Nala Keane, who will be opening Kayn’s Café in the renovated building on February 1, is the mover and shaker behind the project. “People won’t recognize it when it’s done,” he said. “It’s such a fantastic location and important community space, and it needs a re-vamp. I want to do right by that.” Plans include a new entrance, an open kitchen, new floors, a new patio off the north end of the building, new signs and a new menu.

Local and organic food will be used as much as possible, and Nala promises great service, and great food at affordable prices. He has extensive experience in the food and beverage industry.

He says there will still be live music, but not as often and with a focus on quality. He wants to coordinate events with Sleep is for Sissies.

The Kaslo Jazz Festival (Best local festival, first runner up) and the Kaslo Winter Carnival (Best winter event, first runner up) both scored in the second place category.

Aaron and Andrew - A family tradition since 2011 -

Front Street Pizzeria

Keno Hupperts Clothes Hanger won a People’s Choice Award.
New owners at New Denver’s health food store
by Jan McMurray

Heather Diez and Oliver Berlow have recently purchased Rutabaga’s, New Denver’s health food store.

“We’re thankful to have the opportunity to be part of the wonderful community of New Denver,” says Heather.

Both Heather and Oliver have strong backgrounds in health food. Heather has been working in health food establishments since she was 13 years old, most recently at Gisele Tire in Warfield, where she worked for seven years. She is also a certified natural products advisor. Oliver grew up on an organic farm in Warfield, and his parents were among the original founders of the Kootenay Co-op.

“It’s definitely been a learning curve, becoming store owners and managers for the first time in our lives, but the people of New Denver have been very warm in welcoming us to the community,” said Heather.

The couple is very pleased with the store the way it is. “A lot of love was put into this store,” says Heather. “We love how clean and functional the space is. We also love the view of the glacier from the store entrance way, and the quaint beauty of the town.”

Heather and Oliver plan to bring in more bulk food, locally baked goods and naturally raised meats. “We believe in offering wholesome products to our community, and in building community by buying local produce, local soaps, salves, tinctures, baked goods, candles and more,” said Oliver. “Our goal is to be in service to the community.”

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KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo council, October 8: Council sends strong message to IHA

A letter from John Eckland to the CAC provides some background on the Water Street project and indicates that he is extremely disappointed with the lack of progress on the project in Kaslo. Eckland makes it clear that he purchased and donated the Village $7,000 worth of pipe for storm drain on Water Street at least five years ago. He states that if he decides to close the hotel this winter, this will be a sign of his lack of respect for the current councillors. In a follow-up letter, Eckland reiterates his strong wish to have Water Street paved before winter, and the importance of this to his decision on whether he will close for the winter months again this year.

In response to a request from Kaslo Hotel owner John Eckland for a designated parking space in front of the hotel for the fire truck, Councillor Holland moved that a landing zone space be created in front of the Kaslo Hotel for use of the business, patrons and the public. Councillor Whiteley pointed out that Councilor Leathwood indicated that providing such spaces would be a bad precedent in terms of concessions to business interests, with traffic bylaws becoming unenforceable. Councillor Lang spoke against any vehicles having parking rights during winter months due to the need for snow removal. A motion calling on council to revisit its street and traffic bylaw was defeated.

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Junio Award-winning Gryphon Trio comes to Nakusp

submitted

This is chamber music like you’ve never heard before. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting the Gryphon Trio in the Bonnington Arts Centre on the evening of February 22nd. This is the second concert in our Concert Series for this season. Doors will open at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the Bon Marche/Dollar Store until Wednesday afternoon, then at the door.

The Gryphon Trio is Anna Lee Patiphatton on violin, Roman Hurko on cello, and Jimdo Parken on piano. Having impressed international audiences and the press with their highly refined, dynamic performances, the two-time Junio Award-winning Gryphon Trio has firmly established itself as one of the world’s pre-eminent piano trios. Performing from Canada to Russia, United States to Egypt, Belgium to Scandinavia and major centres in between, Canada’s national treasure is always in demand and continues to dazzle audiences with memorable performances. This season, they will tour throughout British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick.

Ensemble-in-residence at Music Toronto for the past decade, the trio continues to push the boundaries of chamber music. The trio has commissioned and premiered over 50 new works from established and emerging composers around the world and has collaborated on special projects with clarinetist James Campbell, actor Colin Fox, choreographer David Earle, and a host of jazz luminaries. Their most ambitious undertaking to date is a groundbreaking multimedia production of composer Chrisi Hatzi’s epic work Constantino, scored for mezzo-soprano, Middle Eastern singer, viola, cello, piano, and electronic audiovisual media, which they have brought to audiences across North America and at the Royal Opera House in London. Deeply committed to the education of the next generation of audiences and performers alike, the members of the Gryphon Trio take time out of their busy touring schedules to conduct master classes and workshops at universities and conservatories across North America, and are Artists in Residence at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music.

Somewhere under the Rainbow

submitted

Where can you dress up like a pirate and drive your own Thomas the Tank Engine all in one day? Or imagine you are a princess having afternoon tea with Trudy amongst the Rocking Police Pigs. Well, Under the Rainbow, of course! Recently, certified Early Childhood Educator Susan Szathmary opened Under the Rainbow play school in Nakusp.

“I always had a dream of mine to have my own home daycare and am thrilled that I have this opportunity to help children learn. Szathmary took the Fine Arts program at David Thompson University Centre (DTUC) in Nelson and then completed Selkirk College’s ECE program, putting her love of teaching children together with her passion for the arts.

In May 2013 Szathmary received an Honourable Mention for her role as Henry Albertson in Nakusp Mirror Theatre’s ‘The Fantastics’. She brings her acting skills into her activities with her own role as a nurse. Szathmary has been volunteering for the past two years in Gynetown, a nursing home near Castlegar. She has been volunteering for the past two years in Gynetown, a nursing home near Castlegar. She has been volunteering for the past two years in Gynetown, a nursing home near Castlegar.

Rotary International sponsors World Polio Day

submitted

Since 1985, Rotary International’s Polio Plus program has contributed greatly to the protection of millions of children from the dreaded disease of polio. Rotary International’s goal is the certification of polio eradication. Join Rotary this year in celebrating annual World Polio Day on October 24. The Nakusp Rotary Club has donated over $800 to the Polio Plus program in 2013 and expects to match this amount again in 2014.

The World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago and named as Polio Plus. It was established by Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and subsequent widespread use of the oral polo virus developed by Albert Sabin, led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988. Since then the GPEI has reduced polo worldwide by 99 percent.

Polio eradication means the interruption of the transmission of the wild poliovirus. With its vast volunteer network of 1.2 million members in more than 165 countries, Rotary is the key private sector partner in the war against polio, penetrating nearly every polio-endemic and high risk country to immunize the world’s children. Rotarian contributions support transporting the vaccine and health workers to immunization posts and initiating dynamic public education programs to motivate parents to vaccinate their children.

The Nakusp Rotary Club’s contribution this year was matched by Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation and the Government of Canada. By the time the world is certified polo-free, Rotary’s contributions to the global polio eradication effort will reach nearly $600 million US.

For more information and campaign materials visit www.endpolio.org.

The Barber of Barkerville a hit at the Bonnington

submitted

The Barber of Barkerville, performed by Vancouver Opera in Schools (VOS), lit up the Bonnington’s stage in Nakusp on Sunday, October 6. The performance lifted the spirits of an almost packed house with lively voices and a great deal of ‘tolerated nonsense.’

Set in the historic gold rush town of Rossland, Barkerville, BC, the church of titled Woman and the Marriage of Figure by Mozart (sung in Italian) in the dress sung by Papageno and Papagena from The Magic Flute; I Could Have Danced All Night from My Fair Lady, endowed with a humorous song, You and Me and Just Me Me from a musical satire called The Book of Mormon.

It’s a rare treat to enjoy opera in these parts, and the energy and humour, coupled with real talent, left the audience enthralled and smiling.

Harvest Dinner

October 27th, 5pm at the Bosun Hall

All are welcome to this second annual community potluck dinner and harvest celebration

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JAPANESE CAFE

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Spectrum Home & Family Care
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Hand & Foot Wellness Centre
Hand & Foot Wellness Centre

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New Denver residents seek support for international film project

by Art Joyce

It’s like a cross between a forensic science instructional film and a how-to video for sculptors seeking anatomical accuracy. New Denver sculptor Elly Schepens and her son, filmmaker Isaac Carter, are using the new medium of crowds funding to raise money for the production of a documentary titled Sculpture. The film, inspired by Schepens’ mentor Heather Spears, a Canadian artist and poet who has written a book of the same name.

Schepens and Carter were privileged to get a sneak peak of this project a few years ago when Spears produced a pilot of this project with local photographer Virginia Boyd. Since then, Carter graduated from Vancouver Film School and has founded his own independent production company, iCandy Films, with a special focus on documenting the work of artists. Spears was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of this project.

Crescent Valley Fire Department set for annual Halloween’en fireworks

The Crescent Valley Fire Department (CVFD) has been our canvassing local businesses to help fund its annual Halloween’en Fireworks show. Families are encouraged to come to the Crescent Valley Fire Hall at 1356 Highway 60 on Halloween’en.

Nelson Public Library Technology Petting Zoo at Winlaw School

Are you still trying to figure out how to get that e-book reader that you got for Christmas or work? Intimidated in the thought that the book on e is anyway? Amanda Firth, the Nelson Public Library Community Access Program (CAP) intern, can answer those questions, and more. Amanda will be at the Winlaw School library during school hours.

Community group

by Jan McMurray

The old forest fire lookout tower above Nelson’s Chrysalis has been removed, likely in 2014/15, unless a community group comes forward to maintain the structure.

A spokesperson from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations said that they would be very interested in hearing from any group that would like to enter into an agreement with the Recreation Sites and Trails Branch to maintain the tower. He said the agreement would ideally include the trail leading to the tower as well.

In the Kootenay Boundary, several old lookout towers are being managed by community groups: Idaho Peak, Bualman, Old Glory, Saddle Mountain, Roderich Duf (caulkin and lookout mountain top). The only lookout being removed at this time within the Kootenay Boundary is Mr. Thompson Lookout near Castlegar.

The Province has been plugging out the lookout towers for many years. There are currently approximately 25 towers that are no longer functional, but they are still maintained on an as-needed basis. Instead of staffing lookout towers, the ministry subscribes to a lightning detection service provided by Environment Canada. The lightning location system tracks lightning storms, the show. Hot chocolate and candy will be available starting at 7 pm with the fireworks finishing at 9 pm.

Each year for more than a decade the volunteers put on a fireworks show for local families to enjoy. Fire Department members hand out hot chocolate and candies to anyone who attends. Each year a prize is also awarded to one boy and one girl with the best Halloween costume. This year, one local child will have the rare opportunity to win a ride to school in the fire truck.

This year’s event saw an attendance of over 150 people. For the second year in a row, the kind staff at the Kootenay Savings Credit Union in South Slocan helped the firefighters raise funds by helping host a bake sale at their branch. With many delicious baked goods from the credit union staff as well as the firefighters, over $600 was raised to help fund the fireworks show. Typically, the event costs around $2,000, most of which is very generously donated by local businesses, with any funding gaps filled in by the members’ social fund.

Before the fireworks, the firefighters will be accepting non-perishable food donations for the Slocan Valley Food Bank. For more information, contact CrescentValleyFire@gmail.com.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE — TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that a temporary street closure on 10 Avenue between Kildare Street and Josephine Street will take place on Thursday, October 17, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in order for the Slocan Lake Early Learning Society to hold a Taddle-A-Thon.

SLOCAN VALLEY TOURISM PLAN

A PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Wednesday, October 23
7-9 pm
Silvertown 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 artist Betty Fahlman to be featured in juried art show

Betty Fahlman will be among 17 artists featured at the Rossland Gallery exhibition The Sky’s the Limit. November 1-17. The opening reception is Wednesday, November 1 from 6 to 9 pm. Guests will be invited to vote for the People’s Choice Award. This tribute to the Kootenays will feature more than 20 paintings in a juried art show curated by the West Kootenay Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists (WKCFA).

The artwork will represent a wide cross-section of images from the artists’ inner heart and mind, ranging from still life to animals and landscapes, each painted with the artists’ individual flair and style. A variety of mediums have been used to create the work such as watercolour, acrylic, pastel, oil, textile dyed, and mixed media.

"We decided to use the theme based on the concept of having no limits to our creativity or choice of imagery," states WKCFA member Mirja Vahala. "Artists were empowered to follow their inspiration."

Three Signature members of the FCA - Denise Craft, Kenison Seto, and Nicolete Basseezit - chose the pieces for the show, including six award-winning artworks by Betty Fahlman, Lis Semenoff, Sandra Donohue, Lucy Bates, Elaine Alfordy, and Bruce Martin.

The 17 artists represented in The Sky’s the Limit are Betty Fahlman of Nakusp, Johanne Ceder, Stephanie Gavrin and Barbara Pitsik of Rossland, Helena Edmonson and Lis Semenoff of Trail, Brigitte Debos, Sandra Irving, Barbara Martin, Bruce Martin and Tea Pavlovitch of Nelson; Mirja Vahala and Sandra Donohue of Robson; Wilma Brooks Hughes of Castlegar; Elaine Alfordy of Cranbrook, BC (near Creston); Lucy Bates of Fruitvale, BC; and Darlene Daniel of Grand Forks.

The Federation of Canadian Artists, founded in 1941, is a community of artists and art lovers. The FCA head office and gallery are located in Vancouver on Granville Island, where bi-monthly juried exhibits by emerging and signature artists are featured. Its mission is to promote the promotion and pleasure of the visual arts through exhibition, education and communication. The FCA, a non-profit organization has chapters throughout Canada.

WKCFA, formed in May 2001, includes 31 members in the West and East Kootenays and the Okanagan. Meetings are held four times a year. Their aims are to encourage artistic and professional growth through critiques and demos at meetings and workshops instructed by local, national and internationally known artists.

CORRECTION

In our October 2 issue, in the article, Kaslo’s patience wearing very thin with Interior Health, we wrongly attributed a quote to Area D Director Andy Shadrack. The following quote should have been attributed to Kaslo resident Andy Lecoffe. "Ross talked about seven guiding principles, and trust and respect leap off the page for me. How do we move forward with IH when most of us think these two principles are completely missing? How do we trust IH to negotiate in good faith now, given their track record? Over the past year, they have said they are going to beef up primary care. Does anyone see this? Are interdepartmental relations any better? Do we have improved outcomes? They say they are beefing up primary care, and we ask: where is the beef?" IH has done a disgraceful glossing over of the Ross Report and it’s an insult to this community. IH is underestimating this community’s tenacity. We won’t back down until we get what we need. We’re just getting warmed up."