Kaslo outraged with Interior Health – ER hours slashed

by Ian Munro

IH representatives came to Kaslo’s November 12 council meeting with an announcement that was not as unpopular as it was a year ago: the emergency department hours at the Kaslo Community Health Centre will be reduced to Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm as of January 6.

“Your announcement is largely disappointing and confirms that your organization has been working toward a predetermined outcome for this community for over a year,” writes Mayor Greg Lay in a letter he sent to the Interior Health CEO after the meeting.

The announcement was made to council, with a packed gallery in council chambers and over 200 people outside in the yard, listening in via an audio system. MLA Michelle Mungall was in attendance.

Cries of outrage came from the crowd outside, while Mayor Lay quickly shut down any heckling inside council chambers. Shots of “Shame!” were heard when the IH reps and their security guards left the building through a side door so as to avoid the crowd.

In his letter to the IH CEO, Mayor Lay states that a council meeting was not the right place to make the announcement to the community, “as evidenced by the substantial protest witnessed by your staff.” A full public meeting in Kaslo, hosted by the IHA, is long overdue,” Mayor Lay’s letter also states. “We wish to partner with the IHA on finding an alternative long-term solution to our challenges, but cannot disguise our disappointment and justified outrage at the way our community has been treated thus far in the process. The onus is on the IHA, not Kaslo, to turn the situation around.”

Andrew New and Dr. Jeremy Etherington, the IH delegation at the council meeting, said they had “earned the trust and respect” of other rural communities and hoped to do the same in Kaslo: “We have a lot of work to do,” responded a Kaslo resident in council chambers before Mayor Lay made it clear that comments from the public would not be tolerated.

Dr. Etherington said that after a year of recruitment efforts on the part of IH, there is only one half-time physician in Kaslo and there should be two full-time physicians. “The emergency department is the biggest barrier to recruitment,” he said.

Etherington remarked that this generation of doctors doesn’t want to work as hard as previous generations. He said that even though the call volume is quite low in Kaslo, young doctors “don’t want to be on call every second night.” Put yourself in their shoes. They can’t have a glass of wine (when on call).

With the high demand for general family doctors – there are 222 vacancies in BC and 52 in Interior Health area – Etherington said physicians can choose where they want to work.

And they don’t choose Kaslo because they “don’t like the workload,” he said. “They are also extremely wary of the turmoil going on right now in Kaslo.” Etherington said he wouldn’t come to Kaslo either “if he was reading about Kaslo in the papers.”

Newman asked residents to be positive and welcoming to any doctors considering coming to work in Kaslo.

In his letter to the CEO of IH, Mayor Lay states: “To strengthen your delegation, indicated that Kaslo can be silent about the situation for fear of scaring away potential new physicians is a woeful approach to face-reading.”

At the council meeting, Councillor Holland asked for assurance that health services in Kaslo would improve in future and not be further eroded.

“How much further eroded can you get with no doctor here?” asked Etherington. “If you have two physicians who are providing full-time practice, then you are going to have better care than what you are getting now.”

Neuner explained that IH wants to focus on access to doctors and primary care in Kaslo.

“I appreciate the fact this has ended, and one of the things we are here to share styles, so it is important to consult with them before implementing some of the Ross recommendations.”

When Councillor Lang asked about Nurse Practitioners, Etherington replied, “I fully support Nurse Practitioners, but not all doctors feel the same way, so you have to be careful when you bring Nurse Practitioners to the community.”

Ethereington said Kaslo has been IH’s number one priority for physician recruitment since the summer. He said ads had been placed in some journals, but their main recruitment efforts were on the internet. “The doctors who we want to recruit here are the young ones who will live here, so that’s why we go online instead of in print because this generation is looking on their iPads, not their print journals,” said Etherington. “I am interested in community care, not dispensary, emergency care.”

Councillor Beavat asked if Kaslo should be offering incentives in order to attract physicians. Dr. Etherington called this a “slippery slope” and said what attracts doctors are the “antibiotics you can’t put a price on.” He said if a physician’s spouse and children are not happy in the community, the physician and family will leave. He asked for help from the community to put together a package to market Kaslo to physicians.

To answer the community’s questions about physician contracts, Etherington said the contract is a standard one, used throughout the province. Contracts are negotiated between the Ministry of Health and the BC Medical Association. He indicated that IH shares the concern in the community with the range of hours in the contract. “Part of the contract gives us a caseload,” he said. “They should be based on caseload, but they are based on hours instead. You can’t serve a piece of bread with health care.”

IH is expected to provide responses to questions from the community and issues raised in Mayor Lay’s letter within two weeks. These will be posted on the Village website.

Chimney fires are preventable. Have a certified technician service your stove and sweep your chimney regularly—ideally once annually.

The Valley Voice is 100% locally and independently owned.
Christmas by the Lake schedule of activities

by Jan McMurtry

Christmas by the Lake has a full schedule of activities on the weekend of December 6-8.

You can come down to the Silvertown Gallery grounds as early as 4 pm on Friday evening for a Glühwein, a braai, and other delectable delights. The weekend celebrations officially open at 5 pm with a speech by New Davidson, the illumination of the trees and Christmas village, and the telling of the bell. The Freiside Choir sings at 6:30 pm.

On Saturday, the grounds are open from 10 am to 6 pm, featuring the Kootenay Artisans Market both outside in the Christmas village and inside the gallery building. The Children’s Cart and Ornamental Workshop will take place in the gallery from 11 am to 2 pm. Santa will be on site from noon to 2 pm for pictures with the children, and the Grinch and the Gingerbread Man will also be there between 11 am and 4 pm. Live music starts at 2 pm and carries on until 5 pm. Three live bands are scheduled for one hour each, starting with the Scoon Valley Community Band, and followed by the Mental Health Club and then Leah Main & Michael Mosley.

At 5 pm, Sadia and Amy will perform a fire spinning and glow hoop show.

People can watch ice sculptor Peter Vogel and David Ducharme, blacksmith Patrick McEvoy and glass blower Dan Fardell in action throughout the weekend.

On Sunday, the grounds and gallery are open from 11 am to 3 pm. This is your last chance to visit the food and crafts booths. The ice music starts at 11:30 am with the Invermere Kids Choir. Hank Hastings will play his accordion from noon to 1 pm. And then from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, Mos & Oats will perform.

Winners of the kids’ contest and the vendors’ contest (best decorated booth outside and best decorated table inside the gallery) will be announced at 2:45 pm, and the event ends at 3 pm with the sound of the bell.

To participate in the contest, the kids fill in a card with four different coloured stickers that they get from the elves at the event. The kids have to find the elves and answer their questions about Christmas to get their stickers. Once the card is full, it is dropped in a box for a draw for an iPad Tablet Computer.

Jumbo Wild takes top spot in national competition submitted

Wildlight’s Jumbo Wild campaign received another boost this week, with the form of a $5,000 award for first place in the fourth annual Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) Wild Bucks competition.

Wildlight’s Jumbo Wild project beat out such high-profile competition as Ontario Nature, Clean Nova Scotia, and Alberta’s Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition, taking 40 percent of the overall votes in this national online voting competition.

‘At MEC, we’re inspired by wild places — places like the upper Jumbo Valley,” explains MEC’s Community Program Manager Andrew Stegemann. “Jumbo Wild Bucks support our commitment to conserve ecologically and recreationally important places by giving our members the means to register their support for groups like Wildlight that are working to raise awareness of what’s at stake in Jumbo and other threatened places.”

“This really shows how important the Perelli Mountains, and the Jumbo Valley in particular, are to people across the country,” says Robyn Duncan, Wildlight’s Perelli Program Manager.

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363-2224
BC electoral boundaries report proposes changes, seeks input

by Art Jones

The BC government is proposing amendments to the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act during the spring 2014 legislative session and is calling for public consultation on the proposals. According to its White Paper report on the subject, these amendments “are intended to ensure that existing laws of proportionality in the Legislative Assembly from northern and rural areas of the province are maintained and that no reductions in the number of districts in the north and rural areas occur during the electoral boundary revision process.”

Among its mandate are changes to the ways in which Electoral Boundary Commissions (EBCs) determine the size of electoral regions.

The Act upholds the principle of “representation by population,” and has not changed substantially since 1989. “Recent EBCs have faced it increasingly difficult to address population growth in urban areas of the province without recomputing boundaries in the number of rural and remote districts,” the report notes. The Commission is required to take into consideration “the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any part of the province.”

New大理 Mayor Ann Bancroft made the motion at the board table. “I asked the board to look at this again because I know we have to be thinking about MMBC and Ministry of Environment representatives last week, and it seems MMBC is willing to negotiate,” said Bancroft. “That went a long way to changing the thinking at the table.”

The board had declined to participate in the new recycling program because of a lack of clarity on what it would look like on the ground when it comes into effect on May 19, 2014. Two of the RDCK’s biggest objections were the requirements to fence and staff the recycling depots, and the inadequate financial incentives offered by MMBC.

Now, it seems there may be some flexibility on this issue. ULRIKE ZOBEL, LAWYER PRACTICE RESTRICTED TO CRIMINAL & FAMILY LAW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
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NEWS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Shelley College, Nakusp 6:30 pm
Char of Comm, Nelson 6:30 pm
IP & Broadway, Nelson 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Silverton Memorial Hall 10:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Hidden Golden Gallery 5:30 pm
Hidden Golden Gallery 6:30 pm
Studio Connexion 11 am - 4 pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Slocan Legion 6:30 pm
Nakusp Arena 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Slocan Park Hall 6:30 pm
Nakusp Arena 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Nakusp 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Nakusp Arena 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Slocan Park Hall 6:30 pm
Nakusp Arena 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Nakusp 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
MSS Gym 7:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Cedar Crest 7:30 pm
Nakusp Arena 10:30 am - 4:00 pm
Nakusp 6:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Silverton Gallery 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
St Andrews United 7 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Silverton Gallery 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
St Andrews United 7 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Silverton Gallery 3 pm
St Andrews United 7 pm

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Kaslo downtown alive and well

Kaslo’s downtown is alive and well and gearing up for the holiday season! This was the best year by far in my bed, both and kitchen store. And in talking with several other retail businesses, restaurants and accommodations their stories are similar with both sales and visitors way up this summer and fall. The Christmas lights are up on the light posts and preparations are well underway for our traditional Light Up celebration, and two new shops are open for the holidays. So, come check out our vibrant downtown. It is definitely worth the drive to Kaslo.

Martha Lambe
Willow House B&B

Protect our water from invasive species

At the AGM of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, I was reminded once again how precious our water resources are, how we take them for granted at our peril.

I’m sure I am not alone in feeling this way. Not so much listening to a report from the Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Mapping Project (aka SWAMP), I hope people will take up an email and letter campaign to our political and social leaders to assure that border inspection of boats is made mandatory, so that noxious pests – zebra and quagga mussels, among others, are not allowed to spoil the waters here.

The Society cannot, all of itself, make this happen because demand for rigid enforcement of a restriction against those plant and animal species (which will, simply, totally destroy the intricate ecosystems of our wetlands) has to come from outside-at-large.

We “ordinary folk” need to speak.

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 materials.

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.

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Gotta thank Stephen for reminding me:
No major scandals for almost 10 years! Liberals are starting to look good.

The Valley Voice November 27, 2013
Denver Siding
water treatment options

There is a seventh option for water treatment, which I find more desirable, that was not mentioned in The Denver Post article which is treatment at point of use.

A water filtration and UV system at your tap can be purchased for an estimated cost of $1,500 installation with an annual cost of about $150 to replace the filter. Chlorination is on the back burner for all the options mentioned. IHA and government don't like the point of use filtration option because they can't control what goes on in your house, shop or outbuildings. They won't guarantee protection of your water supply because of the government's industrial multi-use policy on Crown land. IHA not only wants treatment for community water supplies but also treatment of all water user systems in the rural area.

Obviously, you're not going to put a filter at every tap or drinking water and common sense tells you not to drink out of the toilet anyway. IHA can't guarantee 100 percent protection of any water treatment option, for something going wrong.

So, whatever water treatment option you decide to choose, open your wallets wide.

Mike Simpson
20 years certified water operator for the Village of New Denver was retired

Open letter to Area K director

How many other communities in Area K have a windfall of $1.1 million earning interest while their water treatment plant is waiting to be built?

The $1.1 million has been lying around since 2010, even at a modest rate of 2% interest per year that is $20,000.00 a year for 3 years amounts to $60,000.00. Why can't Faquier access some of that money?

Fauquier is being asked to boil water until the new water treatment plant is built, so it only seems fair and reasonable that Fauquier benefit from the interest as we are the ones being asked to put up with sub-standard water. Does this seem reasonable to you?

I am asking for the whereabouts of the $1.1 million under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The RDCK has 30 days to supply the answer as long as I am willing to pay the fee associated to getting a copy. If I cannot afford the fee, the document/record is to be made available for me to view or the fees can be waived.

The answer shall include but not be limited to, the financial institution's name, type of holding, date started, interest rate per annum, principal started with, fee for copy if applicable. If you are unable or unwilling to supply the info please forward to someone within the RDCK that can, time is of the essence.

Debbie McAulay
Fauquier

CRT review process was a sales pitch

The CRT Review Team maintains that Basin residents feel the Treaty should continue with negotiated improvements. The facts however are quite different. The Treaty Continues option was slaughtered in the two polls that we know of, the June 4 Review Team’s Sounding Board meeting and the June 15 technical workshop in Fauquier, where 34 of the 75 - 90 attendees voted by show of hands for notifying the US of Termination of the Treaty. At the Sounding Board, a group that included reps from all over the basin, Treaty Continues received 0 votes, Treaty Termination, 2 votes, Treaty Plus 15 votes; Treaty Modified, a choice added by the board, 2 votes.

These results are not surprising: Faquier being part of an area most damaged and depopulated by the Treaty, with the Sounding Board members being involved in trying to understand the negative impacts of the Treaty.

Treaty Continues did so badly at these conferences that at the July 5 Sounding Board meeting, the Ministry of Energy asked that Treaty Termination be suspended as a choice from the core mandate. The Sounding Board agreed to this as a temporary measure in order to allow the discussion to be driven by the previous defined Treaty Plus Modified options. At these lively breakouts sessions were heavily slanted toward seeking environmental improvements and habitat protection in conjunction with the commercial purposes of the Treaty.

July 5 was originally planned to be the final Sounding Board meeting, but after 3 1/2 months of not receiving the meeting transcript or the breakout session results, some SB members complained to the Ministry of abandoning what might have been a productive initiative. So another SB meeting was set up to coincide with the final scheduling next March.

The SB at its first meeting identified the problem of how the Treaty Termination procedure was interpreted from Section XIX of the Treaty. The Ministry jointed the SB do not have a correct opinion of the legal intent or effect of “ten years written notice.”

The Ministry prefers to engage in inventory reporting on how to improve the advanced needed improvements to the Treaty.

The public review process was further hampered by evasive responses to legitimate concerns respectfully submitted by members of the public and the SB. Questions about sedimentation infill, dam leakage and safety, reductions in the operating range of Arrow Recon, conversion of HKD to a rim-of-river facility under the Treaty, geological risk factors, and reservoir obstruction planning were routinely ignored or referred to BC Hydro’s public relations wing.

No one should be surprised that Basin residents are not going to keep quiet on any of the issues surrounding the Columbia River Treaty. We will keep hammering on them for as long as it takes. You can help. The Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition is a registered Society. We have an account at Kootenay Savings, Nakusp Branch, Account Number 1475938. All contributions, no matter how small, will be warmly accepted.

Ed McGinnis, CBRC Sounding Board Fauquier

Keeping farmers

Today the people of our province are presented with changes to our Water Act and Agriculture Land Reserve.

Have been farming for 50 years on the farm my grandfather settled in 1885. I have been farming to raise the means to farm, the management of our forests, fishing and mining. All are managed with a boom and bust mentality.

The most important step in water sustainability, as everyone knows, is protection of our watershed.

I am adding this statement in repetition to the thousands made through the years and to the fact that nothing is being done about it. I am a member of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association and the lack of documentation from hydrologists and others as to this mismanagement.

Also there is a growing concern in our province about food security as well as other concerns, all which together are tied.

Protecting our farmland is very important. The ALR does not solve a deeper problem.

There is nothing stopping wealthy people buying up farm land and not farming it. How nice to have a country estate and keep it like a park! This kind of land dealing has raised land values out of reach of farming.

In the next 20 years, 70% of the nation’s farmland will change hands.

Farmers do not live forever, and most farm kids do not choose to carry on the family farm.

There is an easier generation of young Canadians motivated to farm instead of texting all day long.

But you say very few will be able to secure it without help. I have noticed that this problem is not just in Canada nor the USA.

Richard Caneill
Red Mountain Road

Peaceful candlelight vigil ignored by Interior Health Authority (IHA)

200 people attended a peaceful candlelight vigil in front of the Provincial Building in Kaslo, on a cold November 12 night. The reason: IHA’s participation at the Kaslo village council meeting. Fortunately, one of our concerned citizens set up a speaker so we could hear the “facts” from the meeting inside while we stood outside in the cold.

IHA’s two representatives brought with them, arrived early before the vigil was scheduled, and after the meeting lasted through a side exit door. Apparently all this was arranged to avoid meeting with concerned citizens. (They need security?) IHA portrays Kaslo as “hostile” and this hostility they say is one of the reasons that we have no doctors. (Kasio is hostile?)

Before IHA, Kaslo has never had a problem with attracting doctors here. (My own personal physician left Kaslo “because of IHA and all the red-tape and paperwork.”)

IHA accused us of “outraging” emergency health services! Perhaps in the future we can all schedule our accidents and illnesses one month in advance.

IHA still has never answered our mayor Greg Lay’s question, “If we hire our own doctor in Kaslo, will they be able to use the hospital?”

If our close emergency room cannot be made available only with care, but negatively impact our local economy in many ways, including the loss of jobs of nurses and health care workers.

Kaslo is no farther ahead in terms of sensible health care than one year ago. The current plan is to close the 24/7 emergency coverage and provide “care” 9 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday, effective January 2014. (That’s right, next year please schedule your medical emergencies during business hours.) In the end, I have never seen so many defeated, disappointed people of all ages in one place. We were cold, we were weary and we were completely ignored. After standing outside for two hours we were left with a promise that things will now actually be worse. Is IHA’s agenda really about health care? And Who is in charge of our health care system? Make up your own mind and perhaps we can stop this insanity that is sure to spread across Canada to all our rural communities. Personally, I believe our best option is for Kaslo & Area to begin the process of hiring our own doctor and clinic. It’s time to forget empty IHA promises and come together as a community. Believe by working together we can forge a great, vibrant health care system.

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Kaslso's ER cancelled

Andrew Nunnor, Vice President Community Integration, LH: I listened to your and Dr. Jenny Eltham's presentation canceling our ER through a loudspeaker, as I stood outside the Kasaibo building in the dark, holding a candle. And as I listened to your professional and quietly sleek delivery, I realized that your mandate was not to deliver healthcare services to the population of interior BC, but only to those persons who lived in a density that was 'cost effective.' So you talked about the 80% of ER visits that were coded 4 or 5 (not needing the attention of anyone more professional than a care aide) I wondered about the other 20%. 500 people live north of Kaslo, most of them 45 minutes to an hour's drive away. We've been written off.

It costs more to deliver healthcare to rural areas, and that's a given. But by making your decisions based on models that don't apply, you have not only created a bad situation for those of us affected by your continual health cuts, but you have created a bad situation for yourselves - you think that you can ignore information in the group, when this same information is treated as a symptom of disease. This is bad medicine.

What is needed is a solution and then working toward it (which was the case by closing the Kaslo Hospital ER) why would you not use the information presented in the Report (for one) to help us out? What we need is 24 hours a day in the Kaslo Hospital to help people who need medical attention right away.

It was clear from your remarks to council where you felt the real problem lay - with the physicians. These people who won't stay off 250 hours a week who aren't practitioners who want to make a high six figure income, just like IHA executives. The reason we don't have 24/7 healthcare in Kaslo is because you people stated the problem in such a way as to exclude that outcome.

By refusing to renew the contracts of physicians who refused to work ER, we lost our daytime physican. Earn your salary by finding the compromise and work for us, not against us.

The problem here is simple and won't go away: We need to have staff available at our healthcare centre 24 hours a day. It doesn't need to be a doctor, a nurse or same practitioner would be adequate. Please redefine the problem in terms of providing service to everyone instead of 95% of us. I think you will find that the answers are already there.

Harvey Armstrong
Johnson's Landing
Royal commission on Lennox Creek Spill

I write concerning the NE 138th Valley Voice article entitled "RCRK works on spill prevention." Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan is quoted as saying "The major problem we had was communications..." and actually goes so far as to suggest that, if lack of cell phone service was not responsible for the spill, that lack grossly exaggerated its effects. Mr. Swan's explanation of events simply does not bear scrutiny. The Lennox Creek F.S.R. was and remains wide and stable enough for a heavy truck (over which the tanker had been driven in May 2002) to have driven the driver's approximate 20-minute "hike" from where he rolled the truck brought him within shooting distance of two houses and five minutes further walk of many more. Mr. Swan's inexcusable suggestion that the driver was unable to report the accident until three hours after it occurred is a grossly irresponsible lack of information provided to the public that the built of the tanker's 35,000 liters of high grade kerosene gushed into Lennox Creek within 20 minutes of the accident, something even the most immediate report of the accident could not have prevented.

Mr. Swan's preoccupation with wireless communications simply serves to avoid questioning how the situation was created in the first place. Emergency preparedness is a utopia, but avoiding circumstances conducive to creating emergencies is even better. Once upon an idle time, rather than contacting a company to another person and with which was directly responsible for, and actively overwork, forest fire suppression. The local summer crew from Valleyfield crew camp (closed in 2007), would have been fighting the fire. If helicopter fuel was needed, it would have been prepared, and major adventageive by an experienced driver familiar with local roads.

Instead, an attempt to deal with one emergency, a wildlife, created a greater and ultimately more destructive secondary emergency. Private contractors balance their bottom line against paying due care and attention to what is, after all, their own backyard. Our environment is what we get to keep, what we are left with and live with, and its care cannot be contracted out to the lowest bidder.

I have not seen any report from Executive Flight Centre, the RCK, the IHA, the Ministry of Environment, or any other agency, on why the spill occurred, what the cleanup cost was, how "clean up is, on water quality, fish and other wildlife mortality, and any future plans for monitoring, and clean up. It is fairly clear that the RCK and IHA did not know what they were dealing with and that the highway closure and evacuation of the evacuees and accompanying rumor were uncalculated for and unnecessary.

The 3-hour lag has now become a 4-month lag and the communication problem continues. In my opinion, the Valley deserves appointment of a Royal commission to inquire into the background circumstances which led to the spill and the adequacy and appropriateness of government responses.

Patricia McGrail Slocan

To the CRT Review Team

We, citizens of the Columbia basin who are nobodies, are in a sense perpetually in bondage to BC Hydro. Wishing to be blunt and honest, I often think of the power organization as the BC Hydro, which has homes and financial stability in its group, and is blandly threatening the planet with a Great Canyon of the Columbia that might extend from (what was once) Revelstoke, BC to Portland, Oregon.

Now I am nobody in particular, but I do have a degree in geology, have worked in a number of mining situations, have had fellowships in ecology, and have lectured in several universities on holistic implications of ecology. I also worked as a geologist at the Duncan Dam where I located and advised of the faults that would be found in tunnel paths, which needed two-stage grouting, etc.

I think it a fact that people refer to the Columbia River Treaty as a water treaty made to last and will probably not escape the cosmic treaties that could be part of a committee approach to writing out the cosences of people whose homes and assets of all kinds are exposed to technological bombing that will provide a rubber stamp for continental mismanagement.

It has been tiring being with the vicissitudes of Little Chief Side for many years. The slide has been postulated by the late Tom Thompson, expert on earth fill dams, as capable of wiping out Mica dam. If the slide came down and caused a wave to overflow the dam for thirty seconds, he said, the damn would collapse. This would, in his words, cause a "catastrophe of continental proportions." Such a catastrophe would engulf all the dams downstream, the Columbia, and would lead to flooding upstream on the Snake River, and taking out ice Harbor dam, thereby leaving Lewiston, Idaho to the ravlessness of technological mismanagement.

A widely accepted and probably accurate view held in Revelstoke is that the countryside might be demolished by a dam collapse and the public left to pay for the blundering of corporations.

The general decay of society now stems from rationalization that fails to recognize our absolute dependence on planetary control.

It is sad that our politicians are not aware that we are in the final stages of war-time deficiency, the three collapse areas identified by Malinovski some 200 years ago.

Hope that the committee recognizes that now of the river generation could provide adequate power and the Mica Dam must be removed. As a citizen of America should be removed, because in fact, technology is in need of massive control.

Incidently a recent issue of the Manchester Guardian (April 10th, 2013) contained an article referring to global warming with the headline: "Scientists say only 30 years to calamity unless we act."

When I worked for Montreal Engineering at the Duncan Dam I frequently heard the same J.K. Sexton, chief engineer for MECO (as Montreal Engineering was known) Mr Sexton was quoted for his observation that the sandy soils that the lake created had the water of Lake Murray could dry up the lake or our stored water. But, after the Treaty is gone we can name our price for any requests they make. We can’t hold back all the water, they will just have to manage it themselves.

The effects of the current CRT goes beyond the reservoir area. Canada supplies the US with water (at no charge) that is used to the detriment of Canadian agriculture.

Renegotiating the Columbia River Treaty

Water from the Columbia River is stored behind the first dam on the American side, the Grand Coulee. This water does not go through any turbines and is unused in any farmland. It is used in vast areas of Washington desert where there is a thriving agricultural industry.

In the 1980s Washington apple production was threatened by the lack of water. Now it is 30 times, with proposals to increase the irrigated acreage. Cheap Washington fruit is killing the BC fruit industry. In recent years our production has gone down. BC farmers operate until a year of low prices for their produce puts them out of business. Everything is affected from cherries to potatoes to corn.

Without the CRT the Grand Coulee would have to be used for flood control and less water would be available for irrigation. The CRT requires Canada to store and supply the US with 15.5 million acre feet of water per year. 3 million acre feet a year are used for production. That leaves 12.5 million acre feet which could produce $80 million of electricity, which is what we should receive for it. The US share is the benefit they receive from agriculture.

Money received for irrigation water should be put in a BC Agricultural Trust to make us self-sufficient in food production.

While we have trouble taming a small boat on the reservoir, cruise ships sail the lower Columbia. Oceangoing ships to 369 ft long can dock in Lewiston, Idaho. Ships and barges carry 12 million tonnes of freight annually from this port. By using barge transport rather than rail about 12% of all freight that the US wants more water in summer for navigation. This will drain our reservoirs of a water supply. If they don’t get it they will ask for more. We will not get additional water and we will benefit navigation. What is our share of the benefit here? Or, should we just tell them to go to hell?

We are ungrateful to share benefits they should be reminded what life would be like without a treaty.

Ed Zak Nakop

Open Letter to Bill Bennett Min. in Charge CRT Review

The Columbia River Treaty (CRT) is under review. Let’s not forget our ecosystems. The river is flooded from the border to the same latitude on both sides and US wants more water. The first thing we should do is give them a NO to future water demands.

British Columbia is right to keep the Treaty and to seek improvements within its existing framework. Certainly all downstream US benefits must be accounted and the value created shared equitably between the two countries.

The US, June 27, 2013 CRT working draft states, if agreement is not reached by summer 2014 they will consider other options including as starting with a clean slate. That means negotiating a new treaty, with requests for enhanced water flows in the summer. You know what negotiating with Americans is like. They can’t agree among themselves. This favors fish and wildlife and has been their government down for 2 weeks. Powers, which sells our electricity to the US decided to pay a $370 million fine rather than pursue a court case we would be liable for $5 billion.

They should be held to negotiate within the CRT for fair payments for benefits they already receive before anything else is considered. If they do not want fair payments they should go without. No negotiations within the Treaty, No Treaty post 2024.

The next 10 years will be hard for us. We will be receiving the paltry Canadian Entitlement (310 million in 2012) and there is no way to increase that with our stored water. But, after the Treaty is gone we can name our price for any requests they make. We can’t hold back all the water, they will just have to manage it themselves.

The effects of the current CRT goes beyond the reservoir area. Canada supplies the US with water (at no charge) that is used to the detriment of Canadian agriculture.
Smart meter class action expands to include commercial accounts

by Art Joyce

You can push people just so far before they resist. When Jessica Klein, owner of Hampered Crafted Organic Farm in Marleau, learned that BC Hydro’s opt-out plan didn’t include commercial customers, she took action. As a result, BC Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) has added businesses to the class action lawsuit aiming to win lower rates and a bigger share of the proceeds, with lead plaintiff for commercial accounts.

The initial class action suit was filed by CST in July. According to CST, “many doctors, dentists, organic farmers and others concerned about the microwave radiation emitted constantly by the smart meters have asked for an exemption similar to that being offered to residential customers.” FortisBC is offering an opt-out to their commercial customers, but BC Hydro is demanding that for businesses, a condition of having power acceptance is the acceptance of their wireless device.

The film Take Back Your Power, a documentary by Josh del Sol on smart meters, was shown at the Ellis Galleria November 21 and has been screening at locations across the province. In it, one beekeeper testifies that after he received a smart meter all his bees died. European studies such as that done by German scientist Ulrich Wirkle have reported similar effects. Other studies have noted effects on plant life as well. For organic farmers such as Klein this is too great a risk to take as their livelihoods are at stake.

Many local residents have been wondering how to respond to the latest round of phone calls and letters from BC Hydro. BC Hydro has also been put on notice that by communicating with opt-out customers by letter or phone they are illegally interfering with the class action. Once entering into litigation, communication must only be through lawyers representing the parties involved. CST director Sharon Noble sees this as an attempt to undermine the class action by browbeating customers into accepting a smart meter.

“We continue to strongly recommend that no one sign the form sent by Hydro—at least three times—to all of us with analogs,” says Noble. “By signing it you are entering into a new contract with Hydro and agreeing to accept their terms.”

Noble emphasizes that while the BC government issued an order-in-council compelling the BC Utilities Commission to proceed with the僅cut-off program, this does not give Hydro the right to terminate service if the customer refuses.

Noble also emphasizes that while BC Hydro has cut power to commercial properties, the decision was made by the Commission and not Hydro. “The Commission is supposed to have independent authority, not to be controlled by the Hydro corporation.”

Former Kootenay resident on speaking on daughter’s kidnaping

by Art Joyce

It’s the kind of nightmare no parent wants to contemplate unless forced to – the kidnaping of their child. But for Loretta Stewart, that nightmare came true in August 2007 when her daughter Amanda lost contact with her family. Stewart was trying to work as a freelance journalist in Somalia. Stewart rose to the challenge, working with RCMP negotiators and private security to negotiate the release of her daughter after a harrowing 46 days. Stewart will be speaking about her experience at Mary Hill on the Kootenay Natural Park November 27 at 7:30 pm.

Stewart was living in Kabul when the crisis erupted and was forced to return to Canada. The negotiations were long and complex, which was made more difficult by Stewart’s position while working as a freelance journalist in Somalia. Stewart rose to the challenge, working with RCMP negotiators and private security to negotiate the release of her daughter after a harrowing 46 days. Stewart will be speaking about her experience at Mary Hill on the Kootenay Natural Park November 27 at 7:30 pm.

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Nakusp council pursues Columbia Basin broadband

by Art Joyce

• Mayor Hamling reported at council’s meeting of November 12 that council is working with CST Broadband Initiative officer Richard Wiel to identify which Village buildings to link to the system. The initiative will offer secure, 100 megabyte-per-second high speed access.

• The finalized letter about the boat ramp to the Comptroller of Water Rights from Mayor Hamling was provided for council’s information. The letter seeks assurances from the Water Comptroller that “the current process to re-build the Nakusp Boat Ramp will result in a ramp that maintains year-round access to the reservoir at all water levels.” Mayor Hamling states in the letter that the current plan is to build the ramp to a level adequate for summer access only, despite the fact that the Water Comptroller had made it clear to BC Hydro in 2013 that the ramp should be extended to 20.5 metres, which would provide year-round access. She also points out that during the 2007 Water Use Planning process identified a summer “recreation window” to be used as a basis for ramp elevation proposals for Edgewater, Fauquier, Burton and MacDonald Creek, Nakusp’s boat ramp was not subject to this window because the existing ramp provided year-round access.

• Councillor Mueller reported on the Resource Recovery Committee meeting of November 7, noting potential shortcomings in the proposed new MMBC recycling plan and the need to allow for funds to address some of these deficiencies. $30,000 has been set aside for next year’s hazardous waste, plus funding calculated in principle for the next three years. Mueller attended the dedication ceremony for the new Tom Fujibayashi sculpture, calling it “a beautiful addition to the waterfront walkway.”

• Councillor Zielenski reported by remote link that the Community Forest (NACFOR) is not logging at present but has finalized a location for its log storage yard next to the Village works yard, between Airport Way and Hot Springs Road. NACFOR hosted a workshop on November 22 exploring ways of utilizing the local wood supply for various value-added manufacturing. The new NACFOR website recently went online. (http://nakuspcommunityforest.com)

• Councillor Hughes reported that the Recreation Commission had awarded all but one of the grants requested. The local youth society is active again and looking for new volunteer opportunities except for the water and sewer treatment projects. Reserve funds must be tapped into, as the contingency fund for these projects has been used up. Richards stated that the Village will not have to go into debt to cover the shortfall. The microhydro license has arrived and the Village expects to be producing power in two weeks, reducing electricity costs. The arena roof was repaired this year rather than replaced, buying time for the Village to apply for infrastructure grants to complete the work. The Kenzleau bridge and employee purchases were all on budget. Council agreed to send a letter to Premier Christy Clark in support of the Southern Interior Butter Action Coalition’s (SIBAC) Rural BC Project. The letter specifically requests that the Premier appoint a cabinet minister with a portfolio dedicated to the interests of rural BC and that the Province consider adopting a “rural lens” when making decisions that would impact rural British Columbians.

• Council passed first and second readings of an amendment to Zoning Bylaw 614-2006, removing two contiguous classes regarding the grade of sub-divisions and minimum allowable floor space for dwellings. The amendment must be advertised before going to third reading.

• Councillor Hughes reported that the replacement of the roof at the Cedar Chalets would not be done this year due to unavailability of the contractor, so the capital funding will be deferred to next year. The Village has officially taken possession of the Cedar Chalets.

• Council agreed to post a Request for Proposals for the management of the Village campground, as the current managers will not be continuing next year.

Nakusp Business Retention and Expansion Project report presented

by Art Joyce

Challenges facing rural communities in this economy, Nakusp is doing well. That was the basic message delivered by Nakusp Business Retention and Expansion (BRAED Project director Vivien Broom. - like many rural communities Nakusp is facing a number of challenges.

For employers it indicates that 84 percent of their employees were skilled/ professional, so this is a hard to reconcile with employers commenting the lack of skilled workers.

When the music festival shut down, it wiped out a lot of the peak season in Nakusp. Yet 33 percent of businesses are stable with 43 percent saying it’s increasing. About 24 percent see a decline. "It would be nice to get to down to zero but it’s encouraging to see that 4 out of 10 employers are stable or growing,” said Broom.

Barriers to business expansion seemed to focus primarily on telecommunications—only a minority within the region have access to fibre optic high-speed broadband. That should be remedied once the Village of Nakusp receives service from the Columbia Basin Trust broadband initiative. Ferry service was another barrier cited by 86 percent of businesses. Only 20 percent of employers considered zoning and location as a substantial barrier.

Some in the audience were surprised at how positive the report was, given the negative buzz in the community regarding the arrival of large-scale employers. Others were impressed by the loyalty of the business community to Nakusp. The issue of people shopping in larger urban centres such as Kelowna and Vernon wasn’t addressed as a metric for the study but often showed up in respondents’ comments.

During Tiesing’s workshop component, the audience was asked to rate importance in first to third the recommendations in the report. The top two were recruitment initiatives, business expansion and training opportunities. However, some courses at Selkirk College have gone unadvertised, meaning better communication between employers, employees and training institutions. For recruitment, it was suggested that businesses try to promote job opportunities, that the chambers, job boards and also be posted at the Visitor Centre and high school. For business expansion, the board for an industrial park was noted, as well as efforts by Nakusp Council towards development such as the expanding arts and cultural sector in the community.
Streamkeepers releases Slocan Valley watershed report

by Art Joye

Slocan River Streamkeepers has released an extensive report on the conditions of our watershed in the Slocan Valley, authored by Verena Shaw. The jet fuel spill in Lemon Creek in July emphasizes the value of the group’s monitoring program, which includes baseline data starting in 2005, although monitoring of water quality and benthic invertebrates has been done in the valley since the late 1990s. The data raises some concerns about the health of the watershed, says Streamkeepers microbiologist Jennifer Yew.

“Tragically, it’s a bit premature to draw any conclusions from the study even though it went on for five years, because often with these kinds of studies they raise more questions than they answer. You find something that looks like an anomaly and you have to do further testing to see what it is and where it’s coming from.”

The anomaly she refers to is the noise with the health and diversity of the benthic invertebrate population.

Celebrating Hanukkah at the Silverton Gallery

Submitted

It’s again time to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights (and miracles), a holiday that started more than 2,000 years ago. From 167-165 BC in ancient Judea, Jewish commoners fought and then won back their holy temple and their independence, outting the fearsome Seleucid occupying army. On the day of re-dedication, the flames in the temple’s lamp miraculously stayed lit for eight days, though there was only oil enough for one day of light.

The miracle of the tinysting flame, Hamúkka, is observed for eight days and nights all over the world each December, by lighting candles gathering with family and celebrating. For the third year running, the Silverton Gallery on December 3 will host an exciting celebratory evening of food, entertainment and dancing, all for ages, in honour of Hanukkah. And by the way, you don’t have to be Jewish or religious to be part of the fun!

Admission for the concert is $10/adult, $5/child, or $25 family, sold at the door only. Doors open at 6:30; the concert starts at 7. Info at www.silvertongallery.ca.

This year the gallery staff is thrilled to present a five-piece band with a great repertoire of danceable Jewish music, including Hanukkah classics, Klezmer, Sephardic and Israeli songs, some of which have been re-discovered and arranged by Allan Merovitz, a legend in Canadian Klezmer circles. Merovitz, who has based in Calgary, has recorded and toured North America and Europe with top Klezmer and Yiddish groups, and has headed up his own band, KlezMerovitz. He has been nominated for a Juno, and won a CBC Enigies-Goldie award with his group Merovitz Project, in Montreal. An experienced stage actor and storyteller, Merovitz will play the role of raconteur, and tell the story of the First Hanukkah in Canada, as experienced by Aaron Hart, a German Jewish immigrant who fought with the British in the 18th century, and then built a fur trading empire in Upper Canada. The Nelson Hanukkah Ensemble has come together with Merovitz for a mini-tour of the West Kootenays. The ensemble includes clarinetist Nicola Everton, artistic director of the Kootenay Gallery concert series who has taught at the Valhalla Summer School of Music. Bass player Rob Fakie has toured internationally with high profile Canadian artists and has performed at some of North America’s most prestigious jazz venues.

Bandleader and accordionist Catherine McGrath is a well-known folk musician and broadcaster in the West Kootenays. She was a founding member of Nelson’s Heavy Shetel, a klezmer and traditional jug band, Castle Annie, The Crooked Corral, a western swing group, and Kootenay Krautband, an old-time dance band. Jovan Wallis on dounbock is an up-and-coming percussionist.

Now, about the food: There will be a concession with treats, coffee and tea. Catered Madeleine is taking reservations for a pre-show sit-down dinner at 6 pm, which includes latkes, salad and spelt chocolate mocha cake. Price is only $7 adults, and $5 kids. For reservations call 250-358-2475, or contact madeleine@vwc.org. Tickets for the meal will be sold at Rattabagas, the Mercado and Silverton Building Supplies.

The report concludes by advising further investigation of benthic invertebrates at the two Slocan River sites and sediment analyses of heavy metals at the site a half-kilometre south of Slocan above the gravel pit bridge. Water monitoring is supported by the Columbia Basin Trust through its Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) grant.

“What the report is saying in summary is not to be too alarmed by what we’re seeing here but it is worth investigating further,” concluded Yew.

Hatched in a redit (gravel) nest, BULL TROUT fry live in that stream 1-2 years, then migrate downstream to Slocan Lake where they feed on kokanee and Rainbow for 2-3 years before spawning Bull Trout live up to 20 years and spawn many times.

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Slocan council, November 12: Liability concerns at beach and boat launch

by Barbara curry Mcalusty

A survey of the Village beach and boat launch in September, done at the request of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC, noted a number of liability concerns: the ramp to the breakwater dock is rotting; there are no signs warning against swimming near or driving off the breakwater; the wood pylons in the swimming area are both rotting and too high to jump off safely, and the patrols on them encourage jumpers; fluctuating water levels and the possibility of underwater hazards around the swim raft make diving from it unsafe. Recommendations were made – the most expensive was to replace the ramp to the breakwater, estimated at $20,000-$40,000 by the CAO. Councillor Dillie felt there would be less expensive options. Regarding the recommendation to remove the ladders from the pylons, cut the pylons down to a shorter height or remove them completely, Mayor Perriere said, “This is a sad one” because the kids love jumping from it. Council decided to discuss these matters more thoroughly during 2014 budget discussions.

• CAO Jack Richardson reported that the Village provided the Unity Festival with $8,110 worth of in-kind services. However, he added that some of this work, such as preparing the beach for summer use, would have been done anyway.

• In a separate matter, Council considered a request from the Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance for in-kind support of a different kind for the 2014 festival – provisions of a high voltage wire and transformer at the beach. Village staff estimated it would cost more than $10,000 to upgrade the wire size, install additional poles and transformers, and pay legal fees for the overhead trespass (if the line went over CP Rail property). Although council generally feels power at the beach is a good idea, it felt it would be premature to invest at this time since the Village has not settled on an overall plan for the waterfront. Councillor Patterson requested that Council discuss the waterfront at the next COW meeting.

• Council directed staff to contact the Village would “have to come up with something” more in the future as the creek was gradually moving over to the beach. The library board was given permission to shine one of the library’s security lights on the Canadian flag flying by the cenotaph. Mayor Perriere noted that with the cenotaph now on the grounds of the Wellness Centre, that area “will become the town square.” She said the Legion wants to have flowers there, and benches there.

• Councillors Jessica Lum and Patricia Mcgrail will sit on the Western Slocan Owl Community. Council was informed that they had signed up for the committee. Draft terms of reference for the committee were amended.

• Councillor Jean Patterson reported that the Food Security Committee had disbanded, but before doing so had created a Food Charter that it would like the Villages of Slocan, Silverton and New Denver to adopt.

• Mayor Perriere reported that the Slocan council, November 12: Liability concerns at beach and boat launch

by Barbara curry Mcalusty and Jan McMurray

Previous consideration at the Library was once more the tinder for fiery speeches at the Slocan council meeting.

At the November 12 council meeting, Councillor Patricia Mcgrail revealed that a complaint had been made about the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC), and the OIPC had determined that the complaint was unfounded.

Copies of the complaint letter and the OIPC’s response were provided to the Valley Voice representatives. The complaint contained the following elements:

• The complainant, Michelle Morelli, gave the Valley Voice the copy of OIPC’s response.

Morelli states in her complaint letter that she believes McGreel inappropriately disclosed private information when she told a library volunteer about the contents of an information package marked “Confidential: Do Not Copy.” The information packages, submitted to the Slocan Village office and distributed to all members of council, contained a complaint about the conduct of the library volunteer while engaged in library duties. McGreel has confirmed publicly, both in the OIPC report and in a letter to the Valley Voice, that she informed the volunteer of the nature of the complaint.

The OIPC response explains that McGreel’s disclosure of this information to the volunteer is not in violation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). First, volunteers are considered “employees” under the Act, and thus any records they create in that regard are covered by the FIPPA. Second, under FIPPA, “individuals typically have a right of access to any portions of records containing opinions or observations as to their character. In the OIPC response, the investigator states: “Although I have determined that the complainant’s complaint is unfounded, as a result of my investigation I believe that if the Village had provided its staff and volunteers with some understanding as to the requirements of the FIPPA, this investigation may not have occurred... Further, if the Village staff knew how it should proceed when access requests or complaints made by members of the public, this matter may have been resolved without a complaint being made to the OIPC.” The investigator recommends that the Village establish clear policies and guidelines for a process to be followed when a request for records or a complaint is received that would fall within the requirements of FIPPA; that the Village develop a training package regarding FIPPA for staff, volunteers and council members; and that the Village develop a policy around confidentiality in accordance with the requirements of FIPPA.

At the council meeting, Councillor McGreel quoted parts of the OIPC investigator’s report and the public showed two motions, which both passed by unanimous vote. The first was to have staff draft FIPPA policies. The second was to have staff ask OIPC about training programs for staff, volunteers, and elected officials on the requirements of the FIPPA.

Councillor McGreel said, “Although the allegation was made very public for a prolonged period, the resolution of it has been kept very quiet, giving the impression that there is no ill will or intention on my part.”

This statement raised the ire of Michelle Morelli. During public participation, Morelli stated that the “lack of communication” in the FIPPA referred to had occurred because the volunteers at the library “had moved on.” She said that the new library board requires volunteers to “sit down and talk to a person.” Morelli observed that McGreel had selected a few quotes from a five-page report, and that the investigator had said “a lot of surprising things.”

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For more information contact: Karl Klugman at 250-352-3147 or carol@kklugman.ca

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Community

Lynda Laidlaw at Columbia Basin Trust to ask about CBT coordinating or facilitating a meeting with other municipalities where a major industry has closed.

• Council will request that the Slocan Valley Historical Society look into options, such as potential sites, for housing a prehistoric museum in Slocan.

• Council gave first and second reading to a Special Events Bylaw. Councilors Lisa and Patricia Mcgrail were opposed. Lum said saying that the fees should be reduced to ten percent of what they were and that it was “too much below” at a time when we should be encouraging more community... involvements. Council adopted the Donation of Gifts Policy and ratified the Social Media Policy. The Village consented to the amalgamation of four transit services in the RDCK, which will make a more efficient system. Transit service to the Slocan Valley will not change.

• Council discussed the 2013 Spring Creek Campground Operator’s Report submitted by Helena Rainey. Rainey called it “a sensational year.” Revenue were $5,400 higher than expected. Expenditures were also up, $3,500 higher than expected, but this was largely due to additional payments due Rainey because of the higher revenues. (The contract stipulates the operator receive 50 percent of revenues earned over $14,500.) Special events caused special problems, though. The skateboarding event went smoothly and barrier, lumbering other campers, and the campground lost money on the Unity Festival. Rainey submitted suggestions for ways the campground could work more successfully with the special events participants. Tim Hill said that next spring the Public Works Department will install a woodshed in the tennis area and low-voltage lights along the trail to the tent sites. Council voted to renew Rainey’s contract for 2014.

• Tim Hill, Public Works Supervisor, reported that all was well at the park now that the roads that had come down the gorge had been removed. Things “should be good for several years.” Hill said, noting that

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One Day Only – Saturday, November 30
• 30% off Ladies wear (excluding undergarments) & Fashions (min. $50 m o n t) • 20% off All Yarn • 10% off All Dollar Store Items

Open 9 am to 5:30 pm

Re-Awakening Health Centre
Happy Holidays!
Lots of Stocking Stuffers! Gifts under $30 • Bath Products • Jewelry • Glow in the Dark Buddhas • Sexual Products
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Celebration of Light
Downtown Merchants’ Sales Madness Day
Great deals throughout the downtown Saturday, November 30

Enter to win one of two $200 Gift Certificates. Drawn November 30 at the Park!

SHOP LOCAL!

Make a purchase at any participating Downtown Merchant between December 2 and December 20 for a chance to win a $600 Gift Box. Gift Box on display at Dogsense Boutique.

Nakusp Celebration of Light returns with more fire and lights

by Jan McMurray

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council’s ‘An Evening of Art,’ held November 2 at the Legion, raised over $2,000 for the organization’s ‘Art on the Waterfront’ project.

The project saw the installation of a sculpture by Nakusp area artist of world renown, Tom Fujibayashi, on Nakusp’s Waterfront Walkway.

‘This project’s in response to the directive for public art, which came out of the Cultural Scan done in 2009,’ said ALAC President Marilyn Massey. ‘The arts community of Nakusp has wanted to have one of Tom’s sculptures, which have been acclaimed around the world, for a long time. The community is very excited to have this particular piece. Deepening Peace.’

The idea to install a Fujibayashi sculpture on the waterfront was Janet Royko’s. She got busy applying for grants, and with the assistance of Jan and Tom Fujibayashi, Wendy Dogood and Don Macle, raised $14,000 in grant funding.

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Debra Rushfeldt, Visual Arts Director with ALAC, says, ‘We hope to be able to promote and purchase more public art in the future, and be an active part of growing and supporting a vibrant artistic community both locally and regionally. Our small towns are rich with artistic talent that deserves to be recognized and celebrated.’

‘An Evening of Art’ raises funds for Fujibayashi sculpture in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

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Fabulous Jennifer Chocolates in Nakusp

On Wednesday I found myself on the way to Nakusp to visit JENNIFER CHOCOLATES, a relatively new chocolate factory and store. Some people have all the luck. The place is at 91.4th Ave, Nakusp, just a block off the main drag and tucked out to look like a very inviting place, but first, let’s just look at a little PR piece that Jennifer cowrote.

“Artisan chocolate creations made locally with love. Gourmet dark chocolate truffles come in gorgeous gift boxes. Share the love and give Jennifer Chocolates this holiday!”

I guess she says it way better than I can, but I’ll begin at the beginning, which was for me around 9 Wednesday morning when I walked into Jennifer Chocolates. The moment I walked into the place I was knocked out by its look...thought I was in a friendly upscale art gallery. No kidding. Everywhere I looked were beautiful arrangements of product, mostly chocolates, in eye catching displays. Classy colourful packaging with transparent windows set everything off so I can only describe as an exercise in elegance.

Meet Jennifer Cross! When I opened the door she was right there with her three thousand watt smile brightening up an already well-lit room. This gal is effervescent, and she has something really great going in her chocolate store/art gallery, or maybe it’s a gallery/chocolate store.

Having at one time studied computer science and worked in internet marketing, one day Jennifer decided she’d had just about enough of staring at a computer screen all day. Jennifer is a born artist, and she wanted to apply her talents to food. Specifically chocolate! She reasoned that a kilo of chocolate could keep her creatively busy for two days while baking a cake would only keep her busy for two hours.

She dove directly into the chocolate business. First a professional chocolates program at Ecole Chocolat in Vancouver, then a trip to Torino, Italy, this September to study with Riccardo Maggi. Today by the way is famous for both chocolate and hazelnuts. Jennifer emerged from Torino with flying colours and is now putting her education in ‘chocolateriing’ to wonderful use. Lucky us!

There’s a whole lot to say here, and not enough room, so let’s get going. Chocolate Lovers!

Truffles! Jennifer makes more than 30 kinds of these babies and, of course, she uses only the finest ingredients starting with a mix of chocolate and cream, a little butter and a touch of vanilla. She rolls it in a ball and coats it with cocoa powder then dips it in hard-shell chocolate. She makes them with a coffee bean or sea salt on top, or Grand Marnier inside. Her signature chocolate truffle has white chocolate artfully piped on top, gorgeous! Don’t miss the rum truffle or the hazelnut. These are just a few of over three dozen. Come and get ‘em!

Now it’s time for one of my faves: grappa gold chocolates, aka ‘Grappa Shots’. Jennifer acquired this recipe in Torino. Grappa Shots appear to be innocent little chocolate balls that sparkle with glittering gold and silver powder. Inside is a good measure of grappa, which is an old-fashioned type of Italian over-proof brandy. These little puppies are perfect for those blurry holiday mornings. I had two of them. I want more!

Jennifer makes marzipan and salted caramel from scratch. She’ll probably tell you how if you ask, but be careful with the hot caramel! (a quick interjection here: all you chocolate lovers, get yourselves here. Now!!!) Also on offer at Jennifer Chocolates are cherry bombs! Guess what they look like? They come in a beautiful red box with a ribbon. Of course, everything in Jennifer Chocolates comes in a beautifully crafted box with elegant ribbons.

Get your chocolate truffles here. They have heads and four legs...just like a turtle and are made of chocolate, pecans and homemade caramel. You can also find hot chocolate mix consisting of chocolate, cinnamom and a tiny bit of cayanne. It comes with homemade marshmallows that are actually cute. Jennifer likes her hot chocolate strong, and that’s the way this mix is best to use.

Other products - chocolate bark: hazelnut, almond and blueberry and a half dozen more. Granola clusters, caramel or orange rind dipped in chocolate. Also gift bags. Everything available at Jennifer Chocolate is already exquisitely gift wrapped.

Order online at www.jenniferchocolates.com or simply call Jennifer at 250-265-1799.

Better yet, go there! It’s worth a trip to Nakusp just to experience the chocolate store art gallery called Jennifer Chocolates. It’s easy to find! You’ll be glad you did.

PS: If you want, Jennifer and her employees Pamela O’Neil and Karen Marshall can give you or send you printed information on how good chocolate is for you! It is quite convincing. No wonder those women have such brilliant smiles! Once again my friends, GO THERE!!
Kaslo celebrates Light-Up

The event kicks off with the parade from the Moyie to the top of Front Street. Parade participants are asked to be at the Moyie just before 5 pm. After the parade, the kids will want to line up for Santa’s Workshop at the hotel. The popular scavenger hunt is back, as well, and there will be face painting at Kootenay Lake Computers.

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The Sounds of Winter

Wednesday Dec. 4 5:30PM
The Vagabond Hearts
Buddy’s Pizza (no cover)

Thursday Dec. 5 8 PM
THE LICHENS
Kaslo Hotel (no cover)

Friday Dec. 6 7 PM
CARA LUFT
MICHAEL KEVIN JONES KAREN BEHN
The Kuimba Choir
St. Andrews United Church $30

The Kuimba Choir will appear at the Kaslo Hotel and at St. Andrews United Church.

The Kuimba Choir will appear at the Kaslo Hotel and at St. Andrews United Church.

Kaslo Light-Up

Front Street closed 4 pm - late
- Parade
- Scavenger Hunt
- Santa’s Workshop
- Bonfire
- Kuimba Choir
- and much more!

Kaslo Light-Up

Saturday, December 7

This Sounds like the perfect time to liv

The Kuimba Choir will appear at the Kaslo Hotel and at St. Andrews United Church.

Kaslo and District Chamber of Commerce
New Denver council, November 12: Proposal for opt-out meter reader presented

by Katrine Campbell

- Kip Drobisch and Norbert Durenich appeared as a delegation to talk about their submission asking council for the opportunity for their proposal to BC Hydro. They want BCH to allow New Denver citizens “to organize a system whereby all opt-out meters shall be read by a competent reader,” as the claiming is that a “....could be borne by residents who have opted out of the smart meter program.” Mayor Ann Bunka noted that “it would have been nice if the council knew what we could think about it” and that council had done what it could to argue with BC Hydro’s plan. Councillor Nadine Raymond asked Drobisch and Durenich to get in touch with the number of opt-outs, and to report back to council. They will also submit a formal letter to council with their proposal.

As an email on the same subject from Art Joyce called this area “a community in crisis” and he asked council to advocate for people. He will be advised that there is nothing in writing for the letter from Drobisch and Durenich before it takes any further action.

- Council received a copy of a letter from BC Utilities Commission consumer service specialist Patrick Wreszien to Janet Finser, BC Hydro’s Chief Regulatory Officer. He asked Finser to respond by November 29 to a letter from Mayor Bunka asking for reduced electricity rates for this area until such time as “our lines and equipment are updated and a disruption of the service is avoided.” The letter listed all the outages in 2008 to date, as well as the damages and losses reported by residents and businesses, which ran into thousands of dollars. She will ask BC Hydro whether the surge arrestor installation has started.

- Water rates will rise to $302 per year for residential meters. Those living outside New Denver but hooked up to the Village’s system will pay $423 per year. (This option is no longer available, but those who are on the system have been grandfathered) The average pick-up will cost $149 per year for residences, with each home getting 52 tags in January. Extra tags will cost $3.65 each.

- Councillor Heather Fox reported she participated in an online conference on the Columbia River Treaty. People want climate change, ecosytems, and salmon considered as part of the process. The negotiating team will be provincial and federal; neither local governments nor the Columbia Basin Trust will have a place at the table, but hope to get observer status.

- Mayor Bunka met with YRB and reported the company has two new plow units set up for easy summer/winter conversion, and equipped with ‘Road Watch’ giving the drivers air and road temperatures so they can use the proper solutions. She added that the site was re-straightened; there are now no obstacles on the road. The goals of the YRB is to keep the highway open and maintain the safety of the drivers.

- Bunka, along with Silvertown RDCK Director Leah Main and Area H Director Walter Popoff, met with the TV Society. The society will provide the directors with a breakdown of expenses so they can determine annual operating costs and be able to make an informed decision at budget time. They also discussed an outreach to the community on the society’s service.

- The mayor reported on the RDCK West Resource Recovery on Wednesday. The RWR is being monitored by the Public Health Department.

Community

Merry Christmas from Alex Atamanenko, MP!

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Constituency Office Seasonal Open House

Thursday, December 5

10am to 3pm

337 Columbia Avenue

Castlegar, 250-365-2792

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

Giving Tuesday, December 3

- The perfect antidote to the reckless spending this holiday season

The Osprey Community Foundation and its affiliates invite you to join the worldwide movement to celebrate giving. Be a philanthropist this giving season by making a donation to one of our funds or to your favourite charity.

Please read the accompanying article for contact information.
Silvertown council. November 19: Five percent increase in water rates proposed

by Jan McMurray

• Council will have a third in camera meeting with the Silvertown Gallery executive on November 26 regarding the disposal of the gallery building.

• The draft Water Rates and Regulations Bylaw, proposing a five percent increase in rates in 2014, was referred to the Committee of the Whole. Staff will review the categories and rates and report to the COTW. Last year, $5,000 was transferred from general revenue to the water fund in order to cover the costs of the service. The five percent increase will raise approximately $7,000. The proposed rate for a single family residence is $430, up from $409.50 in 2013.

• The draft Facility Rental Policy was referred to the Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting on December 3. The draft policy requires renters of the Village’s facilities either to have their own liability insurance or to buy it from the Village as part of their rental agreement. Insurance fees through the Village would vary depending on the size and type of event. Councillor Main noted that this would “really impact” renters in some instances, and said she would like to have more discussion. Council agreed to discuss the policy at the next COTW meeting.

• Councillor Main reported that the Food Security Committee had drafted a Food Charter, based on Kelso and New Denver’s. The committee has recommended that the Village of Silvertown adopt the charter, and would like to see New Denver and Slocan adopt it as well, so as to build a unified policy throughout the valley. Council referred this to the Committee of the Whole meeting. Main also reported that the committee would be disbanded if it had not met its mandate of developing a food charter for Silvertown. She said food security was the focus of the Healthy Community Society in the north valley and a group in the south valley, and these two groups were collaborating.

• The mayor, public works and administration staff met with CBT/Water Smart representatives on October 29. The goal of the Water Smart program is to reduce water use by 20 percent by 2015. The public works foreman is working with the Water Smart engineer to measure leakage in Silvertown’s system.

Water Smart will provide the Village with a report that can be used as part of the Water Conservation Audit. The Village will be paid for with a $10,000 contribution from CBT and $5,000 from the Village’s gas tax funding.

• Council agreed to amend the agenda to include four transit services: Nakusp Paratransit, Kaslo Paratransit, Nelson & District Handibus and Kootenay Lake West End Shuttle. Councillor Main explained that the amalgamation would create efficiencies and could provide more hours for drivers. Buses will need to be replaced in 2015, and amalgamation will result in savings for the taxpayers, as the costs will be shared among residents of all four areas.

• Councillor Main reported on the second meeting with the TV Society. Mayor Busk and Director Popoff. She said the society board will develop a budget based on its operational needs only, without a contribution to its reserves, which stand at $50,000. This should result in a decrease in the tax requisition for the society. The society reps also indicated that they will work with the Water Smart engineer to measure leakage in Silvertown’s system.

Join the holiday festivities in Winlaw December 14

by Jan McMurray

Come celebrate the holiday season at a new event in Winlaw this year – the Winlaw Winter Wonderland festival – happening from 10 am to 4 pm on December 14, the same day as the Winlaw Hall Christmas Craft Fair. “We invite everyone to come down to Cedar Creek Gardens and celebrate with us before or after shopping at the fair,” says Colleen Emery of Emery Herball and The Apothecary. “We’ll have some punch and cookies, and sandwiches, and a raffle for a chance to win a gift basket.”

Cedar Creek Gardens, with artisan items, children’s activities and chocolate treats, will be a hit with the kids, too. They’ll have hot chocolate and cookies, and there will be a children’s raffle. There will be a food and wine market on the pedestrian-friendly Cherry Street. The festival will give people a chance to check out the Cedar Creek Gardens storefronts, as well, where they will find all kinds of gift ideas. Gaia Tree will be open and functioning in their new space on the second floor of the building.

There will be a foodie and wine market at the pedestrian-friendly Cherry Street. The festival will give people a chance to check out the Cedar Creek Gardens storefronts, as well, where they will find all kinds of gift ideas. Gaia Tree will be open and functioning in their new space on the second floor of the building.

Event at Cedar Creek Gardens Winlaw Winter Wonderland Saturday, December 14th 10am to 4pm

A fun outdoor family festival with kid activities, games, food, and more! Bring a mug for tea & chai.

GIFT IDEA SALE

- **TELE STEPS COMB® STEP LADDER & 12’ EXT. LADDER / COLLAPSIBLE 3’ STORAGE**
  - **REG $249**
  - **SALE $215**

- **BROIL-MATE BBQ 5 BURNER (60000 BTU) SIDE BURNER**
  - **SALE $436**

- **ERICKSON PROFESSIONAL SERIES RATCHETING TIE DOWN SET 4 PACK 15’**
  - **REG $374**

- **ERICKSON 25 PC ASSORTED BUNJIE TUB**
  - **REG $214**
  - **SALE $186**

- **DE-LUXE ROADSIDE SAFETY KIT Tire SEALER/BUSINESS CARD/STICK & MORE**
  - **REG $479**
  - **SALE $323**

- **WESTERN RUGGED 1-5 LB HATCHET FIBERGLASS HANDLE **
  - **REG $119**
  - **SALE $59**

- **ARTIC ZONE LAUNA SEAT HEATING SEAT CUSHION - STAYS WARM FOR HOURS**
  - **REG $238**

- **THERMOCafe “BY THERMOS” TRAVEL Tumbler Tumbler COMBO DOUBLE WALLED INSULATION STAINLESS STEEL EX**
  - **REG $234**
  - **SALE $146**

- **WINCHESTER OUTDOOR KIT - SURGICAL STAINLESS STEEL FLASK, COMPASS, MATCH CASE, SURGICAL STEEL BLADE WITH STAINLESS STEEL HANDLED KNIFE**
  - **REG $329**
  - **SALE $245**

- **BERNOZMATIC SIMPLE START MULTIPURPOSE PROPANE TORCH KIT**
  - **REG $437**
  - **SALE $371**

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The Valley Voice November 27, 2013

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice November 27, 2013
Kaslo Bay development project plagued with delays

by Jan McMurray

Projects in Kaslo Bay are proceeding much more slowly than developer Bernie Penner would like.

Penner started off in 2008 building his housing development, Kaslo Bay Estates. He then acquired the former Fisherman’s Pub & Grill and the marina adjacent to the Marina Ridge condominiums in April 2013.

“My intent is to concentrate on the construction of the restaurant and marina as I can be offering those services to the purchasers of the Kaslo Bay Estates townhouses,” he said.

In the spring, with investors on board, Penner began to work on the restaurant and pub. His original plan was for minor renovations, and his goal was to have the place open during this year’s visitor season.

Slocan After School Initiative delivers sports activities for kids

Submitted

Since January, the Slocan After School Sports and Art Initiative has been delivering free sports activities to school-aged children from the Slocan and Winlaw areas. In September, an arts component was added to the mix.

So far, more than 60 children have participated since September. Offerings have included dance, pottery, soccer and Frisbee, jewellery making and gymnastics. New activity, floor curling, is being introduced to teach kids an indoor version of the classic Canadian game of curling. This equipment is now available for use by the community including seniors and people with mobility issues.

Other equipment purchases now being used in the school are floor hockey pucks, tennis rackets, soccer balls and cross country skis.

Penner says he discussed all requirements with the Village, and it was determined that a Development Variance Permit was in place, so he applied for a building permit.

“We were working on the building permit from the day we started construction, and we were first in line to get the bar open by early summer,” he said.

However, as his crew began on the minor “cosmetic” alterations to the building, Penner says they discovered major problems such as mould, rot and structural issues. The renovation project became much bigger.

Then, the building inspector informed Penner that he could not issue a building permit until he obtained a Development Variance Permit from the Village.

“We were under the impression that an existing variance was in place, but it wasn’t,” Penner said. At that point, work had to halt. Penner says it will take a few months to get the DVP and building permit in place. He hopes to open the restaurant and bar in summer 2014.

In the meantime, he was able to get some of the site work done, to come into compliance with the Village’s new land use bylaw. He created more parking, and widened and lengthened the roads of the driveway down to the restaurant/pub. He also moved the propane tank away from the building, for safety reasons. The new entranceway to the building will be from the parking lot, which will rectify the problem of people having to cross the condominium and Crown land to get to the establishment.

Meanwhile, Penner is also working on the necessary approvals from the Province to re-design and expand the marina. He estimates it will take a minimum of two years to go through the approval process. In the meantime, Penner says once the

London Taxi Looking for a New Home

My own brought me to Kaslo as a Hotel and Village mascot. I proudly carried the colors of the Hotel and the Village painted on my sides and across my trunk, as I stationed myself in front of my owner’s establishment. I was quite an attraction for Village residents and tourists alike. “Where was I from?” “What was it?” “How did I get to Kaslo from London?” “Who made me?” all sorts of questions as people looked me over, some sat in me, and some got rides. I took incapacitated patrons home, as well as seniors caught in the rain. On one occasion I took an injured motorcycle rider to the ER in Nelson when Kaslo’s ER was out of service.

My owner planned to have me bring pilots and passengers from Kaslo airport into town so they could spend their money here, and more generally enjoy the special place Kaslo is. I only did that a few times, but my owner and I had hoped that those numbers would grow. I was even featured in an article in the national magazine for pilots “COPA FLIGHT.” I was so proud! I was sure I had found a home.

Also, that was not to be. I must have offended some of the Village’s political elite. The Council passed an ordinance against me, and then they asked the RCMP to come and issue me a citation if I did not move. My owner appealed to the Council, pointing out that all across the Province—indeed, across the Nation—hotels have special spaces set aside for courtesy cars and taxis. Why shouldn’t Kaslo have such a space where I could stay? After all, this is BRITISH Columbia, and what is more British than I? But all to no avail, the Council banished me from Front Street. As you all can see, I am a shiny black, like all my cousins in London. My owner refuses to park me on that muddy/dusty alley behind the Hotel. My owner is putting me in storage for the Winter, but if the Council still says I am not welcome in the Spring I will be looking for a new home in a more business friendly place.

Maybe I will be welcome in another Kootenay town, where they appreciate tourists and need a mascot to help brand their product as tourist and visitor friendly. I have a very good pedigree. I was assembled by the London Taxi Company, in the mother country in 2004. I don’t have many miles on my engine, physically new with only 15000. No dents, no dings, leather upholstery still smells new in my 5 passenger rear compartment. I have 2 sets of tires, winter tires and summer, Blockheater, since I once resided in Edmonton, I am economical, with a 4 burner diesel that gets over 30 miles to the (imperial) gallon. My price is only a little bit negotiable.

My owner will only let me go to a good home where I will be appreciated and can be proudly displayed. Maybe New Denver or Nakusp needs a new brand for Tourism. These places have welcomed our bicycle shop and Suffetique, why not a fluffy British taxi—what a trademark I might make. My owner only insists on one other thing—whomever gets me has to take one slightly used “Flights. Welcome to Kaslo” sign. Without me, my owner no longer plans to help pilots to town to spend their money. Besides, he doubts whether the Council or the CAO want any plans funding in Kaslo anyway.

Interested parties please contact the Kaslo Hotel for particulars.

Community

North Valley Huts

"Hazel Hut" Highway 308 RETALLACK OPENING DECEMBER 9th
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X-country skiing, Snowshoeing and Ski-touring nearby

Advertise in the Valley Voice. It pays!!!
Call 358-7218 for details

Social Grants Program

Applications Available

Deadline to submit: January 9, 2014, noon P1/P1.m.PT
For more information, visit www.cbt.org/grsp
For help with your application, contact grants@cbt.org or 1.800.505.8998

Seventy-five thousand dollars is available for projects that demonstrate a significant potential to improve the quality of life in rural British Columbia. Grants range from $5,000 to $15,000. Projects can be submitted by local governments, First Nations, not-for-profit organizations, private business, community groups, and individuals. Applications are due January 9, 2014, noon P1/P1.m.PT.
Kasiol & District
November 12: Fire hall update

by Jan McMurray

• An update on the construction of the new fire hall was given by Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan, Allan MacLeod (architect at Fairbank Architect) and Greg Stone (site supervisor).

Swan said five bids were received and a Kelowwa firm, Encan, was awarded the contract. "Prior to signing, we met with the politicians of Encan and we assured they were committed to hiring local tradespeople and contractors. To date, they've been true to their word," Swan said.

Three Kitsault contractors, one excavator/ operator and Kasiol Electric have been hired. Stone added that they are also trying to purchase locally. The budget for this phase, to look up, was estimated at $645,000 ($640,000). Encan's bid was also for $594,720.

Swan explained that the senior building official had advised him that there was no need to build to post disaster standards, but since then, both a new building code and a new senior building official have come in. The new official has asked that the building be constructed to post disaster standards. The total cost of this upgrade is $7,500, bringing the cost of this phase to $602,720.

Swan indicated that he expected a Request for Quotations to be issued at the end of January for phase two of the project. He explained that contractors responding to RFQs are not obligated to fulfill the bonding and security requirements, "so everyone is on a level playing field, and small and local contractors can be successful." Phone

Kasiol Rainbow Derby, Barren's Sport Shop, & The Kasiol Hotel would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of the following generous sponsors for making the 3rd Annual Kasiol Rainbow Derby such a success:


We look forward to next year’s derby! kasiolracederby@weebly.com

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We look forward to next year’s derby! kasiolracederby@weebly.com
Health Centre gardens, woodstove maintenance and bridge repairs discussed at New Denver Council Café
by Jan McMurtry

Mayor Bunka and Councillors Hodsdall and Raynolds held a Council Café at Nant Coffee Bar on November 16. Although only four residents came out, they praised council for reaching out to the community through these forums.

Steve Loun said the people at the council café that a community group formed to look after the gardens at the Slocan Community Health Centre when they found that Interior Health had decided to remove all the gardens from the grounds. He said a new group in town, Andreas Smith, had taken the initiative. Loun said the group felt the gardens were important to the esthetics of the facility, and Tony Bachrach pointed out that quite a few of the shrubs and trees had been planted in memory of loved ones. The group is operating under the auspices of the Hope Society and is looking for grants.

People at the meeting agreed that they would like to see some public education on wood stove maintenance, and heating with wood safely and efficiently. Counsellor Raynolds said she had heard that the illegal cutting and selling of firewood is fairly common, and that some people are cutting live trees (green wood). Cutting green wood does damage to the watershed, woodstoves and air quality. Counsellor Raynolds suggested the Village send out woodstove information with the garbage/water bills.

It was also mentioned that the Village participates in the Woodstove Exchange Program. Residents in New Denver who change out their old stoves for a new, efficient one can receive a $300 rebate. Contact the Village office for more information.

There was a suggestion that businesses post notices about whether their establishment is wireless or wired. “Wireless available” or “WiFi Free” was suggested.

People wanted to know about the repairs to the Carpenter Creek bridge. Council members said the job was done by the Ministry of Transportation, not the Village. The repairs had to be done because one of the bridge’s pillars was undercut and

Nakusp Figure Skating Club holds test day on December 7
submitted

Figure skaters from five Kootenay clubs — including six from the Nakusp Figure Skating Club — will gather at the Nakusp arena on Saturday, December 7, to test in various disciplines, from partner dances to skating skills.

The public is welcome to drop in any time between 9 am and 5 pm to see the skaters in action.

Many of these skaters recently loosed their skills at a skating workshop in Castlegar. There, the skaters, all StarSkate level one and up, spent time with three local coaches on skills like jumps, spins and synchro and endurance stroking.

The skaters also took a dance class and learned about proper eating habits from a nutritionist.

Nakusp’s StarSkaters are also gearing up for upcoming competitions. The next one takes place the weekend of November 29 in Kimberley, and two more take place in January, in Rossland and Fruitvale.

To keep skating fees low to make the activity accessible to as many skaters as possible, the club is involved in many fundraisers. Join it on Saturday, November 30, at the PAL’s craft fair at the arena, plus that same day at the Legion for the meal draw. Raffle tickets are available for a $1,000 draw, and the club recently hosted a bingo night and held a bottle drive.

“We’d like to thank the community and businesses for their ongoing support of our club,” said Kelly Waterfield, president. “This support is essential to our existence, and we welcome any new sponsorship opportunities.”

This year the club boasts nearly 30 skaters from in and around Nakusp. Trained by coaches Sabrina Hinson, the skaters range in age and abilities, from those just learning to skate to those competing and testing in StarSkate. Registration is ongoing.

For more information, contact Kelly Waterfield, President, at 250-265-4675 or kwaterfield@nku.net.

Panto of the Opera at the Bonnington
submitted

On Friday, November 29, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the second concert in the Kootenay Artists’ Series, produced and performed by Mirror Theatre under the direction of Sejj Jones.

“Panto of the Opera” is a traditional British pantomime, written by Stuart Arden. Pantos are farces that are anything but silent and have no mimes anywhere. They have something for everyone, including spectacle, physical comedy, visual jokes, verbal comedy and slapstick.

This panto is a farce based on Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical “The Phantom of the Opera.” It takes place in Paris, where a so-called ghost or phantom is playing havoc with the charms, patrons and owners of the Paris Opera House.

Come and join us November 29 for an evening of music, dance and comedy at the Bonnington Arts Centre. There will also be a matinee performance December 1 at 2 pm.

Columbia Power wins awards of excellence
submitted

During an award ceremony held at Parliament Hill last week, Columbia Power Corporation received the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) President’s Award of Excellence for Employee Safety and the Vice-President’s Award of Safety Excellence for Generation. Columbia Power was the only company within Canada to receive the President’s Award, which recognized Columbia Power for its top ranking in both all-incident/injury frequency and lost-time severity rates for three consecutive years. The Vice-President’s Award recognized Columbia Power’s safety record with respect to emergency generation business for two consecutive years.

Columbia Power is a Crown corporation wholly owned and controlled by the Province of British Columbia. Columbia Power’s mandate is to manage assets and undertake power project investments on behalf of the Province. For more information about Columbia Power, please visit columbiapower.ca.

Notice of Intent
Proposed Closure of Argenta Road

Notice is given pursuant to Section 60(2) of the Transportation Act that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has received an application to permanently close a portion of Argenta Road, directly south of a property located at 797 Argenta Road at Lot 13, DL 527, Kootenay District Plan 2869, and that such closed road be vested pursuant to Section 60(2) of the Transportation Act.

The area to be dedicated as right-of-way in exchange for the closure is on the north end of a property located at 785 Argenta Road at Lot 11, DL 527, Kootenay District Plan NEPB7305.

The plan showing the proposed road closure can be viewed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Nelson District office at the address below.

Anyone wishing to provide comments of support or objection to this application for road closure should do so in writing no later than December 5, 2013, to the following ministry contact:

Catherine Littlewood, Development Technician
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
310 Ward Street, Nelson BC V1L 5M4
Phone: 250-354-6318 Fax: 250-354-6547
E-mail: Catherine.Littlewood@gov.bc.ca
New Denver Merchants’ Night – Wednesday, December 11

Hidden Garden Gallery: check it out on Merchants’ Night

Submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery, wholly operated by volunteers, has become a fixture in New Denver over the past 13 years. This year everyone is invited to stop by the Hidden Garden Gallery on Merchants’ Night, December 11, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Learn more about your local New Denver art gallery, check out the art for sale and tell us what you would like to see at the Hidden Garden Gallery, 803 Kildare Street, New Denver.

Best known for its 10-week summer season of art shows highlighting local and regional artists as well as musicians from the area, the Gallery hosts more than 3,500 visitors a year. Emerging artists have launched their careers at the HGG and been invited to show in other venues and market their work, while established artists have continued to delight the community that has treasured their work for years.

The Gallery fulfills its mission of creating and maintaining a welcoming space where artists and the community can come together in a variety of ways. The year-long program of lectures, Food For Thought, gives community members, both amateur and professional, the opportunity to share their interests and expertise. From October through April the Gallery is home to the Video Club, showing a different fiction or documentary film each Friday.

During the same months on Wednesday evenings a group gathers for a 40-minute meditation with instruction based on the Theravadan Buddhist tradition, a short talk by Kay Costley-White, and discussion. In addition, the Gallery can be rented as a meeting space for up to 30 people and has been utilized for AGMs, social and private parties and monthly meetings of various community groups.

New Denver Merchants’ Night, Wednesday December 11 from 5 to 8 pm.

The shops will be open late, offering specials and special activities. Some vendors will also be set up at Knox Hall. Santa will arrive in the fire truck at 6 pm, and will receive the kids outside KSCU. New Denver Royalty will be serving hotdogs, hot chocolate and goodies outside KSCU, too. The Community Choir will be out caroling from door to door. There will be a draw for a basket of items from local stores at the end of the night. Pick up a card at any local store and get the card initialed at all the shops listed on the card. Bring your completed card to the Valley Voice office.
‘Giving Tuesday’ opens the giving season, December 3

Well, consider Giving Tuesday, a new movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Cyber Monday. The ‘opening day of the giving season,’ it is a day when charities, companies and individuals join together to share commitments, rally for favourite causes and think about others. We already have two days for consumerism, and now we have a day for communities and charitable organizations.

The Osprey Community Foundation based in Nelson has three affiliate funds that support good works in other West Kootenay communities – The Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, The Salmo Valley Fund, and the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund. Gifts to Osprey for any of these funds support registered charities in the various communities.

Giving Tuesday is a way of bringing philanthropy to the attention of everyone with the hope that you will consider investing in the betterment of the communities in which you live, work and play. On Giving Tuesday, we invite you to support your local foundation or fund, or any of the other charities in your area.

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund, www.slocanvalleylegacy.com, 250-226-7399 (serving Area H and the villages therein);
Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, www.ndkcommunityfund.org, 250-366-4623 (Kaslo and Area D);

Slocan District Chamber of Commerce
and area merchants
welcome you to their annual pre-Christmas Merchants’ Night!
Wednesday, December 11th
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Downtown New Denver

• FREE HOT DOGS, HOT CHOCOLATE & GOODIES
  (Kootenay Savings Credit Union)
• SANTA ARRIVES AT 6 PM
  (Kootenay Savings Credit Union)
• CHRISTMAS CAROLLING
• BONFIRES

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING TILL 8 PM
ARTISAN VENDORS AT
Knox Hall across from New Market Foods
SALES, SPECIALS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY SHOPS & RESTAURANTS

ENTER THE MERCHANTS’ DRAW
FOR A BASKET OF ITEMS FROM NEW DENVER’S SHOPS!
Pick up a card at any New Denver store. Get the card initiated at each of the stores on the card and drop your completed card at the Valley Voice office. Draw will take place at 8 pm at the Valley Voice office.

Part of Main street will be blocked off to promote foot traffic, carolers ...

Sponsored by...