by Jan McTavish

The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBB) now has access to 800 kilometres of fibre within the Basin, substantially expanding its capacity to provide connectivity to a world-class open access broadband network across the Columbia Basin.

“This is major for us,” said Neil Math, CEO of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). He and Richard Wilke, CBB’s Chief Technology Officer, made a presentation to the RDCK board on October 17.

CBB started out in November 2010 with fibre purchased from Columbia Mountain Open Network, running between Trail, Rossland, Fruitvale and Castlegar. Now, thanks to an agreement with Shaw, CBB has been able to swap some of the capacity in that original fibre for access to fibre that is laid further into the Basin — from Trail to Nelson to Creston to Cranbrook to Kelowna and up to Golden.

Math explained that CBB, which is 100 percent owned by CBT, was formed to help communities enhance their use of broadband and provide infrastructure for community development. “We’re doing this together with communities. We cannot do this on our own,” he said. “We think with a role to play in the Columbia Basin but if communities don’t participate, the initiative won’t be successful.”

Math explained in an interview that CBB is seeking agreements to bring a point of presence to municipalities in the Basin. If the municipality would like the community to have access to the service, the municipality can work with an internet service provider to make that happen. “We will work with municipalities to find an internet service provider and to design a system to get the service to the community — we will do engineering studies, for example — but the municipality and ISP have to figure out how to pay for that distribution system.” Math said that in rural areas, the distribution system will be wireless.

CBB is forming a broadband committee with representatives from local governments in the Basin and is in the process of hiring a consultant to work with the committee on a gap analysis. This will involve determining a standard for internet speed in the Basin. “We want the same standard as they have in the big city — 100 MB/second in our urban areas and 20-30 MB/second in our rural areas,” said Neil. “The consultant will work with the committee to determine what standard we should be shooting for.”

This information will be taken to the provincial and federal governments with the hope that they will help CBB close the gap between the proposed standard and the actual speed of service. “That takes more money than CBT or CBB has,” said Math. Math said CBT had invested just under $1.5 million so far in the initiative and has committed $6.5 million over five years. “We have spent lots of time developing our business plan,” said Math. “We are not going to make money on this — we’re going to subsidize it.”
Province orders BCUC to allow smart meter opt-out fees

by Art, Joyce

In a move that has stunned thousands of British Columbians opposed to smart meters, the BC government has issued an order-in-council directing the BC Utilities Commission to allow BC Hydro to charge opt-out fees. The order was presented to BCUC by BC Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon on September 25. Hearings for the fees will proceed, but the only issue BCUC will be allowed to consider is how much the public utility may charge.

In the meantime, pursuant to the order-in-council, BCUC has approved BC Hydro’s proposed fees “on an interim and refundable basis” so that BC Hydro can proceed with installing smart meters in people’s homes. With a deadline of December 1, and starting charging those who choose to keep an analog meter $35 per month as of December 2 and those who choose a radio-off meter set a set-up fee of $100 and a monthly fee of $20 starting April 1, 2014. BCUC has also approved the “failed installation charge” of $30 per unit in interim and refundable basis effective October 25, for those who refuse to allow a technician to access their meter.

The BCUC has no deadline for its decision on the final opt-out fees, but will have received all written submissions from BC Hydro and intervenors by January 16, 2014. “Isn’t it interesting that they did it when the legislature was out there was no debate about it,” says Sharon Noble, director of Stop Smart Meters BC. “It’s animadversion, that’s all it is. Suppose what’s going to happen is that hundreds of people are registering to be intervenors.”

However, the window of opportunity to register as an intervenor was narrow, closing October 24. Noble’s encouraging those who feel the fees are unfair to continue writing both BCUC (Commission.Secretary@bcuc.ca) and Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon (jguichon@gov.bc.ca). Letters will be accepted until mid-December. BC Hydro estimates that 60,000 customers are opting out, but Noble says the figure is at least 100,000.

BC Hydro is claiming the fees are required to cover the costs of reading analog or radio-off meters. The utility has yet to justify what will become of the savings realized from leaving off 400,000 meters reader. Customers who offered to read their own meters and email the readings to BC Hydro found that their email address will be disabled as of November 1. Noble recommends that customers request to be put on the equal payment plan.

Unlike FortisBC, BC Hydro is not allowing businesses to opt out of having smart meters. Business owners outraged by this action have just launched their own class action lawsuit against BC Hydro, with Jessica Klein named as the principal mover of the suit. So far about 18 businesses have signed on, and Klein is encouraging more to join. This action is actually the second class action lawsuit being pursued by Stop Smart Meters BC. According to Noble, BC Hydro may be skating the boards of legality by sending out the opt-out form letter while many of its customers are registered in the coalition’s class action suit. Communication is not supposed to occur between parties involved in a lawsuit except to notify the court and the judge.

And the resistance just keeps growing. Walt McGinnis, president of Stop Smart Meters – a separate group from Stop Smart Meters BC – is working towards applying for an initiative petition to stop the program. This process was used to defeat the HST and is currently being used in an initiative to decriminalize marijuana possession in BC. However, it’s an onerous process many see as difficult to fail. Once the application is approved by BC’s electoral officer, canvassers have 50 days to get the signatures of 10 percent of registered voters in all 85 electoral districts. Assuming this goal is reached, the election officer, it’s referred to a legislative standing committee. They have the option to table the initiative or refer it for further discussion.

CBT Symposium focuses on collaboration

by Jan McCuray

“If you work hard to work together, you can change anything.”

This statement, made by Paul Bom, keynote speaker at the Columbia Basin Trust Symposium October 18-20 in Creston, sums up the main message of the weekend. The symposium was titled “Seeds for Success: Community Change Through Collaborative Action.”

Two experts in community development gave talks and held workshops throughout the weekend on the importance of collaboration when working on community issues. Paul Bom is the president of the Tsimshian Institute, which provides leadership in Canada on issues of citizen engagement, collaborative leadership and community innovation. Morin Morris is the co-director of the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern BC.

Both spoke about the key foundational work that must be done for successful community collaboration. “You need a common agenda,” said Bom. This means everybody is on the same page and agreeing to a set of goals.

Bom said it takes 18-24 months to come up with a common agenda. He indicated that when the time is taken to do this foundational work, the action/implementation phase comes much more easily. Morin Morris agreed. “Implementation is where rubber hits the road – people get scared when it’s time to put the vision into action,” she said.

In common understanding, she said, Bom counselled, “Engage with the other’s language. Speak what we know for a while, even if we come from unknowing to shared understanding.”

Two of Morris’s basic ingredients for successful collaboration were excellent leadership and excellent information. Excellent leadership will create a common ground for people to work together – and a platform for ongoing dialogue so a community can adapt to change. Excellent information helps participants come up with a common starting point, establish priorities, and overcome vested interests.

“Keeping focus on issues and not vested interests,” she said.

During Bom’s keynote address, he talked about the potential he sees for collaboration in the Columbia Basin. “I can’t think of a better place in the world to live than the Columbia Basin when I see what you have going for you and this great organization [CBT]. You could have the most effective community development organization in the world. I don’t understand why you cannot be the most collaborative collective impact region in Canada.”

A great resource on this topic is Bom’s book, which was given to every CBT Symposium participant: Community Conversations: Mobilizing the Ideas, Skills, and Passion of Community Organizations, Governments, Businesses, and People.
Draft Columbia River Treaty recommendation released

by Jan McMurray

This phase of the Columbia River Treaty Review is coming to a close. The Province has released its draft recommendation – to continue the treaty as is – which improves on the existing treaty framework. Public comments on the draft recommendation are being accepted until November 20, and one last round of public meetings are being held – November 6 in Nakusp at the arena, and November 7 in Castlegar at Sundown Inn. Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

A press release issued by the Province states: “The draft recommendation follows a recent trip to Washington DC by Premier Christy Clark where she advocated for treaty improvements in BC during a series of meetings with senior leadership in the United States Congress. The Columbia River Treaty Review process is an opportunity for BC and the US to engage partners to explain BC’s position.”

The US has also released its draft recommendation. According to the US, the two jurisdictions agree on some things, and disagree on others.

The BC document includes 14 paragraphs for the following topics, as they choose to pursue treaty changes. The first five paragraphs discuss feedback in relation to on Water Sustainability Act proposal.

by Jan McMurray

According to the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) will be introduced in the legislature during the spring 2014 session. British Columbians are invited to review the proposed bill and submit comments by November 15.

This is the third time that government has invited BC residents to comment on its proposal for a new Water Sustainability Act. Since 2009, the BC government has engaged widely, and received suggestions and ideas from an unprecedented scale and quality with many of them written submissions from individual citizens. First Nations organizations and stakeholders groups, state a government press release.

Now, for example, a Slocan Valley resident who has done a lot of research on the topic, says she’s very pleased to see that “they actually listened to the last consultation” on many issues. The proposed Act has “no water license trading, no bulk exports, and people with domestic groundwater wells don’t have to record their use volumes – just big commercial users have to do this,” she said. “They’ve also retained FITFER [First In Time, First In Right].”

FITFER means that water rights are granted in BC according to the priority date. For example if your license was granted before other licence holders on the same stream, you are a “senior” licence holder and you others are “junior.” In times of water scarcity, the senior licences with earlier priority dates retain their full allocation over the junior licences regardless of water use purpose.

However, Mayes says “there is much that is hidden or undeveloped in the way of regulations and policy that need to be in place, and the proposed act is passed into law, groundwater and environmental stress flow regulations, new governance structure, water pricing, etc.”

The US document acknowledges the benefits of the treaty to recreation in the US, but does not suggest compensation to Canada for this. Rather, it advocates for protection of cultural and natural resources in a modernized treaty.

The definition of “called upon flood control” is a point of disagreement between the countries, although they both want coordinated flood risk management. Compensation to Canada for flood control is mentioned in the US document.

The BC draft recommendation’s principles on ecosystem values may be close pointing to the public, as the public consultation process showed strong support for ecosystem consideration in the treaty. Two of the ecosystem related principles are very general: “Ecosystem values are currently, and will continue to be, an important consideration in the planning and implementation of the Treaty,” and “The Province will explore ecosystem based improvements recognizing that there may be a number of available mechanisms inside and outside the Treaty.”

The BC recommendation also has a paragraph related to salmon protection that will likely be opposing to many.

The US document states that the Province will assess cooperation on fish and wildlife in the US. BC’s document states that the Province will seek improved coordination on fish and wildlife in the US. BC’s document states that the Province will seek improved coordination on fish and wildlife in the US.

Finally, the US states that the US will provide technical assistance to the Province. While the US document states that the Province will continue to be coordinated with Canada, “with the goal of achieving mutually desirable ecosystem benefits on both sides of the border.”

BC’s final two principles are that the Province and BC Hydro will continue to engage First Nations and communities throughout any negotiation process and that the users not related to the treaty will be addressed through other government programs and initiatives.

The BC and US recommendations are expected to be finalized and submitted to their respective governments in December. To view and provide feedback on the draft recommendation visit: www.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty

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Community Calendar
Thursday, October 31
Halloween Fireworks Show
Saturday, November 2
The River & The Road
An Evergreen St. Church Event
Hills Nordic Ski Club AGM
Sunday, November 3
Arrow Lakes Historical Society Singing
Wednesday, November 6
The River Paddles Oyster Bar
Barber Days Drive Plate Contest
Columbia River Treaty Workshop
Columbia River Treaty Workshop
Thursday, November 7
Deck the halls Show opens
Dye Me.
Friday, November 8
Polls & Seniors Day
Monday, November 11
Remembrance Day Ceremonies
Tuesday, November 12
New Dover council
Kootenay council
Nakusp council
Creston council

Thursday, November 14
Silveton Savings Winter Kick Off in Creston
Kootenay Savings Board Meeting
Sunday, November 17
Slocan Lake Stewardship Society AGM

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 206 - 7th Ave

Crooked Valley FishHunt 7 pm
Lungsi Theatre 9 pm
Nakusp Riders 7 pm
Hills Fire Hall 4 - 6 pm
Nakusp Legion 5 pm
Paddyshack, Nakusp 4 pm
Barns Hall 7:30 pm
Nakusp Arena 3:30 pm - 6 pm
Nakusp Arena 3:30 pm - 9 pm
Studio Connexion 11 am - 4 pm
Shelburne Gallery 8 pm
Pensmore Hall 10 am - 2 pm
Nakusp, Slocan, Kaslo, New Dover, Edgewood
Creston Council Chambers 7 pm
Creston Council Chambers 7 pm
Council Chambers 7 pm
Shelburne Memorial Hall 10 am - 2 pm
The pre-register, jパートner@sillybox.coop

Kick Hall, New Dover 2 pm

NEWS

October 30, 2013
The Valley Voice
Sign marijuana petition at Valley Voice office

Thank you Valley Voice for having the petition in your office for a referendum on lifting the prohibition of marijuana. This prohibition has been very expensive, with most of the money going to criminals or excessive funding for policing, courts and prisons.

Be sensible!
Go the Valley Voice office and sign this petition!

Donna Jean Wright
New Denver

Once, perhaps

The 4th of July belonged to the slave owners. The Big Apple was full of worms. After 60 years of TV, the people all started putting magma cancer! In order to rectify this seemingly overwhelming dilemma, I started giving lectures outside the corner grocery prepping the potential benefits of magma. This led, in turn, to imagination classes at the local library and eventually to what we have at present: Imagination University or, as we like to call it, Imaginary University. John Lennon’s “Imagine” is the school song and a PhD in Imagination can be obtained for the pittance sum of 100 $-

This is how I made my imaginary fortune and experienced imaginary success beyond my wildest dreams! Can you imagine?

Anyways, my university days are behind me and sometimes I wonder if any of it was real.

Jord Clark
Edgewood

Let’s go back to Mountain Time

Do people of this area realize we were once in the Mountain Time Zone? Now that we are in the Pacific Standard Time Zone, do people living between the Kootenay mountains and

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

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

Kootenay Lake understand we are in the dark earlier than anywhere else in the province?

I am just a little surprised when BC Hydro and FortisBC are always on about saving energy that the pair of them along with Nelson Power and others are not on line to help get us out of the dark.

I used to be the proverbial young man crying in the wilderness. I would like to see the area, come November 3, stay in the so-called Daylight Savings Time where we currently are – that is to say, not fall back. Then next spring, we can spring forward and “make it right” (to steal from Mike Holmes of HGTV) and join the Mountain Time Zone once again.

Of course you do not know the reason for the change in time zones was much a foolish affair. My father, who worked at Cominco in Trail at the time, told me that it was because the many British workers at the plant wanted to be able to watch the soccer games when they got off the shift, and they could only do that if we were in the Pacific Standard Time Zone.

Ken Frie
Kaslo

No good reason to continue Columbia River Treaty

Building the Columbia River Dams to create benefits (namely water storage) for another country at a tremendous cost to BC through the many negative impacts and drastic ecological damage is extraordinary in the history of Canada. There was never any good reason to enter into this treaty with the Americans in the first place.

There is even less reason to keep it now when BC Hydro needs to maximize the generating potential of our rivers to meet its domestic loads.

The 50 percent Canadian Entitlement formula just doesn’t cut it anymore. The BC government justifies continuation of the treaty because “it has brought billions into our economy” but that accounting has never included the far greater losses in revenue and jobs in forestry, recreation and agriculture we have excluded for 50 years.

The Columbia River Treaty caused one of the darkest periods in BC history.

Now we have an historic opportunity to focus on reclamation and renewal of BC resources for BC instead of for the Bonneville Power Authority and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We have been given another chance to request these changes on Wednesday, November 6 at the Kaslo area market. We will have two sessions: 3:30-6 pm and 6:30-9 pm.

Come on out and be heard.
It’s our future and legacy.

Crystal Spier, Edgewood
Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition

Shocked!

I have just finished reading the letter from Shana and Michael Lagore about their concerns with their mobile home. And I am shocked! It is just unbelievable to me! Those poor people! It is a bit of a nightmare!

Imagine moving to our community, buying a piece of property with dreams and a vision of what you want to do with it, following the rules around giving generous notice (one year?), and then being faced with people who believe and are trying to impose upon you the requirement to pay out hundreds of thousands of dollars to move them off your land before you can actually use the land you have purchased.

I may have peculiar ideas, but it seems to me that land you have purchased and pay taxes on should in fact be land you can have some control over.

I understand that this puts people who have rented this space for years in a difficult position. And I sincerely hope there will be a way for them to relocate their homes to someone else’s property. If after this there is anyone out there who wishes to permanently give up their land for this purpose, this treaty should be changed to allow this.

I am sure that before people made a choice to buy a mobile home and pay rent for a pad, they wisely considered the “temporaliness” of a rental. After all, they didn’t buy the property. Living on/owning a piece of land does not imply ownership or the ability to assume it is permanent.

Adequate housing in Kaslo is important. But it should not be forced upon landowners who have chosen not to offer affordable housing on their land. And ownership implies that whatever their plans are – whether you or I think they are good ones or not – they have the right to carry them out.

I definitely do NOT support a bylaw that would, retroactively, impose this hardship on an unsuspecting landowner.

If the community has concerns about the availability of affordable housing in Kaslo, then perhaps there should be a lot set aside to permanently house rental pads for mobile homes. Then move your mobile home onto those pads and feel secure that you can rent there for as long as you choose.

Deborah Austin
Nakusp

Jumbo update

The Jumbo Citizen’s Democracy Camp has now folded for the season and camp participans are happy to say that Glacier Resorts Limited made very little progress this summer.

Except for installing a gate that can only be described as ‘risky-disk’, they achieved nothing. In fact, they experienced a surprising setback when they applied for an injunction against the protest camp.

A small but important correction to Rosanna Elia’s letter in the October 16 issue concerning the camp is that Glacier Resorts never received an continued on page 5
continued from page 4

injection. They were surprised, I am sure, to see our lawyer in the Vancouver Court where they applied for the injunction, requesting a week for us to compile our evidence. And our evidence was strong; strong enough for them to ask for a general adjournment. Our Vancouver lawyer, Jason Grant, surprised the Attorney General by the case he presented. He felt our case was on such solid ground that he wanted it heard. The court adjourned but said that Grant Costello, the Senior Vice President of Glacier Resorts who is based in Invermere, appear at any future hearings.

GLC Reports probably was not expecting us to fight back with such clarity and strength.

Key to fighting off the Jumbo debated 'saying both' people on the ground to keep an eye on their activities as well as financial support from our community. We are now in the final year of Glacier Resorts Environmental Stewardship Certificate which expires October of 2014. It is crucial that we keep the pressure on Glacier Resorts if we are going to stop this ridiculous development once and for all.

So many people have told Jumbo Wild! activists over the years, "let me know when I'm needed." You are needed now! We need more people and financial resources to help us ensure that Glacier Resorts doesn't get a shovel in the ground next summer. The land near the Ecosecurity in Nelson to see what role you can play in keeping Jumbo and the magnificent central Purcell wild.

To learn about the Citizens Democracy Camp (past and future) check out the blog at defendjumbo.wordpress.com.

K.L. Kimi, Nelson
Jumbo Citizens’ Democracy Camp participant

Open letter to the BC government re: smart meters

This is a legal document in contrast to (which takes preference to the illegal Liberal Party Clean Energy Act and BC Hydro Corporation regarding the purchase, installation, use of so-called ‘smart’ meters. Our citizens are cleaner regarding quality and do not need replacement as decided unilaterally. There have been studies and the deployment of the project in every way. The federal/provincial governments and BC Hydro have not done nor have contracted any independent health or any form of public participation.

The analog meters are cleaner regarding quality and do not need replacement as decided unilaterally. There have been studies that show health problems associated with wireless devices, especially wireless meters of any kind.

More than 6,000 independent studies show evidence of health problems associated with wireless devices, especially wireless meters of any kind.

This is a completely irresponsible, negligent posture, a complete betrayal of public trust and tax payer monies. So help us before our creator who will see us soon face regarding the shortness of our physical lives was composed to the spiritual eternity.

I never requested a delay in so-called meter upgrading. By affidavit I documented this and now deny any knowledge of such meters existing, that is, for example, meter reading, increased rate charges for power use, cessation of electricity availability. And this shall apply if a change location. Coercion must stop now. This is your first warning before a court date. Two more dates remain: 30 days apart.

For no persons are you options options, as the negative energy from wireless meters is up to one kilometer. In this case you either serve the devil or the lord — you choose.

Garth Richard Hunter
Silverton

Rosebery to Nakusp Rail Trail

Thank you Mr. Philips for keeping the public discussion of the status of the rail trail on. Since the early 90's, when CP ceded ownership of the right of way to the province, there has been much discussion and debate as to the disposition of the rail trail. And not much else. As a result, despite the efforts of a few local volunteers the rail trail has suffered from landslides, erosion, washouts, damage from motorized and non-motorized traffic, beaver activity and 20 years of neglect. Initiative by Hills Recreation Society, however, have shown that there is community support for a protected rail trail corridor.

A recent application to the Government for tenure over the rail trail has been abandoned due to prohibitive conditions and costs imposed by the Province. When the North Slocan Trail Society became aware of this latest impasse, we thought it a good opportunity for a non-profit to enter into a management agreement with the Province to maintain the trail between Rosebery and Summit Lake. Non-profits are able to access funding and grants from a variety of sources not available to the Regional District or the Province. One has only to look at the success of the Slocan Valley Heritage Rail Trail as proof that this type of non-profit / provincial partnership works and brings economic stimulation to the Valley. We are not saying that we should replicate what has been achieved down (or up, depending on your perspective) valley. Similar projects are possible. While our society mission statement does mandate that we advocate for non-motorized trail activity, and we indicated this on our application, it will be the broader community that will decide, through a public process hosted by the Province, the future use of the rail trail. As you may know, the local trail society in Nakusp undertook such a process earlier this year and the community there chose to designate the rail trail between Nakusp and Summit Lake as multi-use, allowing ATV and motorcycle access. Due to what could be best described as an unusual set of local political circumstances, our application and the public process have been put on hold. This is the history of the rail trail as I know it. I invite your corrections, comments and further discussion.

As for the motorized/non- motorized debate, I would suggest that anyone following this issue examine the values of the rail trail itself, from Rosebery to Summit, without thinking more or less of what it is what makes it special. What makes it special? It is shape, size, and beauty. What makes it special to you? Why does it bring out such strong feelings? And keep that in mind when the time comes to speak at the public meeting.

Mike Coulson
New Denver
North Slocan Trails Society

Water Sustainability Act

Many of the concerns I have expressed in the rounds of consultations have been dropped by the Province. I suppose one could look at these as a provincial moratorium list that has been severely circumscribed by the public. This gives one hope that comments that in this round of consultation that will have some effect on the final legislation.

In the Legislative Proposal document on pages 95-99, you’ll find a brief summary called “Government Response.” The Concepts, proposals, concepts, revised, modified or reaffirmed by the government include dropping the very contentions water metering and data tripping sections. In my opinion, this proposal, retaining FITTR (First In Time, First In Right) on water allocations, livestock watering needs reinforced, food security protected by agricultural water resources and (maybe) planning processes. Unfortunately, they couldn’t bring themselves to include the public trust doctrine although they do manage to say, “Water is owned by the Crown on behalf of all British Columbians. They skirt the issue of allocation of water for resource extraction (fracking, mining, forestry, etc.). Although elsewhere in the document they clarify their position that resource extraction serves public interest, the Water Act for industry allocations and (they say) do a good job of protecting our water and watersheds (salmon). There will be no third party oversight or accountability on water management. Governance and regional planning details are no better laid out than in the last round of consultation. This worries me.

This is not the legislation itself which we had hoped to be able to comment on, simply another discussion. The full document makes it clear that groundwater regulation, applying environmental flow needs (EFNs) to water allocations and an increase in fees and licenses will happen once the regulations are written after the legislation is passed. But by that time EFNs will be implemented over time. This includes new governance structures, regional water plans and mechanisms, water objectives, mitigation and so on.

I have serious reservations about how EFNs are being determined (and who they are being determined by) as do many environmental groups. Overall, I don’t believe this Act will afford us much more protection than was promised that we have today. I will be posting my comments on the blog and emailing a submission to government. If you are interested in submitting a letter please email me at mellemannoy@ comlawswireless.ca and I’ll send you a copy (once I have written it).

As you can see there is much to comment on. Please take the time to read the document and let the government know what you think.

Nelle Muxey
Window

Smart meters are for spying

Are smart meters another corporate scam that our politicians were dumb enough to fall for, or is there more to the story? Evidence show, the order to impose smart meters on Canadians – without a public hearing – is wrong right from the top. Victoria? Ottawa? No, I mean the very top: the boardroom of US General Electric. Thanks to Harper’s ‘smart’ metering international corporations now have more say in what happens in this country than you do.

Smart meters may be a necessary prerequisite to Harper signing the ‘perimeter security agreement.’ This deal would cage Canada in with the States in a perimeter security fence. Of course, Canada would first have to ‘up’ its security standards to US Homeland Security level: extreme paranoid. The US is spending $100 billion on the US-Canada border wall plan – therefore, ours – includes fighter jet, drones, anal probes and militarizing the police forces (that’s why the country is getting so weird lately). As many as 30,000 drones could be part of intelligence gathering and law enforcement here in Canada in the next five to ten years. As for smart meters, former CIA director David Petraeus wasn’t kidding when he said, “We can spy on you through your device.”

Hydro and your government are lying to you. Smart meters or “long-term exposure to microwaves” may not be safe. The fact in Canada’s wireless laws were written in another era. Research into wireless radiation has been dumbed off the industry itself; the fox is looking after the hens. And who is looking after our healthcare public? Corporate horn-blower Bill Bennett. Help us! Take a stand on smart meters. Bring back democracy.

Bryan Swaney
Edgewater

Complementary medicine needed in public health care system

It is a shame the Interior Health Authority did not send any mental health care workers to a recent seminar.

On October 4 and 5 at the Dundonald Wellness Centre in Rossland, Dr. William Walsh, an internationally recognized expert in the field of nutritional medicine from Chicago, gave a talk from the floor. He presented his book, Nutrition Power: Heal Your Biochemistry and Heal Your Brain. Dr Walsh has studied more than 25,000 patients with mental disorders and has identified over three million chemicals from blood, urine and tissue samples from these patients over a 35 year period. He has studied every behavioural disorder ranging from ADHD, autism, depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, all the way to severe cases of violent behaviour experienced by toughened individuals (including chemical analyses obtained from more than 25 serial killers and mass murderers). His services have been used worldwide by medical examiners, coroners, Scotland Yard and the FBI (for more information see: www.williamwalsh.info).

His revolutionary new therapy has proven to cure some of society’s ‘hard cases’ who were criminals, not because of character defects, but due to biochemical imbalances. This man is one of the most thorough scientists ever to be encountered. Yet, the IHA wasn’t actually involved in promoting any education surrounding this event.

It is high time we start to see well documented, proven, complementary methods and knowledge being utilized in our health care system. The modalities exist to reverse or at least really help improve the quality of life for people suffering with mental disorders. And, think of the money our public services could save!

Josh Wapp, Irene Mock
Nelson

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email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
by Jan McMurray

**Mayor Provorn attended the Communities in Bloom (CIB) conference in Kamloops October 4-5 and was very impressed with the enthusiasm and sharing of information among participants.**

Silverton entered CIB this year. Under this category, there is no judging. However, two CIB judges came to Silverton in July and wrote up a report that was very positive. "The civic appeal is exceptional along the highway entrance into Silverton with the maintenance of the many heritage buildings painted with brilliant colors," it states. It also mentions the edible gardens at Silverton Building Supplies and the gallery, and that the judges were impressed with the level of voluntarism in the community. They encourage Silverton to create a steering committee and to continue in the CIB program. Mayor Provorn said she would like to see one councillor take it and gather committee members. The full CIB report is available at the Village office.

**COMMUNITY**

**VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER**

**COUNCIL CONVERSATION CAFÉ**

Residents of the Village of New Denver are invited to join your Council members for a "Council Conversation Café" on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Nuru. This is an opportunity for New Denver residents to engage in conversation about current issues and concerns with Village Councilors. Support your local cafe by getting a tea or a coffee and a treat, and sit with us for some casual, but important dialogue. What is going well? What are some current issues? How can we solve them together? These are intended to be high level conversations between residents and Councillors.

**PLANT SALE at Valley Landscape**

One day only

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

10 am - 3 pm

One-gallon perennials: $5
two-gallon shrubs: $10
Cash or cheques only
209 Fitchett Rd, Hills
Walk up house driveway
For More info, call Ray 265-9977

**HEALTHY COMMUNITY SOCIETY of the North Slocan Valley**

**AGM**

Wednesday, November 13

Lucerne School Library

7 pm

Come hear about our projects for next year and our accomplishments in 2013:

- North Slocan Food Program – slide show!
- Fruit Tree Management Project

**FINGER FOOD POTLUCK**

Bring your preserves, goodies from your garden, or local snacks to share!
MP Alex Atamanenko to present research on ‘chemtrails’

by Art Joyce

Ever wondered what those mysterious cross-cutting plumes are in the sky, or why they seem to form ‘clouds’? MP Alex Atamanenko has received a well-researched information brief about the potential effects of aerosol geoengineering, more commonly known as ‘chemtrails’, from New Denver resident Jechta Chinn, who has gathered a wealth of information to present the material to the federal Ministers of Health and Environment and to the NDP critics for those portfolios.

In response to the petition and the upcoming Critical Mass rally, Megan Leslie (environment), Alex Atamanenko also presented a petition with 3,000 signatures to the House of Commons demanding that Canadians be advised of what this geoengineering program comprises.

‘Chemtrails’ are said to be distinguished from regular jet contrails, because typical condensation trails tend to dissipate within a few minutes, whereas ‘chemtrails’ linger and spread out to form the multiple lines seen in the sky. According to NASA and NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) ‘Contrails can only be observed under 75 degrees or at humidity levels of 70 percent or more. Even in ideal conditions, actual contrails rarely last more than 20 minutes.’

Clifford Carinci, a former technical research scientist contracted by the US Department of Defense, has spent many years researching ‘chemtrails’.

‘Contrails composed of water vapor are all almost always dissipating in a couple of minutes, as they have for the last 50 years,’ states Carinci. ‘Chemtrails not only prevail for much longer, they extend out to create either a white haze or a dense cloud cover.’

Grumman’s package is based on a theory of one of the most interesting propositions: that the cloud plumes seem to be unnatural planes releasing plumes that spread out to form haze or cloud cover. She also had water testing after a heavy week of recording chemtrails. There is evidence that substances in these unnatural trails may be creating a serious public health risk, and even damaging the environment. One paper of her data was tested at 36-39 times the maximum allowable concentration (MAC) for drinking water guidelines. These metal are implicated in neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and dementia – all of them on a steep increase.

Short-term symptoms of exposure to chemtrails include sinus problems, headaches, dizziness, tiredness, memory problems, difficulty concentrating, muscle weakness, skin rash, gastrointestinal stress, and diarrhea.

Grumman, a professional photographer, used a high-quality digital SLR camera to photograph the planes, the plumes they leave behind, and the resulting haze or ‘cloud cover’. One such plume took 39 minutes to go from a thin band to a diffuse haze over the sky. During September and October of 2012, she regularly photographed between 6 and 8 times a day from six hour period – far more than regular commercial airline traffic. The websites for the West Kootenay Regional Airport in Castlegar and the Canadian Rockies International Airport in Cranbrook each show only four arrivals/departures per day of commercial flights.

Her research into the history of geoengineering patents found over 100 designed to manipulate the weather, the first of which was filed in the 1920s. The original patents were for simple ‘cloud seeding,’ designed for use in drought-stricken areas. The Bernard Eastind patent, filed in 1987, is described as a “method and apparatus for altering a region in the earth’s atmosphere, ionosphere, and/or magnetosphere,” using “electron cyclotron resonance heating.” A patent filed in 2011 by William G. Rou and others for “an aerosol generating device” may also be implicated in the technology used to generate ‘cloud trails.’

The reasons for a global program of chemtrails are unknown. Official government agencies tend to state that such a program does not exist. That leaves only speculation – is it a global ‘sunscreen’ designed to slow global warming? A plasma shield for some kind of weather control system? How is it that the line blurs between clearly observable phenomena and what some consider conspiracy theory. David Suzuki on the CBC radio show a recent blog hump in chemtrails ‘believers’ with conspiracy theorists and climate change deniers. Suzuki is not in at all but is in some ways a credible source – and there is none for the existence of chemtrails.

According to Atamanenko, only about two dozen contentious have complained about chemtrails during his tenure as MP, so it remains a low priority item. ‘You’d think there would be somebody somewhere who’s seen these planes being fuelled. That’s the other thing that makes me cautious on this subject. It’s not something I spend a lot of time on but I do believe Jechta deserves an answer. And so far we haven’t been able to get any kind of answer. For more information see: www.geoengineeringwatch.org, www. davidstunki.org or the video Why in the Workahome they Spraying, Available on Youtube.

Slocan Valley resident calls for Ombudsman review of Lemon Creek spill

by Art Joyce

Wallaw resident John Wittmayer has had enough. Wittmayer has written a letter to the Interior Health’s handling of the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill. Other Slocan Valley residents affected by the spill are supporting Wittmayer’s request. Despite reports to the contrary in local media, the office has not yet ruled out an investigation. The BC Ombudsman is not allowed to comment on an investigation until an investigation is completed.

“I pointed out that the grounds were the low response or lack of response from the Interior Health,” Wittmayer said. “I asked them to look into it to investigate Interior Health’s handling of the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill. Other Slocan Valley residents affected by the spill are supporting Wittmayer’s request. Despite reports to the contrary in local media, the office has not yet ruled out an investigation. The BC Ombudsman is not allowed to comment on an investigation until an investigation is completed.

“I told him that lots of people are concerned that the water use ban was lifted too soon. ‘The original public service announcements (PSA) said the criteria was that there was no longer any ‘observable or detectable’ fuel in the water. That was completely illogical because the public was observing fuel and Quantum Murray was still working on recovery of the fuel when the ban was lifted.’

Wittmayer claims that Interior Health has also failed to support residents by failing to turn up at residents’ homes for appointments to test drinking water or turning up too late after a heavy rain. While Wittmayer worked as manager of the Recovery Centre and later a volunteer at the Resiliency Centre, he says 60 people were turning up at his door seeking help on their health. But because Interior Health classifies ‘long-term exposure’ as occupational exposure to jet fuel, notification plans are being considered by the agency. Even now, three months after the spill, Lemon Creek residents are concerned about recontamination of their drinking water due to heavy rainfall. But their requests to IH for water testing have gone unheeded.

It was a complete abrogation of their responsibilities to the public. They did not definitively prove to the public that the water is safe,” he says.

Wittmayer has asked to add that while employees of IH who visited the Resiliency Centre did their best, they were often stymied by upper levels of management. One employee asked for a hydrogeology study to determine whether the Lemon Creek aquifers were still contaminated but was turned down. A further issue left unresolved is whether an air quality testing was done during the local 24-hour period following the spill. One source within IH told Wittmayer it had not been done. As yet, no air data has been released by the Ministry of Environment.

“There has been no PSA from IH since late August. When I looked a week ago, there was nothing on their website, so it seems they’ve let their whole thing drop.”

In an interview with BC Ombudsman Richard Carter, he outlined the criteria used by her office to determine whether an investigation is warranted. The Ombudsman’s office has jurisdiction over provincial ministries, boards and commissions, the CBT, Crown corporations, local governments, and health authorities. Outside their jurisdiction are matters involving police, federal issues, research scientists, problems with a private individual or a corporation, a matter currently before the courts, and if or where there are other internal appeal processes or tribunals available. Complaints must first have tried to resolve the issue with the appropriate agency before coming to the Ombudsman.

“We are looking at people who •...
Nakusp council, October 15: BC Hydro continues to ignore community needs
by Art Joyce

BC Hydro continues to disappoint Nakusp council in its response to Village concerns such as the boat launch and frequent power outages. At UBCM, council was told by staff of the Minister Responsible for BC Hydro that the electrical substation upgrade currently in progress will still make the launch area only served by a single power line.

"We’re the area that’s most affected by the dam and have to live with the power outages," said Mayor Hamling, "so I found it cheeky that they said it was too costly. They said with one line you’re not going to have reliability, so I said, you’re telling me we won’t have reliable power."

Councillor Zelenik asked if the Fairview line could be tapped into. Councillor Darcheine said that line is already at maximum capacity. "The second line is the way to go. If we have a huge company come in here, we can’t give them power."

"We’ll have to get stronger and stand up to them," Councillor Zelenik said.

Councillor voted to write a letter to BC Hydro complaining about the lack of a second power line.

• CAO Linda Tynan has drafted a letter to the water commuter asking for clarification of its agreement with BC Hydro for boat launch access. BC Hydro is claiming the agreement guarantees only seasonal access.

Victim Service Program Coordinator

Provide emotional support to assist victims in their recovery from the effects of crime and trauma. Assist with information on the justice system, relevant federal and provincial legislation and programs pertaining to victims of crime; crime prevention; safety planning; community government, justice and other resources available. Justice related information may include status reports, information about charges, protective orders, court appearances, sentencing, court etiquette, procedures and witness orientation. Make referrals, assist victims in completing applications for the Crime Victim Assistance Program and victim impact statements; provide other practical support. Other services may include accommodation, community relations, police call-out, transportation, public education, after-hour services. Responsible for monthly statistical and periodic descriptive reports. Police-based Victim Service Program co-located with Nakusp RCMP and serving Nakusp and New Denver RCMP detachments.

Term and hours: Temporary part-time, 20 hours per week, to start asap; until current incumbent returns to position

Qualifications: Related experience, personal suitability, strong computer skills. Driver’s license and current first aid certificate. Subject to a criminal record check, enhanced security clearance and references.

Salary and benefits: As per UFCW Collective Agreement, Grid 9

Closing Date: November 7, 2013 at 4 PM

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

Nakusp mobile home park residents given one-year notice
by Art Joyce

Residents of the Coachman Condominium and Mobile Home Park in Nakusp got the shock of their lives recently when they were notified that the new owner plans to re develop the property. Although no notice has been given yet, Coachman owner Ed Kostuch said he wants the four mobile homes gone within the next two to three months.

In response, mobile home owner Sharran Lagore appealed to Village council on October 15 to consider urging a mobile home park purchase. She noted that some residents would have no choice but to demolish their mobile homes due to the age of the units, effectively making them homeless. Lagore researched similar policies in other municipalities and submitted examples to council that could use as templates.

The BC Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act allows mobile home park owners one of two options: issue a 12-month notice, or give homeowners 12 months’ notice. Sharran said this leaves Coachman residents with few options. The financial burden of moving or demolishing mobile homes is too heavy, she said, and was too heavy for the two tenants.

Sharran has invested money in renovations and additions that would never be recouped. Scouger residents are still paying mortgages on their mobile homes, so the loss of the park could also force them to declare bankruptcy.

Without affordable housing, businesses face problems keeping workers and school enrolment will be affected," said Lagore. "Costs of housing and maintenance have caused those in similar situations to lose their jobs even suicides and homelessness. Our homes are not unaffordable mobiles taking up space, we’ve invested thousands into a property attractive.

Lagore added that communities such as Kanasassen and Sunny are passed mobile home policies that policies provide fair and reasonable solutions so homeowners aren’t left with nothing. She noted that there are more than 40 families in Nakusp living in mobile homes, representing a significant portion of affordable housing in the community. Lagore has approached MLA Katrine Conroy, who is currently working on a mobile home policy. At present the property is zoned ‘highway commercial,’ so technically the owners are within their rights.

“The mobile home owners shouldn’t lose their homes and face financial ruin because of complications with zoning,” said Lagore.

Coachman residents Mike and Susan Kostuch took possession of the property on July 29 this year and plans to develop tourism facilities. Ed Kostuch presented a letter to council explaining that if the Village were to adopt a policy requiring the owners to pay moving costs of $10,000 it would be over and above the amount required by the Act. If in addition that they were required to pay replacement costs for mobile homes as high as $40,000 per property, it would mean paying out 13 years of pad rent.

During those 13 years the landlord would also have to pay for property taxes, interest on the mortgage, maintenance for the roads and services of the park, snow clearing, demolition and removal of abandoned mobile homes and insurance. According to Kostuch, "it makes no sense to pay out a wage for their efforts," states Kostuch’s letter.

Given the time and expense required to move a mobile home to a municipal zoning policy, Kostuch is advising the Village against doing so. In his view, the provisions of the Act are sufficient and "the development should be allowed to proceed with little interference from the community." He adds that any such policy could act as a deterrent for property developers interested in Nakusp.

"Would investors be advising themselves? If this community is unwilling to improve their mobile home park, would they also be willing to impose them on apartment buildings and rental homes?" asks Kostuch. "All development has a lifespan. Would you develop a rental if you thought that when it has lived its life and action is required, it would cost you all the profit you had to invest, just to be allowed to redevelop?"

Kostuch concludes by recommending that the Village consider redeveloping the mobile home park as means of providing affordable housing.

Mayor Hamling and council agreed to look into the matter and consider both submissions.
Community

New Denver solution, October 22: Slocan Solutions offers to donate boat washing station to Village

by Katrine Campbell

• Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on the Slocan Lake Siewichlowsky Society’s meeting. The Slocan Lake Governance Document will be out at the beginning of November.

Water test results on Carpenter Creek showed the coliform count was “a little high” but no value was given; this was another follow-up report.

Under BCLaw, a fine up to $100,000 can be levied if a hoarse transport invasive species, but this is not enforced. Mayor Ann Binka said it was made clear to the society the Village is not responsible for checking boats—the Province’s conservation branch is.

• Council deferred an offer from the Slocan Solutions Society to donate the boat washing station to the Village, pending more information. Questions include what would be involved in maintenance, whether the society does educational work needed to get boat owners to use the station, and what would be the advantage/disadvantages to the Village of taking on the station. Deputy CAO Catherine Allaway suggested meetings be scheduled with various user groups, including the Slocan Solutions Society, in advance of budget discussions.

• Councillor Nadine Raynolds reported on Harvest Share’s wrap-up. It included three workshops on pruning, electric fencing and canning; leaned electric fencing to the public, and has a hallway dedicated to it. It is mapping all registered fruit trees and working with the Healthy Community Society, and would like a conversation with the village about trees on public property.

There has been little action this year. One was shot in the Orchard in the spring and there was a sighting on the Mor Trail. The CAO noted “bear in area” signs were posted on the trail October 6.

• Councillor Raynolds said this year’s CBT symposium was “really good” and featured several good speakers, with interesting content, particularly on rural economic and community development, and poverty reduction. Participants received an update on the Columbia River Treaty process, including draft recommendations from the Local Government Committee. By January 2016, the CBT will have $50 million a year to invest in Basin communities, and is looking for ideas on the best use of the money.

• Councillor von Krogh reported on the Public Works Department’s activities; Labor Day in October 30; the Village may rent a chipper from the Village of Slocan to facilitate tree trimming in the lanes; staff are searching for a better way to anchor the swing floats so they don’t have to hire a diver; they met with two electricians re: the powerhouse and implications of the frequent power outages; the park has been winterized and winter equipment is being readied. Councillor Raynolds asked if the Village had been dumping vegetative waste on the marina road; if not, then who was? The Village will look into it.

• Binka reported on Regional District news. She met with Area E Director Walter Popoff, Silverton Mayor Kathy Proven and Councillor Leah Main.

How to ease the financial squeeze

submitted

The Dollars and Sense Day special event for families November 8 will showcase many organizations and agencies that offer families help to live a full, rich life while easing the financial squeeze they face. Families are entitled to a wide range of support, but it can be challenging to find out about all of them.

“Our idea is to bring as much information as possible together on one day, under one roof, to make it easy for families to access—everything from subsidies, to employment and training opportunities, to free children’s programs and services,” says Teeny See, the Slocan Valley early childhood co-ordinator who is hosting the event.

Parents will be able to browse the displays, chat with staff from various organizations, get support to fill out subsidy forms, and take home resources. There will be stories, art and playdough activities for the children, a free, nutritious lunch and even some great door prizes.

Funding for this special event was part of the first round of grant funding provided by the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund. It aligns nicely with Financial Literacy Month in Canada, so co-host Alison Salo, the Slocan Valley Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy co-ordinator notes, “We know families face the pressures of high housing and childcare costs, student loans, limited employment, and the general expenses of raising a family, so we are taking a very broad view that includes all aspects of getting each meet, while still nurturing your family’s life. Understanding how to use the resources available to you is financial literacy.”

Dollars and Sense Day runs from 10 am to 2 pm at Passmore Hall, on Friday, November 8. All families are welcome.

Free Satellite TV for rural folk

Shaw Direct has a free TV service, until late 2013. You can still watch Canadian TV, now that DTH providers such as Shaw are offering FREE SUBSCRIPTION, FREE SATellite RECEIVER, FREE INSTALL.

You get: CBC, CTV, GLB, CHIN, Elevated TV, Knowledge Network, & others. Check out "JOST" online (Local TV Satellite Solutions).

The deadline for application is November 30, 2013

CONTACT SHAW DIRECT 1-888-954-7127 (1,1,0)

Kootenay Cableworks (503)503-8302 - James (technician)

for more information please go to: www.ltvco.ca/cts.html

Help Inform the Future of the Columbia River Treaty

The Province of British Columbia and the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments’ Committee invite you to a community workshop.

6:30 – 8 pm Provincial Workshop (additional session in Nakusp 3:30 – 5 pm)

The Province is seeking further feedback on the draft recommendation and public consultation report. Learn more at www.gov.bc.ca/columbiariver

8 – 9 pm Local Governments’ Workshop (additional session in Nakusp 5 – 6 pm)

Provide input on draft recommendations developed by the Local Governments’ Committee. Learn more at www.blorccommittee.com


to join the discussion in-person or online:

Jeffrey
Monday, November 4
Jaffrey Hall, Jeffrey Village Loop Room

Golden
Tuesday, November 5
Golden Civic Centre, 899 Hwy 99

Nakusp
Wednesday, November 6
Nakusp Community Complex & Arena, 200th Avenue NO

Castelegar*
Thursday, November 7
Sandman Inn Castelegar, 1944 Columbia Ave

Valemount
Thursday, November 14
Village Office, 735 Cranbrook Lake Road

*.Live Stream option available

For more information and to register for the live stream option visit: http://blog.gov.bc.ca/cratreatv/workshops/2013-11
Doc MacLean returns to the Silverton Gallery, November 7

submitted
Exactly one year ago, Doc MacLean, with guestperformer Morgan Davis, played the Gallery to an enthusiastic audience. Now, he’s back to perform a solo concert, singing his original songs and adaptations of classic blues tunes, and playing bottleneck and standard guitar.

The concert is at the Silverton Gallery November 7 at 8 pm. Tickets are on a sliding scale, $12 to $15; available at the door.

While MacLean’s lyrics are mainly contemporary, his approach as a guitarist-songwriter reflects not only his exposure to Southern string bands and jug bands, but also to Delta players and storytellers such as Charley Patton, Son House, and Son Chatman.

Hailing from the Deep South (Mississippi), MacLean has played washboard, harmonica and guitar with most of the original Delta bluesmen. He has been a band leader and recording artist for 30 years; his tours have played to full houses and since 1973 he has appeared at major North American folk and blues festivals.

For 15 years he toured a nine-piece Mempai/New Orleans jump band, ‘Dr Limpo and His Fabulous Off Whites,’

KAOSO Community Garden Club harvest season update

submitted
The Kaslo Community Garden Club has been selected as the recipient of Community Donation Day at the Kootenay Co-op in Nelson. Members will set up an information table and be there to visit with the public and answer questions. The club will receive three percent of sales that day, so please consider shopping at the co-op November 19.

The garden is being put to bed for the winter. Crops have been harvested, garlic is planted, the soil has been cleared, garden refuse composted and planting green manure crops is underway. This growing season, over half of the garden was dedicated to community food security and crops have gone to the Kaslo Food Hub for distribution. The balance of the garden was devoted to personal allotments for the growing season. Allotment gardeners paid a membership and lot fee.

The garden is a community resource and everyone is welcome to participate or to visit. Come walk through or sit under the grape arbor and see or dream about what will grow. Maybe next growing season you will want to garden with us. Watch for the KCCG annual general meeting in February 2014.

Thanks to all the people who donated time, money, materials and expertise to make the gardens the success that it is.
Dark Water Dragons celebrate first year on the water

submitted

The Dark Water Dragons Society, Sloan Lake’s dragon boat team, held its AGM October 23. The entire board was returned, with one vacancy filled by acclamation. Executive positions (apart from secretary-treasurer) were abolished, with the seven directors agreeing no hierarchy was needed. Wendy King remains as secretary-treasurer; the other directors are Gerry Buchanan, Helen Buchanan, Katrina Campbell, Nancy Guise, Barb Mark, and Shelley Pentland.

The society received $2,000 grant from BC Breast Cancer, and added $2,468 from membership fees and fundraising. This, added to the monies raised in 2012, enabled the group to buy a used boat and paddles, and its inaugural paddle was held May 11.

The Dark Water Dragons is open to all women 18 and up. They can choose to paddle, or be non-paddling members who support the society’s mandate: fun and fitness for women, and raising money and awareness for breast cancer and spinal cord research.

Because of the difficulty in getting enough women out to paddle on any given night — the boat holds 20, but can still go out with 10 — this past summer several men who were interested were invited to participate.

Until paddling starts in spring, the group will still be busy. A member’s handbook is in the works; see dryland training sessions to improve fitness and technique. Also, the Koosena Rhythm Dragons from Nelson plan to enter a team in the BC Seniors Games in the fall, and have invited eligible DWD members to try out.

October 27, the Sunday following the AGM, the society held a walk for its two chosen charities, breast cancer and spinal cord research. Seventeen women showed up (along with a half-dozen dogs, all sporting pink bandannas) and walked from the marina, to the health centre, downtown and then back to the marina. In conjunction with the walk, they had placed donation jars in stores to raise money for the charities.

At Passmore Poultry Pluckers we do not process pachyderms!

But our customers raised an African elephant’s weight in poultry this season.

BIG thanks to our customers our CFIA inspectors and our terrific staff. See you in 2014!

www.passmorepluckers.ca

The River and The Road at the Langham

submitted

Singer/guitarist Andrew Phelan made his way to Chicago with a looming need to cross into Canada for work. He had two flight choices, Montreal or Vancouver, and flying west was cheaper. Once there, he met singer/banjo player Keenan Lawlor, who had been playing around Vancouver for the previous eight months.

After several months as a duo, and experimentation with additional instrumentation, they recorded their debut eponymous 12-track album. In the spring of 2012, the band emerged as a dynamic four-piece with the addition of bassist John Hayes and drummer Cole George.

In their short history as a band, The River and The Road has blossomed into an internationally touring quartet. Winter 2013 saw the boys working to stretch their name into the musical fabric of Australia, most notably in Sydney and Melbourne.

With tenacity, heart, and above all else, a gripping live performance, the band has no plans of slowing down. A spirited folk form of sincere storytelling, mixed with strong harmonies, heavy percussion breakdowns, and dynamic arrangements, embodies the sound of The River and The Road.

Don’t miss their Kaslo debut at the Langham on November 2 at 8 pm. Tickets are $15 in advance at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Hone Gallery; $18 at the door.

The River and The Road is:

Andrew Phelan - Vocals, Drums, Guitar, Percussion
Keenan Lawlor - Banjo, Vocals, Guitar, Piano
Cole George - Drums, Percussion
John Hayes - Bass Guitar, Upright Bass

SILVERTON SENIORS
WINTER DROP-IN
At the Memorial Hall
Sponsored by the Province of B.C.

Tuesdays 10:00 am to noon
Thursdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Coffee, tea and snacks

Free lunch (1:30 pm) dates:
November 14 and 28, December 12 and 19.

Nov. 14th, 10:00 am: Flu shot clinic, Medication Review, Zostavax Presentation.
Sponsored by Safeway Pharmacy
Nov. 28th, 10:00 am: Stroke/heart attack workshop. Provided by New Denver Ambulance Service
Dec. 12, 10:00 am: Home fire safety workshop. Presented by New Denver and area Fire Department
Dec. 19, Special Christmas Luncheon

For more information, contact
GARY WILLMAN 358-2129
Everyone is invited to attend the 2013 Slocan Lake Stewardship Society AGM. Hear about the past year’s activities, plans for 2014, election of officers, renew memberships.

Refreshments: Sunday, November 17, 2 pm

Knox Hall, New Denver

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Community

Car crash leads to charges for Slocan man

A 37-year-old Slocan man is facing numerous charges under the Motor Vehicle Act including driving without a licence, excess speed, two minutes of plates, after a crash which injured him and a Castlegar woman and child.

The crash occurred the afternoon of October 16 on Hwy 3 about 10 km west of Castlegar. RCMP say the male driver and lone occupant of the vehicle was unable to make contact westbound on the highway when he crossed the centre line into oncoming traffic heading for an Acena driven by a 30-year-old Castlegar woman with another woman and three-year-old twins on board. The Acena driver swerved left to try to avoid the Honda. The driver of the Honda then collided and struck the other car head on.

The driver of the Acena was taken to the hospital with possible leg and neck injuries. One of the children had a minor cut on the chin, but no other injuries were reported. The driver of the Honda had to be extricated from his vehicle and taken off the road to hospital suffering from broken bones and possible internal injuries.

None of the injuries are believed to be life threatening.

Police are pursuing charges under the Criminal Code, which include three counts of bronzing prohibition for driving while intoxicated. The RMCP say the driver was in his car, consuming alcohol contrary to court conditions, and not driving unless going to or from work. Police are also considering charges for impaired driving causing bodily harm and dangerous driving.

If anyone witnessed this incident, please report it to the Castlegar RCMP, or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Who is protecting your drinking water?

Who are we? We are the people who drink the water, the people who live with water, the people who will inherit the damage that we are doing to our water. Our water is our wealth and we must protect it. The water in Slocan is a renewable resource and it is the right of all people to have access to safe and clean water.

Our mission is to protect and enhance the water resources of Slocan Lake and the surrounding area. We are a non-profit organization with a membership of over 300 people.

We are dedicated to protecting our water resources and ensuring that they are used sustainably.

We believe that everyone has a right to clean water and that we all have a responsibility to protect it.

We work with local communities, businesses, and organizations to promote water conservation and education.

We provide technical assistance and training to help communities develop and implement water management plans.

We advocate for policies that protect water resources and support sustainable water practices.

We are committed to ensuring that water is a public good and that it is accessible to all people.

Life Matters with Debbie Peresovets

Uncle Sam – you’re getting nasty!

If you are one of the many who have read my articles in the past regarding the taxation issues for our US citizens living in our area, you’re probably feeling a little bit of déjà vu. You’re probably feeling a little bit of déjà vu.

Uncle Sam is again at it! We have recently returned from an industry conference held in Los Angeles. I attended a break-out session that focused specifically on how the IRS is classifying certain investments as Passive Foreign Investment Corporations or PFICs (pronounced “fee ficks”).

PFICs are simply “poorly invested” accounts held outside of the US. This includes almost all foreign mutual funds, hedge funds and many insurance products. It might even encompass your bank account if that account is a money market fund rather than just a straight deposit account.

What this means is that you are a foreign investor living here in Canada, and have open (non-registered) money invested in mutual fund-type investments – be forewarned that you may want to consult your cross-border tax preparer before filing your US tax return.

We are hearing that the tax treatment of PFICs is extremely harsh and the other complicating factor is that they require a very onerous tax form 8621 – for each PFIC investment – just to comply with the IRS’s reporting rules. Americans abroad could quickly run up a tax preparation bill of many thousands of dollars – never mind how much (or how little) the underlying investments are worth.

I have been in contact with our MF Alin Ammenacker’s office to see if anything has changed between the Canadian and US governments.

Although there have been reports to extend mutual funds and other investments from the PFIC tax reporting, to date nothing has come about.

I have also been contacted personally by accountants and cross-border specialists. Today as well as our professional industry association of the Investment Funds Institute of Canada (IFIC).

A letter had been written by IFIC to the US tax reform committee back on April 15, 2013 – however, it doesn’t appear that any negotiations have taken place.

Other issues facing US citizens here in Canada (and throughout the world), is the concern with the FATCA legislation. FATCA stands for the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act which is going to require all foreign financial institutions to report on the assets held by US citizens and permanent residents, directly to the IRS by 2014. While it may seem hard to believe that our Canadian banks would willingly comply with such drastic measures, the IRS is pushing their weight and our financial institutions may have no other choice.

The IRS could soon have a direct and easy access into your holdings and it will be easy to cross-reference direct reports from your financial institution to the IRS. They will quickly know whether you’ve filed your US income tax, properly reported your holdings and have calculated and paid your tax owing.

The latest I received from our MPs office states: “Whatever the government is doing, it’s happening behind closed doors.” Mr. Flaherty has had nothing to say for quite some time. What I do know is that, so far, Canada has not yet signed or approved the new Intergovernmental Tax Agreement with the US. It is in direct violation of our constitutional right to privacy. That fact, in combination with the many or so dual citizens in this country, may be making them hesitate. My concern is that with or without the government’s okay, the new FATCA requirements for 2014 may force Canadian banks to report information to the IRS or face having assets withheld in the US.”

Now, hard to believe, so much to think about, so much to deal with. As a financial planner, it makes it incredibly difficult as to what to advise everyone. I am not an expert in these matters, there are many knowledgeable and experienced cross-border tax professionals that you should call to see how this affects your personal situation.

To those neighbours and friends who are US citizens, feel free for you. Perhaps the Eagles sang it best – “you can check out anytime you like...” but until you do, you are the IRS.

Debbie Peresovets, CFP, CPCA, is a financial planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd. and Vice-President of her company, The Affolter Financial Group Inc. in Castlegar.
Nakusp Chamber of Commerce hires Events Coordinator

by Jan McMurray

Craig Savage is Nakusp’s new Events Coordinator.

“I’m thrilled to jump into this position and work with the Chamber to make a difference in our community,” said Craig in an interview.

The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce was successful in its application for Columbia Basin Trust funding to create this position. The grant will cover a wage for Craig for six months, based on 20 hours per week.

Dawn Devlin, Chamber president, said the Chamber board felt it was time to hire someone to coordinate the two major community events that the Chamber organizes every year – the Christmas Celebration of Lights event and the Canada Day Celebration.

Up until now, these events have been organized and executed strictly by volunteers. “The events were outgrowing our volunteer capacity,” said Dawn, “so we approached CBT and are very pleased that they agreed to help us fill this need.”

Devlin explained that Craig will also work with all community groups in Nakusp to foster communication among the groups and to coordinate a community events calendar.

Craig says he was drawn to the job because it complements what he does as pastor of Saddleback Community Church. “Part of our mandate is to serve the community, and this job fit that description really well,” he said.

As pastor in Nakusp and before that in Coquitlam, Craig has organized many events, such as sports camps and breakfasts for more than 200 people. “I am looking forward to building on my experience with event coordination,” he said.

Craig, his wife, Danielle and their children have been in Nakusp for three and a half years. “We came from Coquitlam so I could take the job as pastor here. We first came for a visit, and were really impressed at all this small village has to offer. We were looking for a community where we would feel connected, and wow – that’s part of the DNA of this place!”

Craig is working hard on this year’s Celebration of Lights event, which takes place Saturday, November 30. The parade is scheduled for 5 pm, to be followed by entertainment in the park, including the Mythmaker Fire Dancers and community choirs.

Winlaw potter nominated for People’s Choice Award

submitted

Potter and educator Robin DuPont was one of five ceramic artists nominated for the 2013 BC Emerging Artist People’s Choice Award. The annual award, presented by the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, went to the artist who received the most votes from the participating public – Amelia Proulx of Quebec.

DuPont lives in the Slocan Valley with his family and operates a studio year-round. He specializes in hand-thrown pieces intended for day-to-day use: a favourite coffee mug, drinking glasses, platters and dinner plates, tea pots, pitchers and vases. His work is fired in an outdoor wood-fired kiln, a large brick structure surrounded by the forest on DuPont’s property. The process of firing with wood is both time and labour intensive; collecting and splitting wood, bringing the kiln up to temperature and monitoring it through its firing cycle, often late into the night. The wood not only provides the source of heat but imparts a unique finish to the work through ash deposits and heat-flashing that occur during firing.

Of the five artists nominated, DuPont stands alone in being the only artist working in functional ceramics (the other nominees work in sculpture and conceptual installation), the only resident of Western Canada, and the only artist living and working in a rural setting.

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BC Hydro

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON BC HYDRO’S REVELSTOKE UNIT 6 PROJECT

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/revestoke-unit-6

To get involved please contact:
Jan Walker-Larsen
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Revelstoke
250 814 6445
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Kaslo & District

Kaslo council, October 22: Grant applications submitted for economic development

by Jan McMurray

• The Village will submit funding proposals for the ‘Kaslo broadband business growth, retention and expansion project’ to two potential funders: Invest Canada Community Initiatives (ICCI) and the Columbia Basin Trust. The goal of this project is to develop a strategy that will help retain and create local jobs, and that will attract small and medium businesses. The strategy will highlight the high speed broadband service that will soon be in place in Kaslo, and the “unique setting of Kaslo as a leading Kootenay tourism and lifestyle destination.”

The total project cost is $20,000. The application to ICCI will be for $10,000 and the application to CBFI will be for $5,000. If the project goes ahead, the Village will cover the remaining $5,000.

• CAO Neil Smith reported that KGN has discovered the generator at the Kemball building is not suitable for the broadband project and that it does not switch on automatically when the power goes out. He has advised KGN that a new generator (estimated cost of $21,000) can be purchased this year. KGN is moving forward with a back-up battery. The CAO has encouraged KGN to let council know of all desired energy improvements in preparation for the consideration in 2014 for funding.

• Council received a letter from the Rural Roads Coordination Centre of BC in response to the Village’s request for assistance with the health care situation in Kaslo. The letter informs council that the request for assistance must come from both the community and the CEO of Interior Health, and that the Rural Roads Coordination Centre works closely with IH.

The CAO reported that Andrew Nemeroff will be meeting with KGN and the Kaslo and Area Health Working Group on October 28 and there was “a flurry of meetings coming in the next few days” that he anticipated for the next few months. Director Sheikdrick, Margaret Winters and Humpherey Tjosvold would be participating in a conference call with Dr. Purdon of IH the following day.

• A service contract will be offered to Kaslo Electric Ltd. for the purpose of installing three new streetlights and from the Arts, Culture and Heritage, Kaslo & Area Health Working Group met with two representatives of the IHA for approximately one hour as part of their ongoing project to establish and improve customer service standards. Mr. CRAIN will do a meeting on the subject on October 22nd.

At its regular meeting on October 22, council members heard from various speakers about upcoming events and other issues. The meeting included discussions on the state of the KGN generator, the status of the broadband project, and the need for additional funding for the rural roads coordination centre.

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

October, 2013

The Community Forest has been active in Kaslo and the area over the past few months. Some highlights are briefly outlined in this report.

Governess

Unfortunately, Jeff Reuden has had to retire from the board due to work and family commitments. Since Steve Fawcett had volunteered for the last AGM, and received the most votes of those who were not elected, the board asked Steve of IF he would take Jeff’s place. Steve has agreed. We welcome his interest, his experience and his dedication to the members of the society. Ken Warrpl submitted his resignation a couple of days before the October board meeting. The board has yet to make a formal response.

Management

Bill Keestell, RFP has been overseeing operations for over four months now and the board is very happy with his work to date. We look forward to a growing relationship where he becomes more familiar with our land base, our membership and our interests and we become more familiar with the output and he can better understand the forest management needs.

Harvesting

Settle Holdings Ltd. of Kaslo completed harvesting operations in CP 20, Naswanville, in September.

In this 3-block permit, they harvested approximately 17,000 m3. Road deactivation work, burning the debris piles and site preparation works are underway in preparation for planting of the blocks. CJ Logging Ltd. of Kaslo constructed approximately 2 km of new spur road into CP 35, a 1-block permit also in the Naswanville area. The road construction went very well, and Settle Holdings is now harvesting this block. All of the block’s requirements can be fulfilled, and Settles are expressing an interest in doing more work in the area.

We are finalizing the development of CP 34, a 3-block permit located behind the Kaslo transfer station on the east end of Kereme Creek. The objective to harvest this permit in 2014. Sunshine Logging, Kaslo, will commence construction approximately 2 km of new road immediately.

We continue to explore moving to areas to develop while being very cognizant of finding a balance between the social, economic and environmental resources.

Silviculture

All forestry companies in BC – like the Community Forest – are legally required for completing the silviculture obligations on their operating permits. The objective is to establish a new plantation as soon as harvesting completion allows. This is to maximize its survival and growth, and reach “free-growing status” in a timely and efficient manner. Declaring a stand free from fire is important, but there are many factors that influence the mix of tree species and forest composition that are expected to influence the growth of new forest.

In Kaslo, the following activities are being completed:

• Clean up and widen the airfield.
• Open the Jardin Trail up to the Beaver claim.
• Start planting the Kaslo River Trail in two sections to provide a ‘high-water’ trail option.
• Clear a Mt Bremner trail to provide a Kingland access to the trailhead and improve bridge access.
• Clear many windfalls on the Mt Wilke trail and cut a new route to its ‘natch’.
• Remove windfalls from Glacier Creek trails (Monica, Jumbo & Machet) with guidance and assistance from Joe Johnston.
• Rebuild sections of the Mt Buchanarn trail.
• Only up the Wardner Connector – aka No Brakes – and Wardner lookout trail.
• Clear the Waggon Road from 0.5 km.
• Paint the boundaries of CP 35 and map all water features.

The board is keen to repeat the success of this program next year.

Water Monitoring

A number of our water monitoring stations were damaged by the high runoff this summer and have been repaired and restated. To offset the cost of this work we have applied to various granting agencies. The results of those applications are pending. Despite these setbacks, the water monitoring work is ongoing, an undertaking led by hydrologist Russell Smith from Kelowna, Cheryl Hillier of Hoven and (volunteer) Don Scarlett of the Fletcher area.

Long Term Planning

The board met recently to define objectives for a long term operational plan and to consider some strategies that would recognize and accommodate multiple values.

Regarding our future silviculture obligations, our lead consultant, Sabrina Mat- ter has designed a standard operating procedure, and has done forward planning for all the community forest’s cutblocks. These will be published for consultation.

We also need to get a 9-5 year operational plan ready for public comment, and we need to investigate a methodology and define data needs that can help us determine and inform current and assessment in this area.

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
250-353-9677
kcaslo@icloud.com
www.kaslosilviculture.org

The Valley Voice
October 30, 2013

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
250-353-9677
kcaslo@icloud.com
www.kaslosilviculture.org
Kaslo fire hall awarded to Kelowna company

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s new fire hall will be built by Encan out of Kelowna. This decision was made at the RDCK board meeting of October 13.

“This was the most competitive bid and Encan is a reputable company,” said Regional Fire Chief Terry Swann in an interview after the meeting. “We didn’t need to get a lot of responses because our references are glowing. At the end of the day, we had to go with that one.”

Four bids were received. Encan’s was the lowest, at $58,210 – $57,000, lower than the $64,000 budgeted for this phase of the project (to lock-up). Other bids came in from BFR Construction Ltd., Kelowna ($58,680), DMB Contracting, Rossland ($62,873) and Hanell Creek Timber Homes, Mead Creek ($77,000).

Regional Director Terry Swann said that the RDCK was committed to ensuring that local contractors would have the opportunity to be successful on bids like this. It will also not occur in the long-term, inflation, drywall and finishing work. “They will have the competitive edge by virtue of living here,” he said. “It is likely that larger firms will want to bring in a work force and pay for accommodations and food. I believe local contractors will have an advantage on the smaller phase two projects.”

Swan said that bonding was a concern during public meetings about the new fire hall. Bonds are enormous for smaller contractors. It was thought that contractors could provide a letter of credit from their banks instead, but banks have recently changed their practice on this and now require that the letter of credit be 100 percent secured. “We made a generous effort to lift that [bond] requirement, but the banks were too help,” said Swan, adding, “We didn’t feel we could etch public money without it being secured.”

At the October 22 Kaslo council meeting, Councillor Holland reported that he and Director Shadbuck met with Swan and RDCK CAO Brian Callum regarding what they felt were barriers in the bidding process for local contractors.

However, he acknowledged that the Encan bid was much lower than the two local bids, and emphasized that now that Encan had accepted the contract, local traders should be looking for the company for work. He said they used the RDCK to make a bigger effort to keep the community informed on the project.

Mayor Lay added that the low construction cost would be beneficial to the taxpayers. Swan said he resorted pre-fabricated metal buildings as an option for the fire hall and found that the large cost of making them energy efficient would result in minimal savings over a wood frame building.

Kaslo’s Wood First policy was a consideration, said Swan, adding that many people in the Kaslo area made their living through forestry. “Kaslo’s Wood First policy was not the least of the consideration,” he said.

Jim Lawrence documentary travels to India

submitted

Eyes In The Forest: The Pernuance of Jim Lawrence will finish its tour on the film festival circuit this December in India and Japan. The documentary was filmed by filmmaker Miriam Noodoba of Small Town Films Inc. created the documentary profiling Lawrence’s work as a wildlife photographer from Argentina.

The film will screen at the 7th CMS Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum, where the ALAC concert series presents the Bergmann Duo.

submitted

December 6, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the Bergmann Duo in the Bonnington Arts Centre, the third in this season’s concert series. Doors open at 7 pm, and the concert starts at 8 pm. Tickets will be available at the Bon Marché/Dollar Store until Wednesday afternoon, then at the door.

The Bergmann duo’s dynamic and energetic performances of eclectic programs has inspired audiences for more than two decades. Elizabeth and Markus Bergmann were brought together while studying with Arve Vardal at the Hochschule für Musik in Hannover and later with Jan-Eder Villanacci at the Université de Montréal.

Grphin Trio plays intimate concert in Kasuk

by Coine Eichmann

The Grphin Trio braved frigid roads to bring their music to Kasuk, and we are glad they did! Chamber music fans will be thrilled with this intimate concert at the Community Hall on October 12 at 6:30 pm. The trio features violinist Maria Battistutta, cellist Brian Scott and pianist Stephen Jepsen.

The concert is presented by the Kaslo Arts Council and the Community Hall. Refreshments will be served. There is a $10 suggested donation at the door. For more information, contact Mary Manis at 250-352-2172 or e-mail at ktnoey@yrb.ca.

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NEW SLOAN - Slocan Community Health Centre Wednesday Nov. 13, 1 - 3 pm Drop In Clinic

EDGWOOD - Edgewood Health Centre Wednesday Nov. 13, 10 am - Noon Drop In Clinic

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Local young equestrians do well at Nelson Halloween Ho-Down show

submitted

Horses and girls go together like peanut butter and jam. Brianna McCoy from New Denver and Ashley Frickenburger from Nakusp have been working hard over the last few years learning not only about riding a horse, but also how to care for, clean up after, and handle one from the ground. Recently, the two young teens were able to practice in the show ring some of the skills they have been learning in the practice ring at the Fort Meadows Equine Center, near Summit Lake.

Ashley, who has been taking riding lessons at the centre since she was seven years old, successfully competed in her first home show on Smeagol, a horse she has part leased from FMEC. She entered four classes – pleasure, equitation, request and test – in the Halloween Ho-Down show at the Nelson Riding Club Grounds on October 6 and came home with four first place ribbons.

A pleasure class is judged on the way the horse goes, obediently and quietly along the rail. Equitation has a requirement in which Ashley is judged on the rider’s ability. Request is when the judge can ask anything, including a sideways (lateral) movement which Ashley and Smeagol did very well and very correctly.

Trail is an individual test of different obstacles a rider could find while out riding on the trail. Ashley successfully navigated a rope gate, tied onto a scar of 500 yard mark then placed the mask on a different post and side passed away from it, trotted over poles, into a very tight 300 turn box and walked backwards around an ‘L’ shape. This was difficult, technical class in which Ashley demonstrated the horse with skill and patience.

Brianna has been taking lessons at FMEC for three years and has part leased Rabbit, a smooth one ear Baslik Curly. In her third show in two years, the Halloween Ho-Down, Brianna came home with a ribbon in every class she entered; second place in costume; third place in showmanship (in hand class against all ages, including adults, judged on the handler and the way the handler ‘shows’ the horse from the ground); third place in pleasure; second place horsemanship (another class with a memorized pattern to perform as well as a rail portion competing with all ages from child to adult); first place in horsemanship; tied for third in command class (as the judge calls out commands, riders and horses must obey the command immediately. Riders are eliminated if they do not correctly complete the command first until only one rider is left). The last class she entered was pole bending with ‘rot, a gaming event in which riders race against the clock. Brianna had the fastest clean run and won the event.
Slocan council, October 15: Prehistory museum proposed for Slocan

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• Councillor Lisa Haug, speaking on behalf of the Slocan and Arrow Lakes region which would like to see built in Slocan. She said there is "no point in doing something small or modest" to improve the region's tourism potential.

• Hillery Elliott, and Jessica Lunz reported on the Union of BC Municipalities conference. They had two meetings there - the first with Coastal Oaken, Minister of Community Sport, and Cultural Development, and the second with Premier Christy Clark. Sheldon Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Slocan was one of the 250-odd local authorities which was pre-selected by the province to proceed with a pre-tax revenue plan to create a cultural centre.

• Russell M. Whybark, and industry leaders had been working on the Centre for the Environment, a project that would be built on the banks of the Columbia River.

• The Village received $31,325.99 from the Gas Tax Program.

Slocan council discusses Unity Festival at the Committee of the Whole, October 22

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• Unity Festival organizers Felicity Gervis and Joanne Cameron discussed the development of the festival and attended to discuss the possibility of holding the festival in Slocan again next July. Council was enthusiastic, and feels the festival is a good fit for the village.

• Councillor Les Buxton introduced the need for a new public water utility after the event. She would like to see the Slocan Water Utility be a government utility, rather than being sold to a private company, which is the model in operation.

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• Councillor Les Buxton introduced the need for a new public water utility after the event. She would like to see the Slocan Water Utility be a government utility, rather than being sold to a private company, which is the model in operation.
Slocan Valley Tourism Plan presented to the public

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Tourism Plan was presented to almost 40 members of the public on October 23 at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Slocan tourism consultant Sue Denbak, the consultant who wrote the plan, attended electronically via Skype – her flight in to Castlegar from Vancouver had been cancelled.

Vice-President of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, Jan McMurray, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined current Chamber projects, including the development of a new website (www.slocanvalley.ca), the Business Retention and Expansion project in partnership with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, and the Slocan Valley Tourism Plan.

She explained that the tourism plan was developed under a Destination BC (formerly Tourism BC) program. Under the program, Destination BC provides the community with a consultant who does market research, facilitates a full-day community planning session, and then writes up the plan. Continued support is available through Destination BC to implement the plan in the way of matching funding.

Denbak gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Slocan Valley Tourism Plan. She stressed that the plan was developed and should be implemented with Slocan Valley community values at mind.

The objective of the plan is to build shoulder visitation in the spring and fall, to promote winter visitation, and to lengthen visitor stays at all times of the year.

Denbak said there is a wealth of experiences for visitors in the Slocan Valley – experiences for outdoors, cultural, heritage and arts experiences abound. “The community tourism plan for the Slocan Valley does not need to focus limited resources on the development of additional experiences for visitors. Rather, it is the positioning and messaging of these existing experiences and the quality of these experiences that must become compelling for target markets,” she said.

Although the valley has much to offer visitors from a variety of markets, Denbak said that promoting the valley’s “hiking” portfolio was likely proving sufficiently compelling to any of these segments. “The Slocan Valley must precisely define and target its markets with clear and compelling messaging tailored to each audience,” she said, giving the examples of road bikers, heritage/culture travellers and families.

Based on her market research and analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing Slocan Valley tourism, she recommends target markets for the different seasons. In the shoulder season, the valley should target the drive touring market. These people are from BC, US and Europe. The valley should also target people from the region for weddings and weekend getaways. She suggests that a couple of signature events in the shoulder seasons would help boost visitation in spring and fall.

In winter, the target market is passionate back-country skiers, snowboarders and cross-country skiers from BC.

The plan outlines several strategies that could be considered to support visitor experiences in the Slocan Valley. Some examples are to investigate improved signage at the junction of HWys 6 and 3A (during discussion, a meeting participant suggested that a sign at Revelstoke would also be beneficial), to invest in signature shoulder season events, and to coordinate the overall winter calendar in the valley.

Another strategy in the plan is to develop key messages or a brand for the Slocan Valley. Denbak said research supports an umbrella brand that captures the essence of the place, and to offer specific information for each target market under the umbrella brand. “The tone of the branding and messaging should reflect upon the ‘soul’ of the Slocan Valley,” she said. “Residents here are ‘unplugged but connected.’ There’s a sense of distance from fast-paced, hectic urban living that combines with a strong connection to the land, water, plants, animals and to each other. Residents here are content and balanced, healthy and active at all ages and are seeking like-minded, socially conscious visitors to experience their communities and act as stewards together with them. Messaging should also capture the ‘leave no trace philosophy embraced by residents.’

Discussion after the presentation was interesting and varied. Concerns about the impact of increased tourism on the local lifestyle were expressed.

Denbak reiterated the importance of keeping community values in mind while implementing the plan, and said the plan’s recommendations and slim resources in the valley would not lead to a large influx of visitors.

There was also a comment about the divisions within the valley. Denbak told the group that it’s worth it to work together to keep the valley as a place the visitor looks at the Slocan Valley as a whole.

Lorie Langford, a veteran in the tourism industry, wanted the group to remember all the work in tourism planning that has been done in the past.

One woman felt she knew how large we want to grow and how many people we can accommodate. She sees a need for low-cost hotels in the valley.

Pat Ashton from Slocan shared that community’s success with eco-advertising and Lynda Lafleur of CBT shared an idea for a festival of community hitters in the shoulder season.

The plan recommends that a committee of the Chamber of Commerce be formed to lead the implementation of the Slocan Valley Tourism Plan. These people from the meeting agreed to join the committee. Anyone interested in getting involved with the implementation of the Slocan Valley Tourism Plan can email chamber@slocanlake.ca or call 250-358-7218.

The tourism plan and Denbak’s presentation are available at www.slocanlake.ca under ‘Latest News.’

One more bingo to finish the archives

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society is close to finishing the archive addition to the Centennial building, but says it’s still a little short of the money needed to complete the job.

This Sunday, November 3, the society hosts a bingo at the Legion Hall to try to raise the funds it needs. Door opens at 6 p.m., and play begins at 6:30. There will also be a silent auction; anyone with an item to donate is asked to take it in to the archives, which are open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The addition’s walls are painted. Soon, the tiles will be laid, the wheelchair accessible washroom facilities will be installed and the lift will arrive.

Did you know?

The Slocan Valley Co-op paid out $2.1 million to local suppliers in our last fiscal year! We expect our sales to double in the next five years...we want our sales of local product to double too!