Regional branding: West Kootenay Tourism Alliance starts the conversation

Submitted
What do the Slocan, Arrow Lakes and North Kootenay Lake Valleys have in common? How can we work together to promote the region to visitors and potential new residents?

The West Kootenay Tourism Alliance (WKTA), formed in January this year, has started a conversation in our communities to explore these questions.

“We’re having an open dialogue to uncover what characteristics and values we have in common,” said Peter Wellerling, chair of the alliance. “This will form the basis of a brand for the region that we can use to attract visitors, new businesses and residents.”

Wellerling explained that the WKTA grew out of a tourism workshop held in Nakusp in January this year, attended by people from the Nakusp, New Denver, Kaslo and Revelstoke areas. “It was obvious that there was an appetite in the room for collaboration,” said Wellerling.

A core group, consisting of representatives from the Chambers of Commerce in the region, have been meeting regularly ever since that initial workshop. In August, they hosted a strategic planning session with people from local businesses and organizations in the region. “After all of this, the group decided we wanted to embark on a branding process,” said Wellerling. “Wellerling says that many people equate “branding” with a logo or slogan, but that is not what it is. “A brand is actually one simple, overarching promise that we can deliver on. It tells our story so we can capture the attention of people who resonate with it,” he said.

Wellerling says that once the brand has been distilled and agreed to by the regional community, the logo and other promotional materials will follow, based on the brand. “That will be another step in the process, but for now, we are focusing on the community conversation,” said Wellerling.

Wellerling stresses that the brand will not just be for attracting tourists. “Our goal is to attract new residents and businesses to the area as well as to increase tourism in each of our communities,” he said.

He also emphasized that WKTA feels it is very important to find “the right fit of tourism” for the region. “We know people in this area do not want the area to become another Banff,” he said. “We want to focus on attracting the people who appreciate our values, and on what makes our region unique.”

Although the company is based in Victoria, they have roots in Nelson. One of the Reinvestment team members was involved with the branding for Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism. WKTA and Re-investment have begun gathering feedback from the communities to determine what we have in common and what makes our region unique. To contact WKTA, email westkootenaytourismalliance@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our customers & community!
Thank you for your business.

From: Andrew, Dan, Jay and families and the rest of the team at Kal Tire
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476 Baker Street, Nelson 250.352.3844
RDCK applies for 14 recycling depots under new system

by Jan McMurray

Local governments in the region have recently notified Multi Material BC (MMBC) about the recycling services they are willing to provide when the new recycling system comes into play on May 19, 2014.

The Villages of Kaslo and Nakusp have indicated they will provide curbside recycling pick-up within their municipalities. The RDCK has indicated that it will provide recycling depots, and has requested depots at 14 locations. The RDCK currently has 27 recycling depots in the region.

The 14 locations proposed by the RDCK include the Slocan transfer station, Rosebery transfer station, Nakusp landfill, Burton transfer station, Kaslo transfer station, Marblehead transfer station, Balfour transfer station, Boswell transfer station, Crawford Bay transfer station, Creston landfill, Nelson transfer station, Ootsa Happa landfill, and Central (Salmo) landfill. The RDCK was going to include the Ymir transfer station, but decided against it, as it would be very difficult to meet MMBC requirements at that location.

In an interview with Mike Morrison of the RDCK, he cautioned, “There’s no guarantee that MMBC will set up depots in all these locations. This is what we’ve said we wanted.”

Morrison explained that the list of transfer stations and landfills proposed by the RDCK are locations they felt would meet the MMBC requirements of fencing and staffing. “There’s no certainty at this point if we can establish those. It will depend on the RFP for the post-collection contract, which closes in mid-January. A lot of the particulars depend on the post-collection contractor.”

Post-collection means hauling the recyclable materials from the depots and processing them. MMBC is currently accepting proposals for this.

Morrison said the agreement with MMBC allows for consideration of additional depots in the region over time. “The intention of the RDCK would be to provide the maximum service level possible throughout the region, but MMBC is bearing the majority of costs, so it’s their call as to whether or not other depots will be established,” he said.

The main reason for the creation of this new system is to shift the cost of recycling packaging (cardboard, plastics, cans, glass, paper, etc.) and printed paper (newspapers, magazines, flyers, etc.) away from taxpayers and onto producers and consumers. The RDCK’s agreement indicates there won’t be any extra fee at the point of sale, as there is for beverage containers. Morrison said there would be no charge at the recycling depot, either – at least not for residential customers.

However, he said it is possible that businesses and institutions in the RDCK will have to pay a fee at the depots to recycle their packaging and printed paper, because the new MMBC system is for residential recycling only. “ICI [industrial, commercial and institutional] material is not part of the program, and we are not sure yet what that means for us,” Morrison said. “There are questions around our mandate to provide that service. We’re looking at lots of options, but no decisions have been made. But our goal in all of this is to maintain as much service as possible and to have a seamless transition of services.”

MMBC has stated it will consider inclusion of the ICI sector in 2017, as part of an evaluation of the program. In the meantime, the RDCK and other rural regions will have to determine how to deal with ICI recyclables. “This will be for the RDCK board to determine, but I expect there will continue to be ICI services provided by the RDCK,” assurred Morrison.

Morrison explained that in urban areas, businesses commonly contract with private sector recycling companies to pick up recyclables directly from the place of business. “Not in small, rural areas, where businesses commonly take their recyclables to the local depot. The omission of ICI is one of the flaws of the new system observed by local governments in our area. “The overall design of the system is a challenge to fit into a rural context,” said Morrison.

It will be up to depot attendants to ensure there is no “contamination,” meaning non-program materials deposited in the bins. “MMBC is trying to be specific about what is ‘packaging’ under the schedule and what is not,” said Morrison.

He said that the RDCK’s contract with MMBC will require additional staffing at depots at the outset of the program to educate the public on acceptable and unacceptable materials for recycling.

MMBC is a non-profit organization, formed and funded by industry, to meet industry’s obligations under BC’s Recycling Regulation.
Two young people from Slocan Valley die in car crash

by Jan McMurray

A tragic motor vehicle accident has taken the lives of a young couple from the Slocan Valley.

Lyla Mortensen, aged 18, of Slocan, and Joel Drew Franklin, aged 19, of Appledale, were on their way to Calgary together on Thursday, December 5 when they collided with a pickup truck at 12.25 pm (Mountain Time) near Cranbrook. The road was very icy at the time of the accident. Lyla and Joel died at the scene, and the occupant of the pickup truck, from the US, was taken to hospital with minor injuries and later released.

Lyla’s parents, Curtis and Laida Mortensen, were told by police that Lyla was driving Joel’s Ford Focus station wagon. She was passing a logging truck, using the passing lane, when the car slid out of control and into the path of the pickup in the oncoming lane. Lyla and Joel were wearing their seatbelts, and the car was equipped with studded winter tires. Alcohol was not a factor.

Joel and Lyla were both graduates of Mt. Sentinel Secondary School. Joel graduated in June 2012 and was working at Pacific Insight. Lyla graduated in June 2013 and had worked at Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort. Both passionate skiers, they were planning to spend their free time this winter at Whitewater.

Lyla’s close friend, Jasinnn Pasonion, started a Facebook page called Rest in Peace Lyla Mortensen and Joel Drew” as soon as she received the news. One of their friends posted this to the page: “These two young beautiful people were beyond amazing, constantly pushing the limits, working on their bodies, souls and minds to the max. I can’t seem to comprehend their absence, but I do know, wherever they are, they are hugging, kissing and smiling upon the ones they love and love them.”

Lyla’s father says he is so very thankful for father-daughter time they recently shared in Banff. “Sometimes parents feel that they are giving something up when they have children, but it’s what you gain from them, too. We all have trials and tribulations with our kids, but that’s really nothing in the end. As long as you have them.” Curtis says he and Laida plan to spend as much time as they can now with their son, Daniel (15) and daughter Maia (13).

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Pedestrian killed on Hwy 6 in Appledale submitted

A 22-year-old local man was struck by a car and killed on December 4 at about 8pm (Appledale, RCMPS/ Slocan detachment) and West Kootenay Traffic Services attended the accident scene, in the 6000 block of Hwy 6.

Police say a 1998 Jeep Cherokee, with a male driver and a female passenger, was travelling south on Highway 6. The roads were dark and wet, with no artificial light in the area.

The Jeep driver noticed an oncoming car and, as it passed him, saw a pedestrian on the roadway in his path of travel. The Jeep driver attempted to avoid hitting the pedestrian but struck the young man, who died at the scene.

Alcohol is not a factor for the driver of the Jeep, who is co-operating fully with the investigation.

Anyone who noticed a pedestrian in the area at the time of this collision is asked to contact the RCMP. The West Kootenay Traffic Services and BC Coroners Service continue their investigation.

Cornucopia: The “National Choice Pharmacy”

Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season! Wishing you all the best in the New Year

Holiday Hours:
- Tuesday, Dec 24 – 9-4
- Christmas Day – closed
- Boxing Day – closed
- Friday, Dec 27 – 9-4
- New Year’s Eve – 9-4
- New Year’s Day – closed

Jan 2 – 9-5

Why drive to Nelson or Castlegar to get your prescriptions filled?

Natural Choice Pharmacy (Remedy’s) delivers twice weekly to Slocan Park, Winlaw, Slocan City, and New Denver. We offer competitive prices, and the delivery fee is only $5.00 per order (no matter how many prescriptions in your order). Why pay for gas and drive the icy roads? Let Natural Choice Pharmacy deliver your medications to a drop-off point near your home.

Please give us a call at 250-352-6928.
Passmore home destroyed by December 6 fire
by Jan McMurray
A fire destroyed Ruth and Drew Standridge’s house on Upper Passmore Road on Friday, December 6.
“The house is a total loss,” reported Passmore Fire Chief Craig Blen. “There is nothing to salvage. The building is unsafe to enter and has to be demolished.”
Ruth’s sister, Debbie Sykora of Victoria, reported that the couple is now staying in a one-bedroom guest cabin on the property. They have a small farm, so they want to stay on site.
Sykora says Ruth was coming back to the house from the barn, and saw the smoke. “She knew something was terribly wrong. She went into the house and grabbed a bunja and a guitar, some photos and some cash, and then watched the house burn down,” she said.

Chief Blen says the report of a chimney fire was called in at about 2 p.m. and the house was fully engulfed when he arrived. Thirteen Passmore firefighters and six Winlaw firefighters attended. “The air was very cold, but the crews did an excellent job under adverse circumstances and the Mutual Aid worked very well,” Blen said. One firefighter was treated by BC Ambulance Service for smoke inhalation and is fine.
The couple’s pets – two cats and two dogs – got out of the house okay. Blen says one cat ran underneath the house, so the firefighters kept that area cool and cooked the cat out once the fire was extinguished.
Blen reported that the house is insured and was outfitted with a brand new, inspected chimney two years ago.
Dillon has posted on his Facebook page: “We are all in good spirits and making the best of the situation. We were lucky enough to have lots of old clothes and stuff in storage that was not damaged but we still appreciate everyone’s offers of generosity! My parents are all set up in their guest cabin and we’re settling into our new rentals... Nothing brings a family together like all living under one roof again! We’re all very grateful for all our amazing friends and family that have stopped by with well wishes. I just thought I would let everyone know that we are going to be just fine!”

Overwaitea Foods
BC’s very own food people
Season's Greetings from all of us at Overwaitea foods.
This Holiday season, shop Overwaitea foods for all your Holiday entertaining needs.
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Open 7 days a week 8 am - 8 pm.
- Christmas Eve Dec. 24 8 am to 6 pm
- Christmas Day Dec. 25 CLOSED
- Boxing Day Dec. 26 10 am to 6 pm
- New Year’s Eve Dec. 31 - 8 am to 6 pm
- New Year’s Day Jan. 1 10 am to 6 pm

Interior Health completes assessment of facilities
by Jan McMurray
Interior Health has completed an assessment of the health facilities in the IH region. This assessment will help the organization to prioritize capital project.

“Interior Health has been working on the assessment of the health facilities in the region. This assessment will help Interior Health to prioritize capital projects based on the condition of the facilities and the needs of the communities they serve. The assessment will take into account the age, condition, and functionality of each facility, as well as the demand for services and the impact of any potential closures on the local community. The results of the assessment will be used to inform decisions on capital planning and allocation of resources. The assessment will be completed in the coming months and will be used to guide the development of a capital plan for the region. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to changing needs.”

The assessment of the health facilities in the region will be completed in the coming months. The results of the assessment will be used to inform decisions on capital planning and allocation of resources. The assessment will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to changing needs.

The information on the facilities in our area included in the study is as follows, from lowest HCI to highest HCI:
- Arrow Lakes Hospital: 0.31 HCI, 38 years old, $14,153,265 replacement value.
- Edgewood Health Centre: 0.30 HCI, 30 years old, $15,959,010 replacement value.
- Slocan Community Health Centre (Koocanusa): 0.40 HCI, 51 years old, $12,436,104 replacement value.
- Kootenay Lake Hospital (Nelson): 0.68 HCI, 50 years old, $63,901,04 replacement value.
- Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (Trail): 0.53 HCI, 60 years old, $83,606,686 replacement value.
Helping you be a savvy energy user

To further encourage energy conservation, FortisBC was required to implement the residential conservation rate—a two level rate structure.

The two level rate structure explained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kWh</th>
<th>Two level structure</th>
<th>Flat rate structure</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Rate 1 9.09 cents/kWh</td>
<td>Rate 2 13.54 cents/kWh</td>
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<td>2,500</td>
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The first 1,600 kWh you use every two months are billed at a lower rate (9.09 cents). Your use above this amount is then billed at a higher rate (13.54 cents). If you use up to 2,500 kWh bimonthly, you’re paying less than you would if there was a flat rate (10.56 cents). Learn more at fortisbc.com/electricityrates.

Interesting facts:

71% of our customers pay about the same or less under the residential conservation rate than they would under the previous flat rate structure.

Did you know?

Your energy use increases in winter over summer by:

50%

Find ways to save

FortisBC PowerSense has many no and low-cost home energy saving tips and programs designed to help you save. fortisbc.com/powersense

Keep the heat in

Upgrading the insulation in your walls, basement and attic can reduce your energy bills by up to:

30% or $350/yr

LiveSmart BC rebates can help. fortisbc.com/livesmartbc

35,000 homes each year.

A sweater is better

Set your thermostat to 20°C when home and 17°C when out or asleep.

Since 1989, FortisBC PowerSense programs have helped customers save enough electricity to power:

FYI!
We recently filed a progress report on the residential conservation rate with the BC Utilities Commission. Read the report at fortisbc.com/rcrr or call us at 1-866-436-7847.

*Based on average 2012 electricity use for customers in FortisBC’s South Interior service area. Source: http://www.ener.gov.bc.ca/production/energy-efficiency/consi-energy-ministers.388
FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under licence from Fortis Inc. (13-3723 11/2013)
BC Hydro rate increases

Minister Bennett belligerently states that the first year’s 9% increase will cost the average residential customer only $8 per month, just a weekly cup of coffee at Starbucks. That presupposes that the “average residential customer’s” monthly bill was $88.83. That would allow a household to run three 500-watt heaters continuously, but nothing else. No lights, stove, fridge, TV, computer, etc., but depending on the size of the house, it could be warm in the winter.

What he fails to disclose is that this area and others off the beaten path without the benefit of Starbucks do not have access to natural gas as an alternative, that many people rely on electric heat, and thus the increase locally will be more than twice as much as he states. Let the revolution begin.

Lance Connulmond
Carroll’s Landing

Opinion letter to Greg Reimer, BC Hydro

Definitions: Coercion: The use of force to obtain compliance.
Exertion: 1. The crime of obtaining money or some other thing of value by the use of force, 2. Oppressive or illegal exertion, as of excessive price or interest. 3. Blackmail.
Mr. Reimer: I am signing this request form for smart meter installation not because I agree to this action, but because of coercion by BC Hydro. I would like to keep my old people off BC’s twoway rivers, that doesn’t mean I can’t afford the outrageous $35 per month added cost that Hydro is blackmailing us with. This qualifies under the legal definition of exertion, and I think a class action suit should be brought against Hydro in the highest courts in the land.

And now we hear that we are to be slapped with a rate hike of 28% over five years! About five times the current rate of inflation. Perhaps you should be looking to slash the six-figure salaries that you and the other 17 Vice-Presidents plus almost 2,000 employees are helping themselves to.

The hikes are said to be necessary to upgrade the system. Why wasn’t the money for this saved from the years of Hydro’s massive income? Instead the money was sucked off with forced payments to the BC Treasury. Our rates still among the lowest in North America? Why? It’s all a pittance is deducted back to them through the Columbia Basin Trust.
The people affected should enjoy free, or token, hydro rates!

BC Hydro a public utility? More like Public Enemy No.1 from our viewpoint.

Frank Appleton
Edgewood

Unacceptable health situation in Kaslo

This is a hard letter to write, because most of us, including myself, would like to see government as on our side, especially where it comes to health matters. Over the past few months it has become clear that the IHA has carried out a deliberate and long-term plan to deprive Kaslo of its doctors and emergency services – and most likely the final goal for the IHA will be the elimination of our hospital altogether.

Two weeks before the meeting on November 12 called by the IHA, our family received a letter from the Ministry of Health saying that “by mutual agreement” Kaslo and the IHA have decided that it would be in the best interests of Kaslo to have a “robust” primary healthcare centre from 9 to 5, Monday to Friday. There was no agreement from Kaslo on that, but that letter (which was sent by the ministry to many people in the area) expressed the IHA’s intentions such that they felt it necessary to call a meeting in November canceling our ER services.

It’s not the IHA that is totally at fault in this – they are implementing policies set by the Liberal government, which seem to be to reduce the costs associated with healthcare, and especially to reduce costs in rural areas.

After the IHA told us (the Kaslo council, and those outside) that the ER was finished, they reduced RN’s from over six full-time positions to just two, and they scheduled the shifts to be either four hours or eight hours. Most of our RNs live out of town; these shifts would make it impossible for them, especially in the winter. The doctors were eliminated through contracts that few doctors would sign; the nurses will be eliminated through hours that few nurses would sign up for.

So instead of trying to see how they can provide service to outlying areas, the IHA has devoted much time and money to seeing how they can eliminate services in ways that they can justify. Kaslo and Area D contribute well over a million dollars a year in MSP payments plus federal income taxes for healthcare. We are being systematically robbed, and we (all of us) need to push back. They estimate that they will have $250,000 a year on nurses, and another $100,000 a year on doctors’ on-call fees, here in Kaslo. Let’s contrast that to the $700,000 a year they pay their top administrators.

We need to figure out some way to hold the BC government accountable to the Canada Health Act. It is inevitable that in the next year there will be people dying who would have been saved if they had been closer to a hospital than a two- or three-hour drive. In the 1990s, if you got hurt in Johnsons Landing, you would need to row your boat to Kaslo to get to a doctor. But at least there was a hospital and a doctor there at that time. Now we’re looking at going to Nelson for emergency care, a two-hour drive from JL. That is unacceptable.

Harvey Armstrong
Johnson's Landing

Open letter to Premier Christy Clark

You’ve not heard from me to date, but do so now, for I must emphasize as others in our North Kootenay Lake community have continued on page 7.
continued from page 4

already done; namely, that your provincial government is not caring for the populace who were evils to the town.

How? By refusing to consider some crucial facts about our rural situation, where Interior Health has stated we’ll lose 24/7 emergency care in January of 2024. Why? Because no physicians have been contracted who agree to being on call for same, in addition to their regular workday working hours.

We in Kaslo are a one-hour driving time to our nearest hospital – Kootenay Lake Hospital, in Nelson (roads are clear of ice & snow, during November to March).

2. Those further up the lake (Lardeau, Cooper Creek, Meadow Creek, Argenta, Johnson’s Landing) are another 30-60 minutes away from Nelson.

3. Our regional hospital in Trail is another hour added on to the above time.

I implore you, WITH YOUR Minister of Health, to consider how reasonable or just it is for those of us living on North Kootenay Lake to be so far away from emergency medical attention, unless we need it during regular weekday working hours. We might not even have members in our family to live where we do, without 24/7 emergency care?

Furthermore, this year, my husband suddenly in excruciating pain needed pain relief two nights in a row, in 11 pm, which over the counter medication he received here from our hospital emergency department, with our great gratitude.

A serious accident victim or person requiring immediate medical attention would be out of luck without 24/7 emergency support.

Please explain why you can’t provide adequate coverage for our community?

Also, why have the recommendations made by Dr. Ross not been considered seriously by your Ministry of Health? After all, he came, observed, took time to consider with care and medical experience, then offered creative solutions to our situation.

Karen Pidcock
Kaslo

Response to
‘Complaint against McGreal in Slocan Library saga unfounded’

Despite the above-quoted title of the article in the Valley Voice, Nov 27, p.10, the article fails to state the reason why the complaint was unfounded, and instead leaves the reader with all-defined impression that there must have been somenot in the complaint. The closing sentence then suggests that I chose a ‘few quotes’ from the report to make me look good while unappreciated “surprising things,” complimentary of me, luck in the background.

There was so “Snoopy speech” at the council table. I calmly read a statement and made the motions to implement the report’s recommendations. Although the report and recommendations were forwarded to Interior Health, the CAO changed not to bring them forward, leaving me to do so myself. No one else on council commented at all. My statement was as follows:

‘Beginning near a year ago, a persistent and public allegation of breach of confidentiality was made against me for having informed a library volunteer of the existence and nature of a complaint made against him by two other volunteers. One of those two volunteers, after bringing her allegation against me in council meetings during February and March of this year (and duly reported in the Valley Voice), subsequently, in April, asked a letter from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner alleging that I had made “an inappropriate disclosure of private information... in confidence” contrary to the Community Charter and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Following a thorough investigation, the Privacy Commissioner called on the Office to respond to that allegation on June 26, 2013. Although the allegation was made very public for a prolonged period, the resolution of it has been kept very quiet, giving the appearance that the allegation against me remains outstanding. Accordingly, I have placed the results of the investigation of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the agenda of this meeting.

The Privacy Commissioner’s investigator found;

‘Given that information in the form of a complaint about an individual is considered to be that individual’s personal information, the disclosure of this information to the third party volunteer was not a violation of the FIPPA. [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, p.3 para 6];

‘Another issue that arose during this investigation was whether the records were provided in confidence... I have determined that this was not the case in this matter... p.3 para 2; and

‘... the complainant’s complaint is unfounded... p.3 para 4.

In other words, there was no duty of confidentiality, there was no breach of confidentiality, there was no confidentiality to be breached, and, as I believed from the beginning, and as confirmed by the Privacy Commissioner, the volunteer complained of had every right to be informed of the content of the complaint. And, as described in a quote from the New Brunswick Supreme Court [Chief Justice Chipman, Queen’s Bench, in Andrews v. Wilson] it could not be otherwise: “To hold that the holder of the writer may intend to be confidential may, for the reason that it is ‘confidential,’ be made a vehicle for injuring the reputation of a third person, would be most mischievous. It would afford malicious persons the opportunity of conveying slander to the quarter where most it might do harm, and destroy the object of it, and at the same time that hain out from the power of vindicating himself.”

Patricia McGreal
Slocan

Health care: let’s go back to the way it used to be

Letters from Burgan Jacobs and Dave Beland inspired this fresh wave from the sidelines. I, too, am old enough to remember when the village ran its own health care centre.

We called it a hospital in those days, and looked after birth, death and almost everything in between. In the small Town or on a doctor’s 24/7/365 call, we were able to do more surgeries in emergencies. We did our own x-ray, lab, EKGs, cleaning, suturing, and of course, births. The town’smajor employer, we had half a dozen cooks, a janitor, several laundry ladies, seven nurses per 24 hours, year round. Teams of two and three of 22 beds, and a matron. All those wages circulated here in the village.

The hospital board of local people made pragmatic decisions, which worked locally. At 22, concentrating on work, I don’t know how they were chosen. Those nurses who introduced this city kid to village ways would remember. The board dealt directly with Victoria.

Imagine what would happen to school board budgets and the quality of education if suddenly a whole crew of administrators called Interior Education wanted their cut!

I left health care not because I wanted to, but found shift work impossible as a single parent. Sixteen hours of child care per night shift – their sleep, your sleep – took two-thirds of earnings.

With Mary Simpson, I set up Home Care. Although a great success locally, it was cancelled after a year. I – young and naive – had exhausted my EI alongside this very part-time job, believing what I’d been told, that hours would increase after a year.

Once those two positions were cut, I was done. Not only no option but to apply for welfare, at $700/month. Cost savings? Or government so big, the right hand didn’t know what the left hand is doing.

The same job was posted two years and one month later. I applied, the only applicant, and was refused, since I’d been out of acute care for over two years. The village went without Home Care for another five years. At that point, in spite of teaching every long-term care personal, home support worker and prenatal class going in Nakusp, Nelson, Kaslo and New Denver, I was unable to meet minimum hours to renew my licence.

I went on to other things, have a good life, but shiftwork, frustration, stress are hard on the immune system. My experience was a criminal waste of three years of education and seven years of training. I lost $10,000 in cost me, and the taxpayer, plenty.

Getting cancer at age 50 was not on my to-do list. Mercifully at current teaching job I’d learned something of Traditional Chinese Medicine. I’ve been able to live – more or less – eight and a half years without cut, burn or poison.

Last time I went for an ultrasound in Nelson I got a superbug infection. This cost me five months of bloody, painful dressing changes and bed rest.

Stay away from hospitals: In the hands of Interior Health, in spite of the hard work and dedication of the nurses who work there, in ever worsening conditions, they are very dangerous places.

Nothing has done benefits health care. Our village board did a better job. The waste of hard earned local taxes and all the assets paid for by hospital auxiliaries is frightening. Time for a village revolution.

End the feigned trapped wrap and cross contamination! Bring back violets on breakfast trays picked at dawn from the hospital lawn, the home cooking in its exquisite flavours: Italian, Japanese Canadian, Kansas, Dubbohour.

As a village of 800, it’s tender loving care that heals.

Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Arrogant or ignorant?

Taking the baton from Mike Kooze in his response to long-time trail volunteer, Phillips, please consider the following:

1. A Community Recreation Survey was conducted in 2009 by the Hills Recreation Society. As a board member dealing with public funds, I wanted to get a better feel for the interests and desires of the community. Since the HRS’s membership is comprised of only 20 percent of the population here in Hills, and since there are many new families in the area and people have varying perspectives about what constitutes their backyard, a survey requesting input just made a lot of sense. One section of this survey asked residents for input into future use and development of the trail rail.

2. Response rate was at 84 percent. Viewpoints on motorized vs. non-motorized was about evenly split (51 percent motorized). Given the high response rate, the passion conveyed in comments and the clear split on this issue, it was and is clear – this is a hot topic.

3. The RDCK applied for tenure for the Rosebery to Summit Lake section of the trail, and a public meeting was posted in the Valley Voice for comments on the application from interested parties to Front Counter BC. Many of us did so. POF recently kicked in, and these submissions are now in the public arena. We’ll know in a few weeks what some costly requirements on the granting of tenure, and the RDCK decided to turn it down due to the prohibitive cost.

4. Over the years, many local people and organizations have been involved in its upkeep, donating volunteers and funds to keep the trail open in winter, attending work bees to slash and brush, and build bridges. The Hills Nordic Ski Club has spent funding for track-setting equipment for cross-country skiers, and I believe the HRS continues to budget reimbursement for any volunteer work that appears on my annual report.

Any of us walking the trail remove litter as necessary, welcome and greet local tourists.

This section of the rail trail is very significant to us living here in Hills and it is open for the enjoyment of many. It has been good to see more and more valley local people come to the ‘‘rail trail’’ to enjoy the work in them, in ever-worsening conditions, they are very dangerous places.

Nothing has done benefits health care. Our village board did a better job. The waste of hard earned local taxes and all the assets paid for by hospital auxiliaries is frightening. Time for a village revolution.

End the feigned trapped wrap and cross contamination! Bring back violets on breakfast trays picked at dawn from the hospital lawn, the home cooking in its exquisite flavours: Italian, Japanese Canadian, Kansas, Dubbohour.

As a village of 800, it’s tender loving care that heals.

Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Arrogant or ignorant?

Taking the baton from Mike Kooze in his response to long-time trail volunteer, Phillips, please consider the following:

1. A Community Recreation Survey was conducted in 2009 by the Hills Recreation Society. As a board member dealing with public funds, I wanted to get a better feel for the interests and desires of the community. Since the HRS’s membership is comprised of only 20 percent of the population here in Hills, and since there are many new families in the area and people have varying perspectives about what constitutes their backyard, a survey requesting input just made a lot of sense. One section of this survey asked residents for input into future use and development of the trail rail.

2. Response rate was at 84 percent. Viewpoints on motorized vs. non-motorized was about evenly split (51 percent motorized). Given the high response rate, the passion conveyed in comments and the clear split on this issue, it was and is clear – this is a hot topic.
Letters

The Valley Voice December 11, 2013

Chronicles of a Dump Lady

On November 20, the attendant and the contractor for the Slocan transfer station emptied the community’s Rense Shed. Some of the locals that witnessed the event were highly agitated. Does the community not deserve a chance to reuse items that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill? It is a non-profit, status-controlled site, not the dumping ground of the site. There was no word on me that this was going to happen. As quoted by my superior Mike Morrison, “Ongoing communication is vital to continuing with a positive working relationship.”

This transforming of items from the Rense Shed to the landfill, instead of donating and recycling, is done regularly at all sites. RDCK is not enforcing recycling regulations nor are they training their staff. I estimate that 80% of the garbage in the bins is recyclable material. Why do you want to sort the recycling and not the garbage?

When I applied for the job, I was inspired to work with an organization I thought had a goal of “zero waste.” The only test RDCK has come up with is to square the garbage smaller. We have to change our mentality about how we manage our waste. Transfer stations should be a sorting area where everything has a designated place: kitchen, waste, wood, scrap metal, appliances (that may or may not be repaired), electronics, batteries, videos, toys, mattresses, furniture, etc. Does not all have to end up in the landfill.

Christine Harder

Appreciation for Kootenay Animal Assistance Program Society

I attended KAAP’s annual general meeting on December 1, and I was really impressed with all that I learned. KAAAP is a non-profit, status-controlled site, and its main goal is helping animals in need in the West Kootenay. It is 100% volunteer funded, and is a no-kill society.

I truly admired the dedication and commitment shown from this group of caring individuals, at least 12 or more, who work from their homes. Some of them balance full-time jobs as well. This group dedicates their time for free, putting in very long hours to help animals in need. (KAAP is not affiliated with the SPCA in any way.)

There are many tales that KAAP is involved in, some of which are: taking in homeless cats and dogs, driving animals to and from the vet, fostering and socializing animals in a loving home environment, ensuring all animals under their care are seen by a vet for spay and neuter, illness and injury and vaccinations. As well, KAAP helps families to spay/ neuter their family pets.

This year alone, KAAP brought in 16 cats and dogs within their foster home: 148 were cats and kittens (23 litters of kittens). Also, there were four major boarding or hard cats situations, totaling 207 cats and kittens (or in progress), where KAAP stepped in to help when no one else would. It was a very busy year indeed with 155 adoptions, with 27 dogs, 20 puppies, 37 adult cats and 66 kittens! Wow.

During KAAP’s AGM I learned the magnitude of costs that KAAP is faced with, on an annual basis. A sample of the costs for the year ending 2013 were: Vet fees to spay/neuter, illness, injury and vaccinations totaling $15,000! Pet food supplies $15,000. Of course there are fuel costs to transport animals to vet visits and rescue/transport animals in need. I feel this meeting thinking WOW! What a dedicated, small group of caring people we have in the West Kootenay looking out for and helping animals in need. For information on how to adopt a pet from KAAAP and learn more about how you can help, please take a moment to visit their website at KAAAP (Kootenay Animal Assistance Program Society) or call 250 551-1052. Help them save! Volunteer, donate, adopt, volunteer and all above support the KAAAP team. As KAAAP is a non-profit society, fundraising is a critical part of the equation to help animals in need. Tax receipt donations are for reading and help for you.

Jill Bradley

Bad experience buying wood

My wife and I are both disabled and on a very limited income. My wife is a diabetic and is a bit of a sentimental dialysis as she lost the use of her kidneys three years ago. I have COPD, which is a congestive lung disease. Allensson has a lot of heat in the house to help her circulation problems in her legs. We have a wood heater and burn about three cubic feet a winter. This year all of the people that supply us with wood were busy and behind in their deliveries, or going for medical operations.

Social Services allows us $550 for wood heat. On the bulletin board at Overawasana was an ad for wood delivered (for $10 a cord). I had him furnish us with a quote for three cords of wood for $450 a cord for a minimum. I instructed him that I did not want green colour as Allensson and I are both allergic to the smoke it produces when it smoulder. We have dry air for kindling, which seems to be okay.

I sent the quote to Social Services and they sent him a cheque for the proper amount. When the wood arrived it was some most load of wood I was sleeping, and got up and disguised so new when he was going to deliver the next load. I went outside and he was gone.

There was a cord and a half of green colour in the neighbor’s yard up against the wall. I told him I had a dump truck and he could dump the load in my yard. Not only did he mess that up, but he also tore out 20 feet of chain link fence leaving the hogs (or in progress), where KAAP stepped in to help when no one else would. It was a very busy year indeed with 155 adoptions, with 27 dogs, 20 puppies, 37 adult cats and 66 kittens! Wow.

During KAAP’s AGM I learned the magnitude of costs that KAAP is faced with, on an annual basis. A sample of the costs for the year ending 2013 were: Vet fees to spay/neuter, illness, injury and vaccinations totaling $15,000! Pet food supplies $15,000. Of course there are fuel costs to transport animals to vet visits and rescue/transport animals in need. I feel this meeting thinking WOW! What a dedicated, small group of caring people we have in the West Kootenay looking out for and helping animals in need. For information on how to adopt a pet from KAAAP and learn more about how you can help, please take a moment to visit their website at KAAAP (Kootenay Animal Assistance Program Society) or call 250 551-1052. Help them save! Volunteer, donate, adopt, volunteer and all above support the KAAAP team. As KAAAP is a non-profit society, fundraising is a critical part of the equation to help animals in need. Tax receipt donations are for reading and help for you.

Jill Bradley

KASO

Twitching? - no thanks!

A big thanks to the Slocan Park Hall for screening Take Your Power down the line, which showed an interesting perspective on situations and information from around the world and is an excellent summary of the wireless issues to date. As FortisBC customers, we are often discouraged, if not1 by our electricity provider. Imagine being up called on a weekend evening to be told that you don’t pay $35 extra a month, they will start the process of turning off your power in a few weeks! We are lucky that information exposing the hazards and bad economics of the costly new smart meters are getting through from those who have had the misfortune to go before us.

One such item came my way yesterday. A doctor and her husband and children have a property meter. They were told their meter was, let alone any idea about smart meters being bad for them, when they suddenly started experiencing difficulty getting to sleep. They were told, still supplied by a technician that seemed to happen at regular intervals, nonstop. Being good scientists, they got their children’s sleep studies and alert every 25 seconds and proceeded to scout out their home environment for the cause was it the fridge coming on? No, that’s the clock. Not the electrical utility’s new radiation-pulsing ‘smart’ meter on the wall on the other side of their bedroom. In the end they demanded the chip in it that runs the meter be removed, and no noes twitching. I think of course immediately of the majority in this situation who would probably think it’s just “nutty” and wind up going half crazy or taking horrible sedatives.

This case reminded me of a spot in the Take Your Power film. A clip from some guy standing in the back yard with a leaf doing a little jump, actually being forced up in the air by the leaves, every few seconds. An agronomist watching this tracked to the root of the cyclical rotation of a strong device, signaling every few seconds, 14 miles away.

Although, unquestionably, our MP Alan Azzi, Slocan’s KASO and RDCK Director Andy Shadbuck have worked as conscientiously as they can to oppose this global scam, they are being overridden. But where a certain number of groups and individuals have become active and taken a stand with their local government, (Germany and Marin County for example), smart meters have been kept out.

Over the holidays, why not watch Take Back Your Power with your friends and families. Do the learning curve suggested by Citizens for Safe Technology (one of the best sources of information) and secure your home with wired choices for phones, wi-fi, printers, baby monitors, games and other wireless devices which will immediately reduce the physical burden from other wireless devices in the environment not under your control. Check out the class action suit for citizens (residents) and businesses. Maybe also find someone with a need to help you better understand microwaves and smart meters.

Probably sometime soon we will know what the BCCUC has ruled. If it isn’t a no-so-opt-out for all, then let’s fight for it. We cannot afford to be harassed by another electricity provider. Imagine being up called on a weekend evening to be told that you don’t pay $35 extra a month, they will start the process of turning off your power in a few weeks!

Daphne Field

Appointment of Mayor Lay as the Village of Kaslo representative to the RDCK board

I requested to be a delegation (on Tuesday, December 3) to the Committee of the Whole to bring forward a motion to support Councillor Lang’s “Notice of Motion” to appoint the elected Mayor of the Village of Kaslo as the representative of the Village of Kaslo to the Regional District of Central Kootenay board and replace him with Councillor Holland. While there was no advance notice or discussion in council to the public regarding this major and unprecedented change, there was also no consultation with the voters of Kaslo and their approval was not given to this extraordinary change of position. Councillor Lang opposed this change and in fact a year ago he will introduce a motion to appoint the ‘elected mayor’ as the director to represent the Village at the RDCK board.

After the decision was made last year 1, representing those citizens who voted for and support Mayor Lay, came before council to explain why Mayor Lay should have been reinstalled. At the end of my delegation, I requested that the councillors provide a written explanation as to why they made their decision to remove Mayor Lay. To date I have not received their reply and thus I have again gone to those who support and voted for Mayor Lay, a year ago, to ask them to obtain their support signatures for Councillor Lang’s ‘Notice of Motion.’

The motion will be voted upon at the regular council meeting on Tuesday, December 10.

In many communities throughout the RDCK, the representative has traditionally been the mayor. It is extremely important that a mayor be present at these RDCK meetings as it affords him the opportunity to network with mayors from other municipalities as well as sit on key committees that directly impact the economic well-being of our community. It should be noted that Mayor Lay volunteered his time to attend these RDCK meetings over the past year.

The action, last year, to remove the mayor was very divisive for council, and those that supported (and voted for) the mayor want council to appoint the mayor as their representative to the RDCK board. As 2014 is an election year for mayors and councils, the focus of the public will be on the accomplishments and cohesiveness of the mayor and council and through a democratic process of election, we have and will make our decisions known as to who will comprise our governing body.

In my opinion, Kaslo is at a crossroads for whether our community prospers or erodes and only through sustainable growth can we hope to sustain our community. A representative elected mayor is a necessary measure of economic growth. Our coltic community, once again needs to come together on a vision of how we can sustain our community and bring forward leaders and community champions to step up and provide the governance required to make our community viable again. Through cooperation and collaboration with each other, maybe we will work together for the common good of our community.

John Addison

KASO
BC government’s handling of ALR file provokes controversy

by Art Joyce

Will BC’s revered Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) be the next to fall beneath the relentless march of the oil and gas industry? In the wake of the election of NDP Agriculture Critic Nicholas Simons, what may be the government’s intention. The ALR, which is administered by the independent Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), protects over four million hectares of agricultural land. It was established in 1973 in response to the annual loss of 6,000 hectares of farmland to development.

Deputy Minister Strizki’s letter, dated October 4, is addressed to Richard Bullock, Chair of the ALC, and directs him to postpone any decisions on the ALR pending the outcome of the government’s core review process. That includes stopping current boundary reviews in the East Kootenays. However, Simons points out the ALC has already been through two recent reviews—one by the Auditor General in 2010, and a second one ordered by the government in 2011—making the motive for further review suspect.

An NDP release dated November 13 states that the BC Liberal agenda “involves handing over wholesale control of land use decisions in close to half the province—including the Kootenays—to the Oil and Gas Commission.” Despite changes to ALR boundaries during the past 30 years, the Commission and the province’s land protected has remained consistent at 4.7 million hectares. That could now change drastically.

“Under the Clark government’s secret plan to dismantle the ALR, land use decisions for the Kootenays would no longer be subject to existing ALC rules, and would be essentially handed over to the Oil and Gas Commission,” says NDP Leader Adrian Dix.

An advocacy group known as Integrity BC has already begun collecting signatures for a petition calling for the government to abandon any plans to scrap the ALC. Like the NDP, the group is claiming that this is another post-election about-face by the BC Liberals. Nothing was mentioned in their last election campaign about altering the ALR, even in response to direct questions from Metro Vancouver about what they would do to prevent further loss of agricultural land. Instead the BC Liberals boasted of their commitment to the ALC and its $3 million operating budget, noting that government had added 39,000 net-sown hectares to the Reserve, plus $1.6 million in time funding to strengthen compliance and enforcement. Integrity BC’s executive director Dermot Travis laughs off Minister Bill Bennett’s assurance that the new review in nothing more than government “insomnium.”

Travis reports that Agriculture Minister Pat Pannick was caught with his hands in the till, interfering in an application by one of his constituents to remove prime agricultural land from the Reserve. This is a direct contravention of Commission regulations.

Former Super Court Justice Ian Brailsford wrote in 2011 that “in some cases government Ministers have been obliged to resign because of actions or statements that gave the slightest appearance of a failure to respect the principle of judicial independence.” For this reason, Integrity BC is calling for the Minister’s resignation just months after he took up the post.

Former Minister of Agriculture Coryk Evans has also weighed in on the debate. He commends the vision and bravery of the people who showed the ALR into being in the face of constant pressure from developers. “If you or your kids or your grandchildren want to farm someday, or if you want to be able to buy food from people who live and farm near you, BC is a good place to live and to make those dreams come true.” He recalls receiving delegations from farmers from Ontario, Alberta, Tennessee and New Mexico while he was Minister, all eager to learn how they might help create their own version of the ALR. The rise of the recent food security movement has made protection of agricultural land as relevant as ever.

“Young people, for pretty much the first time in my 65 years, are talking about wanting to learn to farm for a living,” says Evans. “Village, town and city people are often even more interested in food issues than my neighbours in the rural area.”

Evans notes the paradox inherent in the situation. The Commission is charged with doing the work of the angels in protecting land capable of producing food from development. Conversely, the Government of the Province is charged with doing the work of the Devil in trying to make development happen in order to sustain an economy and employ people— and get themselves re-elected. The interests of the two are at odds with each other in times when the Government of the day is supportive of the Agricultural Land Reserve in principle.”

Still, Evans believes now is the time to “speak or forever hold your peace.” His experience in government leads him to believe that writing the Premier is most effective, since “Ministers are supposed to try ‘real bullets’ to see if they are accepted by the public, and usually aren’t the ones who make the final decision.”

E-mails do not make a stack on anybody’s desk,” Evans concludes. “E-mails are not given the weight of a letter that you write yourself.”

Integrity BC’s petition is available at: www.change.org/petitions/premiere-clarity-clark-hands-off-bcs-agricultural-landcommission
COMMUNITY

New Denver council, November 26: BC Hydro completes installation of surge arresters

by Katrina Campbell

Mayor Dan Blanka reported that BC Hydro has completed installation of surge arresters on the power lines. These help prevent voltage events caused when transmission and distribution lines struck on the same poles come into contact with each other.

- Councillor Nadine Raymonds reported that nine people attended the recent Council Cafe. The topics they raised included the relationship between provincial and municipal governments, the work on the bridge and Carpenter Creek, and wood burning and air quality. Raymonds sees a role for the Village in educating people on proper wood burning. She also said thanks to her councillors for their communication with residents.

- Councilor Raymonds reported on Chamber of Commerce business. After the recent public meeting, three people signed up for the Slocan Valley Tourism Plan Implementation Committee. The committee will review the plan, and draw up a timeline for its implementation.

The Slocan Youth Centre

Located at 1001 Harrold St. in Slocan, the Centre will be open after school on Thursday evenings for the month of December. 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm. The Centre also continues to be open every Friday & Saturday evenings 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm. For more information call (250) 355-2494.

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Nakusp council, November 25: Service awards presented

by Art Joyce

- The Nakusp council chambers were enveloped by the presentation of service awards to longstanding employees of the Village. Public works manager and director of operations Mike Pedersen received his 20-year pin. Employees receiving five-year pins included Noel Ballard, Wes Coleman, Tammy Herridge, Warren Leigh, and Malcolm McInnes. Others receiving special recognition for service rendered were administrative assistant Anna-Marie Hogg, whom Mayor Hamling described as being “indispensable” to us, and Fire Chief Terry Warren. The mayor noted that Warren first began as a Nakusp volunteer firefighter in 1983 and is currently Emergency Services Coordinator for RDCK Area H. Warren was instrumental in developing the vehicle extraction training new used across the province in emergency services. He has also been awarded the Governor General of Canada Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal and 25-year BC Long Service Award from the BC Fire Commission. “We’re very fortunate to have had the benefit of the gifts our staff bring to us,” said Mayor Hamling.

- Council discussed the core review of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), which has been generating controversy lately in the news. Councillor Mueller said her main concern was that “there’s a lot of pressure on farmland right now” and that too much land had already been removed from the ALR. Councillor Zeleznak agreed, and wants the Agricultural Land Commission to remain a separate arm of government. Councillor Duchaine said that while he agrees with the ALR in principle, he feels it is too rigid and needs revamping. “But I’m worried that if they go at it the way they’re proposing, it will be too flexible. We need to get to the middle.” Mayor Hamling agreed, saying the system is in need of review, since the initial boundaries were hastily drawn and often included land unsuitable for farming. “It’s fertile land you can grow on that, yes, it should stay in.”

- Council passed a motion proposed by Councillor Mueller based on a similar motion passed by the City of Vancouver, affirming support for the preservation of farmland. Council also pledged to “work with other municipalities to advocate for the Province of BC to identify further opportunities to enhance the viability of farming.” The motion also calls for a longer period of public input in any future review of the ALR and allowing for community input. Council agreed the matter also needs to be raised at the UBCM conference.

- CAD Linda Tyna is investigating high-speed broadband options for the Nakusp Hot Springs and Cedar Chalets. Satellite service may be a more affordable option than the $150,000 for the installation of a landline quoted by Telus. Lack of high-speed access has caused problems for customers using debit service when current internet access is slow or goes down.

- Council voted to pass Bylaw 2354, the Kootenay Lake West Transit Service Amendment Bylaw, which amalgamates four transit systems: Nelson and District, Kootenay Boundary Local Municipalities, Kaslo Paratransit, and Kootenay Lake West Transit. The bylaw spreads the annual cost of providing the service over the participating areas.

- The Kinnukan Creek Fishbridge was named the winner of the 2013 Community Recognition Award by the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Municipalities at the UBCM conference this year.

- Council noted that sculptor Kate Tipper has had to postpone installation of her new sculpture for the arena complex until spring so that she can have it powder coated.

- Council voted to pass a resolution proposed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for a federal plan to fix Canada’s affordable housing shortage. The motion urges the Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long-term plan for housing. Due in part to a lack of affordable housing, many Canadians are paying more than 30% of their income on housing.

- The schedule for the 2014-2018 financial plan was adopted by council, with special meetings to be scheduled.

- Council appointments were brought forward and ratified.

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Nakusp students promote fishing flashers and tourism at trade shows

by Jan McMurray

Education doesn’t get much more hands-on than this.

The students in Dorian Boswell’s outdoor education classes at Nakusp Secondary have designed, produced and marketed a fishing flasher.

It all started two years ago. Boswell was salmon fishing on the coast and saw another angler using a flasher. “I thought it was cool looking, and it had such a simple design. I said to myself, ‘my kids could build that!’ So I brought the idea back and challenged the kids to improve on the design.”

The 2011/12 junior outdoor education class made a dozen or so and tested them out. They found the flashers worked for dories and rainbows locally, and for salmon on the coast. They made 100 of them and sold them at stores throughout the region.

“We had a pretty good response, so I asked the class if they wanted to take it one step further,” said Boswell.

That one step further was to market the flashers at a trade show in Abbotsford. He took eight of the students to the Abbotsford show in spring 2012 to see if they would be interested in returning with a booth the following year. The answer was yes.

Preparing for the show was a huge undertaking, starting with the manufacture of 200 flashers. That took a lot,” said Boswell. They had to get other kids to help them and they had to do quality control. Just the manufacturing end is a huge learning curve.”

The students also built the flasher booth, and arranged to take the Village Chamber booth as well to promote tourism in Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes. They took the WorldHost and Tourism 500 courses to learn how to speak with the public at the show. They put together an underwater video of the flasher, and a video for the tourism booth. They figured out how to get internet at the booth and how to accept PayPal payments.

Boswell says other exhibitors at the show were very impressed. “One exhibitor said she’d been doing this for 25 years and he’d never seen a high school at an international trade show. Another guy said he could see them maturing right in his eyes.”

This year, the senior outdoor education class is taking the flasher and tourism booths to the International Boat Show in Vancouver at the end of January. They expect an attendance of 35,000 and they’re putting together 300 flashers.

Any business or tourism organization in the area is welcome to provide the class with brochures or videos to take to the show ($30 for Nakusp Chamber members; $45 for non-members). Contact the Chamber at 250-265-4234 or staff@nakuspchamberlakes.com by January 10 to make arrangements.

The students will also participate in the Junior Dragons’ Den initiative of Community Futures of Greater Trail. West Kootenay youth aged 13 to 17 are invited to submit a business concept paper and a video pitch. The top five from each category will work with mentors to create a business plan, update their video, and pitch their ideas to a panel of West Kootenay dragons on June 6 at the Charles Bailey Theatre.

The students have received grants from funders such as CRBC, the RDCK, Kootenay Savings Community Foundation and the Chamber to support their attendance at the trade shows. Proceeds from the sale of the flashers have allowed them to buy the materials to continue production, pay part of the trade show expenses, and purchase some equipment for the outdoor education program at the school.

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KASLO & DISTRICT

Kasio council, November 26: Council asked to prioritize projects

by Jan McMurray

• Council agreed that the current firehall would be demolished as soon as the move to the new firehall is complete in 2014.

• The CAO has provided council members with project lists and has asked them to rank the projects in terms of priority. He has also asked for a Committee of the Whole meeting where council members select the 2014 projects for the Kenmall and City Hall buildings.

• Council received a report from the CAO about making the Kaslo and Area D Health Working Group a select committee of council. This would allow the Village to give the committee a budget. At a subsequent Committee of the Whole meeting, held December 3, council accepted Kaslo and Area D Healthcare Working Group statement submitted.

The Kaslo and Area D Healthcare Working Group continues to work daily on formulating a solution to the current health care crisis in our community. Our goals have not and continue to be to preserve not only our 24/7 emergency room hours but also the positive elements that make our multidisciplinary health care centre offer a very different service of care and the jobs of those who work there. To that end, we are currently exploring funding options available through the Ministry of Health that could assist in making our community more attractive to a complement of Fee For Service (FFS) physicians willing to maintain ER services. These funding options have only recently come to our attention. We will continue to keep the community updated on any progress we make along these lines.

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Invasive Plant Committee

by Art Joyce

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) has released a major report on the Slocan Valley, providing guidelines for containment of key invasive plants.

The report, prepared by biologist Juliette Craig, received input from key government and NGO stakeholders throughout the region. The report stresses that, “Since invasive species know no boundaries, a cooperative and collaborative approach is essential.”

The report identifies 35 invasive plant species in the region, the most common being spotted knapweed, oxeye daisy, St. John’s wort, common tansy, Canada thistle and rush skeletonweed. Other species of high concern include greater celandine, blueweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom and yellow flag iris, but these are limited to relatively few sites.

The report identifies the Slocan Valley Invasive Plant Management Area (IPMA) as covering from Flowerpot Mountain junction in the south to Summit Lake in the north. Included in surveys have been land owned or managed by BC Hydro, Forest BC, and the Ministry of Transportation.

According to the Global Invasive Species Programme 2000, “the spread of invasive alien species is now recognized as one of the greatest threats to the ecological and economic well-being of the planet.”

The report states that in BC, an estimated 25 percent of endangered species, 31 percent of threatened species, and 16 percent of species of special concern are negatively impacted by invasive alien species. “Invasive plants impact recreational activities by damaging habitat, impacting fish and wildlife, obstructing trails and reducing aesthetics. Some species such invasive knapweeds can cause infrastructure damage to roads, buildings, and pipes.”

There are also potentially negative impacts on farming by limiting grazing areas and affecting crops. This is particularly relevant with the growing interest in local food security in the valley.

Sensibly, however, it’s not an all-out war on invasive plants. The report notes that certain invasive species — St. John’s wort for example — have medicinal properties. Therefore responsible harvesting of these plants is encouraged, ensuring that their spread is not increased.

The history of invasive plant management in the Slocan Valley is not arduous. The Slocan Valley IPMA has included treatments for 18 other species during the past five years. Six invasive plant species have received biological control measures but there were no chemical treatments conducted between 2008 and 2012. Herbicide treatments were done four times in 2013 by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations and the Ministry of Transportation.

These included treatments for greater celandine at the Little Slocan recreation site and for knapweed at Perry’s Road, Young’s Road and Highway 6.

Given the propensity of such plants for rapid propagation, many might wonder if the whole enterprise is an exercise in futility. Craig addressed this by acknowledging that, “Eradication of widely established invasive plants on a regional-scale is not a reasonable expectation.”

So much of the effort must go into well co-ordinated prevention efforts by all concerned. The most effective treatments require long-term management in conjunction with post-treatment restoration or remediation of sites. An Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) protocol has been created by non-profit and cooperative approaches that don’t rely on chemicals. And that also means working with local governments to develop strategies and bylaws regulating invasive plants. Public education through school outreach programs is another key component.

CKIPC is a non-profit society that was formed in 2005 by concerned local citizens, land managers, government and NGO agencies who share a common concern about the increase in invasive plants in the region.

Although not a landowner or land authority, the society works with land managers and occupiers to coordinate an important part of any campaign. The report urges the use of social marketing and outreach efforts to private landowners, particularly those whose land falls within containment areas.

The local culture must be acknowledged, such as how lack of community support for pesticide use.

That means coming up with innovative and cooperative approaches that don’t rely on chemicals. And that also means working with local governments to develop strategies and bylaws regulating invasive plants. Public education through school outreach programs is another key component.

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For more information visit www.ckipc.ca.
Santa, Mrs. Claus and three elves spent the evening of Light Up in Kaslo.

St. Mark’s Family Singers performed at the Kaslo Hotel on Light Up night. This group, led by Janet Marshall, meets every Monday at 3 pm at St. Mark’s Anglican Church Hall and there is no fee. Everyone is welcome.

The kids lined up to sit on Santa’s knee at Kaslo Light Up.

Yui Kooong had to turn up the heat to get those chestnuts roasting at Kaslo Light Up this year, held December 7, the coldest night of the year.

Thank you for your generosity
To all our Donors, Volunteers, and Staff WE Graham Community Service Society Would like to express Our Deepest Gratitude

May Peace and Happiness be yours over the Christmas and the coming New Year.

The hours:
December 24: 9 am - 3 pm
December 25: 9 am - closed
January 1st: closed

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With over forty years of bodywork experience, Hope’s Hands will relax your body and revitalize your spirit.

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(250) 355-9507

S60 Hour | $80 Hour and a Half
To schedule an appointment, call 250.355.2884
Nakusp Rotary Club hosts 27th Annual Community Carol Sing

Silicon Jones, the Outbound Rotary Exchange student, helps decorate the NSS gymnasium as part of her work with the school’s Interact Club.

The NSS-based Formal Chaos performed two songs, John Lennon’s Imagine, and Just in case nothing says Christmas like Van Haers.

The Arrow Lakes Community Choir performed The Little Drummer Boy and Peace on Earth. They were later joined by the Funk Singers for Ding Dong! Merrily on High and Regulate! For this is Christmas Day.

The Arrow Lakes String Ensemble performed The Holy and the Ivy and We Three Kings.

The Savage School of Music Junior Kids Choir performed three songs: Who Can Imagine a King? Catch a Falling Star and Up on the Housetop.

Past President of the Nakusp Rotary Club, Kees Van Der Pol, was Emcee for the evening.

Nakusp Rotary President Bill Tobey remarks on the great work being done by the NSS Band.

New Year’s Eve Dance 2014

December 31st, 2013

Silvertown Memorial Hall

TICKETS SOLD AT:
Silvertown Building Supplies
Mountainserry Foods

Sponsored by The Silvertown Community Club

Midnight Lunch

DOOR PRIZES

Dance Starts at 9:00 pm
No Minors - Tickets $15 ea.

Doors Open at 8:30 pm
Designated Drivers Available

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• 30 stores and services
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What’s Happening at Waneta Plaza?

• Have your picture taken with SANTA Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Christmas.
  Pick up your Santa photo before you leave the mall or we can mail it to your home.

• EXTENDED HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS
  Until December 23
  Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 9 pm
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FREE KIDS PLAY AREA!
  Ball pit and Tarzan swing

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Your Vitamin Store
Financial
KSCU ATM
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Colander Express
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Professional
Offices
Dr DeGreef, Plastic Surgeon
Dr LeMoel, Chiropractor
Dr Morency, Ophthalmologist
Dr Scheepers, Ophthalmologist
Septen Financial
Waneta Primary Care Clinic
The Ministry of Environment’s perspective on fuel spill testing

by Art Joyce

Setting out fast from fiction has been a running battle since the July 26 jet fuel spill in Lemon Creek.

After interviewing Jennifer Now of Slocan River Streamkeepers, it became evident that what that group is finding may be different than what SNC/Lavalin is finding in their tests. So we asked the Ministry of Environment to comment on the testing and monitoring regime being conducted for Executive Flight Centre (EFC) by SNC/Lavalin.

SNC is working with MOE biologists and engineers who will continue to oversee implementation of the monitoring plan. According to ministry staff, “the information generated must meet the Ministry’s needs for assessing potential environmental impacts and monitoring ecosystem recovery. Where necessary, adjustments to the program have been made and this will continue into the future as that data comes available.”

Why are we seeing significant differences in the findings of the SNC Lavalin report and that of Slocan Valley Streamkeepers?

It is MOE’s understanding that the findings between the two reports are generally consistent and not significantly different. MOE recognizes that data and interpretations in the reports may have some differences, and these are likely associated with factors such as sample site selection, sampling date, field and lab techniques, etc. Without additional information, MOE cannot comment on any specifics beyond the responses provided below.

They are claiming they could not collect sediment samples on Lemon Creek. Why not? Streamkeepers have taken and analyzed such samples.

SNC Lavalin conducted limited sediment sample collection in Lemon Creek following the spill and on the follow-up monitoring program. MOE staff recently accompanied SNC Lavalin staff in the field and can confirm that sediment samples continue to be collected from Lemon Creek. According to SNC, there are a limited amount of fine-grained sediments available for collection in Lemon Creek. These fine-grained sediments are the ones expected to act as ongoing sources of hydrocarbons. To address this issue, SNC has sediment monitoring stations in the Slocan River, where depositional fine-grained sediments are more likely to accumulate.

Is there any provision to sample large woody debris, i.e., logs where hydrocarbons can accumulate?

It is feasible to sample everything everywhere, so qualified personnel at SNC Lavalin have proposed a monitoring program that focuses on water and sediment, which have established benchmarks and thresholds (e.g., water quality guidelines) to assist with data interpretation. In addition, the monitoring program directly assesses overall aquatic ecosystem health using key indicator species such as fish and benthic invertebrates. MOE has approved this monitoring program, and does not expect that sampling hydrocarbon concentrations in large woody debris will significantly enhance our understanding of either environmental impacts or ecosystem recovery. Was there any attempt to test for water alkalinity and bicarbonates? MOE is not aware of attempts to test for these parameters. The monitoring program focuses on measuring parameters and contaminants that may be present in, or affected by, the specific material that was spilled.

Why is Streamkeepers turning up evidence of carbon compounds that SNC Lavalin has not found? Should Lavalin be using a different methodology?

In MOE’s understanding that the Streamkeepers may have been sampling at different locations and for different compounds than SNC Lavalin. The Streamkeepers’ program may include carbon compounds that are not expected to be present in, or affected by, the specific material that was spilled and may not be an indication of contamination from the spill. It is MOE’s understanding that SNC is following provincially approved sampling methods.

To view the monitoring plan visit http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/main-lemon-creek/.

Nakusp Public Health Nursing office moving to ALH

Public health nursing services are moving to Arrow Lakes Hospital.

The office at 611 Broadway St. closed November 29; the new one at the hospital will open on December 17.

Residents who need to speak to a public health nurse during the transition period to the new location should contact the Kootenay Boundary toll-free public health line at 1-877-221-3388.

Moving public health services to Arrow Lakes Hospital will bring all community-based services under one roof and will maintain easy access to the same public health nursing services, HI says. When the new office opens, public health nursing hours will remain 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The phone number will remain the same, 250-265-3222.

The Village of Nakusp owns the building at 611 Broadway. Interior Health has given the Village 90 days’ notice of the termination of the lease, as per the lease agreement. February 28, 2014 will be the last day of occupation of the building.

Options for Sexual Health operates out of that building as well, but is looking for another space. Village staff will look into options for the building and provide council with a report in the new year.

Merry Christmas to all from the staff at

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- Gingerbread Sleigh
- Shortbreads
- Fruit Stollen
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Come enjoy a Fancy Coffee, Bowl of Borscht or our Heritage Pyrohali Pizza Slice or the whole Pizza!

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Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 5:30 til December 24
Closed December 25 - January 2 Re-opening January 3

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Streamkeepers issues hydrocarbons report on Lemon Creek

by Art Jayce

Reporting on lab tests is never easy, but we can thank our lucky stars that here in the Slocan Valley, we have an independent body testing our water. The Slocan River Streamkeepers has released the results of its hydrocarbon testing during the early post-fuel spill period.

The main goals of the testing were to check people's drinking water as a way of assuring them it was safe to drink, and to perform a cursory review of the extent of contamination below Lemon Creek. Microbiologist Jennifer Yeow was assisted in sample collecting by Justin Overholt, a biologist and technician. The site was the first side channel off Lemon Creek at the confluence of the creek and the Slocan River.

The good news—in plain English? "Hydrocarbon contaminants were below detection levels in all of the drinking water samples tested." Does that mean Lemon Creek and the Slocan River get the all clear? Hardly. "That said, three of the five of the five fuel samples collected at the Lemon/Slocan side Channel on August 13 contained heavy hydrocarbon at higher levels than seen in Slocan River water shortly after the spill." Another sample taken on September 16 in a side channel where a fuel sheen was observed registered 2 parts per billion of a hydrocarbon known as PAH-2-Methyl-naphthalene. In other words, proof positive that not all of the fuel had cleared from the ecosystem six weeks after the spill.

Heavy rains at the end of September didn’t make Streamkeepers job any easier. “A sample of resident’s tap water had no odour and the lab analysis was negative for hydrocarbons,” notes the report. “A sample collected from Lemon Creek which did have kerosene odour did not have any detectable hydrocarbons,” but this speaks more to the limitations of sampling and testing than the presence or non-presence of contaminants.

When asked Yeow if this report answers residents’ concerns about their drinking water, her answer was: Yes. And no. "Yes, there were no high levels of fuel detected. And no, because our senses tell us there can still be hydrocarbons present even when we can’t measure them." The report records the observations of Lemon Creek residents such as Jon Burdon who have noted a higher than usual incidence of algae growth on rocks in the creek even at winter temperatures set in. What does this really mean? The fact is, Yeow says, we just don’t know for sure. "The literature says jet fuel A1 is toxic to algae and is broken down by bacteria." So it’s possible biodegradation is going on, also evident by changes in water acidity levels.

Although few of the samples tested for detectable levels of hydrocarbons, kerosene odour was clearly present in the water at levels below detection by lab instruments. "This is not the case with algae and sediment where partitioning is likely affected by a complex array of hydrocarbon compounds and organics in the soil. Here, hydrocarbons persist and can be detected. The ratio of heavy to light hydrocarbons may have changed but fuel persists in the environment for nearly two months post-spill during this study.”

The conclusion? "Relatively high levels" of light and heavy hydrocarbons were found in downstream algal growth 54 days after the spill, warranting further investigation. Levels found in the algae and the Lemon side channel on September 16 and 19 exceed Contaminated Sites Regulation (CSR) Wildland standards. CSR standards specify a limit of 1,000 ppm (parts per million) for these hydrocarbons. CSR is typically used as a guideline for agriculture or to clean up a contaminated site. The polluter is expected to clean up land to below these limits.

The monthly testing done by Streamkeepers to date has shown that one month after the July 26 spill the alkaliinity and bicarbonate of the Slocan River at South Slocan was almost double what it was the previous three months. These levels were higher than ever seen on the river in three years of testing. "Although that has returned to normal, we can infer that the chemistry of the river was heavily impacted during that period," explains Yeow. "Although fuel is known to biodegrade in the environment, we think it’s important to track the fuel over time to assess potential toxicity to aquatic life."

Monitoring is also being done by SNC Lavalin, the corporation hired by Executive Flight Centre. But already Yeow is seeing a discrepancy between the data Streamkeepers has received and what’s being reported by SNC Lavalin. For example, that company’s data states that Jet A1 only contains the C10-19 light hydrocarbon, whereas Streamkeepers’ sediment tests also reveal the presence of the higher molecular weight carbon compound C19-32. In addition, SNC only tested fish for hydrocarbon accumulation, not logs or woody debris in water channels.

Yeow has asked the company for a data sharing agreement but so far no such offer has been made. Streamkeepers has now used its funding for hydrocarbon testing in Lemon Creek and other sites affected by the jet fuel spill. However, the group plans to continue monitoring these sites, with a full report expected in February.

Happy Holidays!
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Slocan Valley
Co-operative Association

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

From Pat & Peggy and the staff at Mountain Valley Station, Slocan
“Your little store with more for less!”

Come see us for great gifts, local crafts & all your wrapping needs!

We will be open on Christmas Day & New Year’s Day
12 - 4

On Boxing Day, we will be hosting our 7th Annual “Family Fun Skate” at the outdoor rink in Slocan from 1 - 4. We supply the hotdogs and hot chocolate – You supply the FUN!!!!

Nakusp Movember team raises $1,200

submitted

You may remember recently reading about Nakusp’s very own Movember team, the Mo’-tain men. You may have even seen them around town sporting their hairy tea strainers. Together they managed to raise more than $1,200 for men’s health issues. Money raised will be given to organizations that raise awareness, support, and carry out research for men’s health issues, such as prostate and testicular cancers, and mental health issues.

The team would like to thank all their supporters for their generous donations, and are looking forward to an even better result next year.

May the Blessings and Joy of the Christmas season be with you throughout the coming year.

Box Lake Lumber Products Ltd. • Nakusp, BC
Nakusp Celebration of Light contest winners


Best Parade Float: 1st Home Hardware, 2nd Kootenay Savings Credit Union, 3rd Overwataea.

Best Youth Parade Entry: 1st Dance on the Kisp, 2nd Nakusp Minor Hockey.


Anything but Snow Man: Alice Smith.

Season’s Greetings!

To all our business contacts, friends and neighbours:
Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Crossley, Shawn and Dean
Scot Norsemen Enterprises Nakusp, BC

Wishing our friends, neighbours, suppliers and customers the best of the holiday season!
Galena Contractors
Nakusp • 250-265-4100
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Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!

The Peoples Pharmacy Team: Shannon, Lori, Kristy, Colleen, Coralie, Jodi, Troy
Your local Peoples Pharmacy team is committed to helping people live better lives through trusted and caring health services. We wish everyone good health and much happiness in the new year.

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Christmas by the Lake feels the pinch of Jack Frost

by Art Joyce

With weekend temperatures dropping as low as -24 degrees Centigrade, the Grinch who stole Christmas had a new ally this year: Jack Frost. While that didn’t deter people from enjoying the seventh annual Christmas by the Lake December 5-8, it did keep some away. But judging by the laughing, rosy-cheeked faces of the kids who crowded the ice slide or happily ate roasted marshmallows and chowder, the event was a success by any measure.

The event was kicked off by New Denver royalty on Friday evening when the Christmas tree was lit up. New Denver Mayor Ann Buska and Silverton Mayor Kathy Provans were on hand to help inaugurate festivities.

Speaking of the kids, they enjoyed a new feature to Christmas by the Lake this year – a treasure hunt. Volunteers were lanyards each depicting a clue. Children had to find the volunteer and collect four stickers for their chance to enter a draw for a new computer tablet and e-reader. The stage Sunday afternoon was crowded by acoustic boys and girls awaiting the results of the draw. Arabele Tremblay was one of two first prize winners.

Patrick McIvor of Dancing Scott Forge was this year’s blacksmith, and offered the kids a unique opportunity to be his helpers, putting the hot hammer blows on miniature horseshoes they could then take home as souvenirs.

Jack Frost was up to his usual mischief – the furnace in the Silverton Gallery suddenly quit Saturday morning, leaving inside vendors shivering. Gallery directors got busy and by Sunday morning a repairman had the furnace working again. Even without heat the Gallery was a refuge for the 54 vendors of unique local goods and their customers.

Santa’s arrival at Christmas by the Lake helped the kids forget all about the deep freeze.

Propane heaters on the stage kept musicians from freezing and Christmas by the Lake organizer Armand Lange salutes their courage. These included the Slocan Valley Community Band, Melissa McCready and Shannon Molders hausser (Mots und Oats), the Slocan Mental Health Club, and Hank Hastings performing old favourites on accordion. One young lad volunteered to get up on stage and sing a carol.

But the cold clearly got to some, despite an extended advertising campaign this year. The bus chartered from Nelson was only about half full. Bratwurst and gluten-free sales were down by about a third.

Warm Holiday Wishes to all our friends and customers

Hawai’s
Wif Wiatow Repairs Ltd
250-265-9383
1008 Hwy 33, Nakusp

Merry Christmas
Nakusp Legion, No. 60
Conversation on local agriculture held in Silverton

by Jan McMuray

Today, 95 percent of the food we eat in the West Kootenay comes from Vancouver, Calgary and much further away. But up until the mid 1950s, most of the food consumed in the West Kootenay was locally produced.

“We know we can grow food here. We just have to figure out how,” said Julia Greenlaw, at ‘Coming together for food.’

held on November 30 at the Silverton Gallery. Hosted by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley, the forum was attended by about 40 people from the New Denver, Nakusp and Kaslo areas.

Paula Shandro and Julia Greenlaw, who run the Healthy Community Society's Food Program, hosted the session. Shandro gave a history of agriculture in the area, and Greenlaw spoke about agriculture in the area today. The group then brainstormed on the challenges faced by local agriculture and discussed “what’s possible” in small groups.

Shandro outlined the area’s struggling agricultural history from 1897 to the 1950s in her talk. In the 1950s, the World Kootenay farmer’s problem was not what he could grow, but what he could sell. She then went on to say that in 1950s, the construction of the Arrow Dam dealt a huge blow, flooding out acres and acres of agricultural land in the Arrow Lakes Valley, the third most agriculturally productive valley in BC at its peak.

Greenlaw listed a rather impressive number of food-related pursuits in the West Kootenay today: Canada’s first CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and the Kootenay Alpine Cheese and Dairy in Creston, Nelson’s Kootenay Co-op, Passmore Packers poultry abattoir, Winala’s Revolution Biodiesel, the Kootenay Farm School in Creston, Kootenay Organic Growers Society (KOGS), the first accredited food hub in Kaslo, and many school gardens. She said there were 562 people actively farming in the area and in 2006, agriculture generated $30 million in proceeds.

She briefly summarized the RDCK’s Agriculture Plan and Jon Steinman’s recent report, ‘Towards a regional food system alliance for the West Kootenay.’ The Agriculture Plan says there are big pressures on the land base and points out that farm incomes can’t support the purchase of land. It says there is limited equipment and supplies, and an inadequate local distribution system. Recommendations included increasing farm support services, and encouraging new farmers. Steinman’s report concludes that economic development should be the main focus of a regional food alliance.

Meeting attendees brainstormed challenges, some of which were matching farmers with land, land availability and price, scale, agricultural policy, climate adaptation, acquiring resources, reaching the broader community, and conflicts between wildcrafting and farming.

Ideas to strengthen agriculture in the area included regular workshops, community cold storage facilities, a festival of food, farm tours, certified kitchens, a food column in the local paper or online, and an online food registry. Representatives from Lakehead and Beyond Produce Society in Meadow Creek shared their story of building agriculture in their community. Their business plan is available online at community-connect.ca.

Greenlaw said meeting notes would be sent out to attendees, and kitchen table talks and a Facebook page were being planned to keep the conversation going.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
2014 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

January 14th and 28th
February 11th and 25th
March 11th and 25th
April 8th and 22nd
May 13th and 27th
June 10th and 24th
July 8th and 22nd
August 12th and 26th
September 9th and 23rd
October 14th and 28th
November 11th and 25th
December 9th and 23rd

I love Christmas...

I love the turkey, potatoes and gravy; I love some of the other ways we spoil ourselves.

Yet I love it when the Christmas spirit goes beyond turkey, potatoes, gravy and the other ways we spoil ourselves; I love it when the message of ‘God in the World’ is something I feel deep within me.

Whether you are Catholic or not, whether you go to church or not, you are welcome to join us on Christmas Eve for “Midnight” Mass.

New Denver—5pm
Slocan—7pm

Come half an hour early and join us for some traditional Christmas Carol singing before Mass. The sermon will be short, the singing is only as good as you make it, but we will try to make Mass a Spirit filled start to the celebration of Christmas Day.

The other Christian Churches in the area will also be telling the Christmas story and they’ll make you equally welcome.

Best wishes for a joyous & peaceful holiday season.

Alex Atamansone, MP, BC Southern Interior
337 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar
1-800-667-2393 www.alexandp.ca

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

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Panto of the Opera: another fun production by Mirror Theatre

by Cedar Eicherauer

Did you see The Panto of the Opera recently performed in Nakusp? I hope you did because it sure was a hoot! Mirror Theatre continued the tradition of selling out shows with light hearts and tiny smile muscles.

The story is set in the deeply indebted Paris Opera House, recently purchased by Madame Zola (Jane Colin). Half the value of the building is owed to the villainous and conceiving Frank Lee (Lee Coste), owner of the Moulin Rouge, and taxmaster to his nephews, Pew and Simple (Candar and Phoenix Leeson Booth). With the Opera House comes the opera chorus (Lisa Libb, Chelsea Pike, Kristin Richards, Orith Leeson, and Kaara Pike). They have just been joined by a couple of operatic hopefuls: the lovely, innocent, young Christian (Celia Taylor) and Beatrice Bakewell (Dylan Leeson Booth), a brain and beauty lady with rather less grace than she might hope for. Madame Zola also employs more experienced singers: a tenor (Pat Dion), and prima donna Carletta Versavalle (Joy Sosoye).

Frank Lee is determined to own the Opera House. He is assured that the debt is due in three weeks. In desperation, Madame Zola offers him a wager, at the end of the three weeks, either she will default on her debt, in which case Mr. Lee will own both establishments, or she will be able to pay off her debt, which will entitle her to take over the Moulin Rouge as well as keep the Opera House. Her employees support her fully, desperate to keep their jobs. They firmly believe that the Angel of Music, embodied in the golden statue on the roof, will help them succeed, and that as long as they keep the resident phantom, (Margaret Andrews), happy, they will not encounter any insurmountable obstacles.

Neither Madame Zola nor Mr. Lee had heard of these two supernatural beings. Madame Zola refuses to be intimidated by a ghost, who apparently doesn’t even pay for his seat – the most expensive box in the house – and Mr. Lee is most interested in the value of the gold in the statue, sending Pew and Simple to look for it.

Madame Zola gets right down to work with audacity, delightfully interrupting various composers (Jamie MacGibbon, Taylor Moody, Thasa Gaaboud, Brock Coste, Mary Harza) who want her to produce their works, the task of which are ridiculed and pans. None are accepted.

There is some help for the Opera House: wealthy Raoul, patron of the arts – all arts – including those practised at the Moulin Rouge. Madame Zola is shocked but desperate enough to see she has no choice but to accept his aid in her plan. Raoul brings with him the acclaimed artist Henri Toudouze-Lantier (Jenobi Dalberg) to paint publicity posters.

Frank Lee isn’t done, though. He engages the officious Eric Podpupule (also played by Margaret Andrews), to pose as a Health and Safety Inspector to scrutinize every aspect of the Opera House’s operations, with a view to stall proceedings completely.

Meanwhile, Christine has won the hearts of just about everyone. Raoul and the constantly plotting Mr. Lee both try to court her. Raoul with much more success, the Angel of Music teaches her to sing, and the chorus takes her side against the inclined Carlota when the Angel of Music requests that she be given the lead role in the current production.

The plot unfolds with song, dance, mockery, kidnapping, pursuit, underground lakes, singing frogs, an acting horse (Kathy Poduna), and lots of drama. The phantom is eventually unmasked, the golden statue is found, enabling Madame Zola to win the wager, and the show finally ends when the Fat Lady (Amanda Poduna) sings.

What a fun afternoon! Gaul Ponto’s costumes were wonderfully designed and the occasional mix-up was admirably rectified with entertaining improvisation. Jenobi made a memorable eccentric artist, Carlota was the ultimate innocent young girl in the city for the first time, and Margaret’s characters were the thread that pulled it all together. These three for community theatre and everyone who participated!

BC seniors’ advocate: about time, says NDP submitted

The Government of British Columbia has launched an open consultation to provide BC's seniors’ advocate. Candidates will be screened and interviewed for suitability, with the successful candidate being appointed through Order-in-Council. The Canada-wide competition closes December 13.

The seniors’ advocate will work collaboratively with seniors, families, policy makers, service providers and others to identify solutions to systemic issues and make recommendations to government to improve the welfare of seniors.

In the following public consultations across the province, government introduced Bill 10, the Seniors Advocate Act, to allow the creation of the Office of a Seniors Advocate, which passed on March 14, 2013.

The opposition NDP’s reaction to the announcement was swift and scathing. saying the move came only after “a long delay and relentless public pressure,” and the “uncanny acts and fee increases are making life harder for BC seniors.” They cite the wholesale tax cuts to Advantage BC for Tupper, the recent discharge of a 50-year-old blind woman from hospital in the middle of the night, and failure to improve home support, assisted living or residential care as cited in the Ombudsperson’s report on the state of seniors’ health.

Kootenay West MLA and critic for seniors Katti Conroy said, “Seniors deserve better than the uncaring treatment they’re getting under the BC Liberals. Our province needs an advocate more than ever that will stand up, hold the government to account and demand better care for BC seniors.”

The job posting can be found online at: www.gov.bc.ca/local/nv legislature/report/opportunities/seniors_advocate_posting.pdf

Wishing you a magical Christmas...
Emergency health care in Kaslo: interview with Kaslo Ambulance Unit Chief Larry Badry

The Ross Report says that IH should work with BCAS on protocols and algorithms for time-sensitive, uncommon health problems. It also talks about different ways the community can access training for paramedics. Further, it talks about the Advanced Care Attendant role: is Kaslo Ambulance supportive of these ideas?

There are a number of potential models that could support paramedics working in other roles within the health care system. The Advanced Care Attendant mentioned in the Ross Report is one potential option regarding Markings: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany at St. Mark’s Church, Kaslo submitted

On December 1, the four week season of Advent begins, offering all of us time to consider how we will embrace God’s vision and act to promote human justice, environmental sustainability and peace in our world, in preparation for the Christmas celebration of the Christ born into the world to show us how to live and serve God, the source of peace.

Each Sunday at 9 am, another candle of the Advent wreath will be lit, until all four are shining and we’re ready for Christmas. Using the KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives) 2013 resource, the first Sunday’s focus on Hope will consider our call to address both the HIV-AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa (being World AIDS Day) and the crisis of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

That afternoon, the children of our congregation may join a community gathering of the Advent Garden, a participatory candle-lighting experience linking us with creation and the growing Light of our lives as we anticipate Christmas and the return of light at winter solstice. On Monday, December 2, 5 pm, we’ll gather for a potluck party, to remember St. Nicholas, the fourth-century bishop of Myra (present-day Turkey) whom we revere for his charitable nature and humility, and from whom Santa Claus evolved. Donations that night will go to Philippine relief.

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Nine new doctors hired for rural British Columbia

compiled by Jan McMurray

Nine new doctors have been hired in rural BC, thanks to an initiative announced this spring by the provincial government and the BC Medical Association (BCMA). One of these doctors, Dr. Chelsea Archibald, was placed in Nakusp and has been practising in the community since September.

The Rural Physicians for British Columbia incentive provides recruited doctors with a one-time payment of $100,000 when they commit to a three-year return of service in a designated rural community. Participating physicians receive $50,000 when they begin working in the community. The remaining $50,000 is paid only if they have worked completely one year of service. The full amount must be repaid if the three-year commitment is not fulfilled.

A total of 17 communities are eligible for the funding, and almost half of these communities now have at least one new doctor. Communities benefiting from the nine new doctors are Terrace, Cherweld, Bella Coola, Hazelton, Clearwater, Princeton, Nakusp and Port Hardy.

The communities were selected by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, in collaboration with regional health authorities, based on the need of factors including the degree of difficulty the community has experienced in recruiting hard-to-fill physician positions.

When asked why Kaslo was not chosen as one of the communities, an IH spokesperson stated, "A number of criteria were taken into consideration when selecting the communities including population, the number of physicians currently serving the community, the number of vacant physician positions, and the need for particular types of specialist care. This incentive is also a pilot project, which will be evaluated, and depending upon its effectiveness, the initiative, or some variant, may be applied to other communities in the future."

The incentive was developed by the Joint Standing Committee on Public comment period for Hills cell tower ends January 14

by Jan McMurray

Telus has applied to the Province to erect a cell tower on Crown land just north of Hills, and the public comment period ends January 14.

The proposed Crown land site for the tower is just north of Hills off Hwy 6 near the school bus turn-around. The project will involve construction of a 1500-metre road from the highway to the tower site, along an existing skid trail. If approved, a 50-metre tri-pole tower and a 10’x 15’ shelter with a chain link fence will stand on the site. Construction is expected in 2014.

The RDCK was notified of the application in mid-September and asked to provide comments. Area H Director Popoff said in an interview that he supports the application, as the tower is proposed to be on Crown, not private, land, and he feels cell service is needed for emergency situations. "We saw how the lack of cell service was a real problem in the Lemon Creek spill event," he said.

Telus reports that following the public consultation period, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will consider the comments from residents, First Nations groups and other agencies before making a decision on the Crown land application. "Once we receive the support of the Regional District, we are in a position to start construction to build the proposed site and enhance wireless coverage in the area," said a Telus spokesperson.

When asked how plans were going to erect towers throughout the rest of the Slocan Valley, the spokesperson stated, "While we're still in the research process of locating additional sites and don't have much information to share just yet, we are dedicated to bringing all our customers the best possible mobile service. We recognize service in the Slocan Valley is particularly important for living, working and traveling through the area, and are working to enhance coverage for residents in the coming years."

Written comments on the application are to be submitted to FrontCounter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1 or AuthorizingAgency.Cranbrook@gov.bc.ca.
Kootenay Lake School District steers away from CUPE strike

by Ian McMurray

The threat of a CUPE strike at Kootenay Lake School District 8 has almost certainly been averted, now that the SD8 board of education has approved a ‘savings plan.’

“I think the plan itself will get us to that negotiated agreement,” said Mel Joy, chair of the SD8 board of education.

The plan finds savings in the budget so the school district can find a 3.5 percent wage increase over two years for CUPE staff. The wage increase was negotiated between the Province and CUPE, but the school districts were asked to pay for it within their existing budgets, without any extra funding from the Province. The Province also asked the school districts to not impact ‘core services’ in their savings plans.

“The board did quite a bit of work to make sure classrooms will not be affected. Even though the requirement was to take money out of the budget, we kept it away from students as much as possible,” said Joy.

She said they found savings by deciding not to replace a district principal and “realigning the budget in many places.”

Joy said the savings plan was a very difficult mandate, as was the "net zero" mandate they were given for the last round of bargaining. “We hope at some point the ministry will put money into wage increases for employees at all school districts,” said Joy. “If you believe your staff deserves a wage increase, then let’s make that a priority instead of trying to squander it. There doesn’t seem to be a lot of planning where it needs to be.”

The savings plan was approved at a special board meeting on December 9. “It was a tense meeting,” said Joy.

The strike would affect the classrooms but so would taking the money out of the budget, so we were in a bad place,” Joy said.

CUPE members attended a good number, Joy reported. She said she dealt with the strike by sending a clear message all along that they agreed the government should be funding the wage increase, but they were nevertheless looking for a negotiated agreement. At the meeting, CUPE told the board “they want to join us after bargaining to state the same message in a letter to the ministry,” reported Joy.

The SD8 board of education was disappointed that the other school districts in the province did not take the same strong stand against the mandate. “This impacts our budget and ultimately the classrooms. We believe it’s a huge issue and we hope the rest of the province would stand alongside us,” said Joy. “With teacher bargaining happening now, and CUPE bargaining starting up again in June, if the ministry is bargaining like this where they expect districts to pay for it, we don’t know what’s coming at us. We thought taking a stand now would change that direction but we were alone.”

All districts have written to the ministry to oppose this approach to finding the CUPE wage increase, but they did not take their opposition to the bargaining table like SD8 did.

Thank You!

to the crew of volunteers I worked with over the past year, maintaining old trails and opening up new ones! See you out there next year! A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You All!

Rob, Rhonda, Charlotte & Drew

LIGHT UP THE HOSPITAL - 2013

The Slocan Community Health Care Centre Auxiliary Society is holding the “LIGHT UP THE HOSPITAL” 2013 campaign. The auxiliary continues to raise $55 and contribute funds to purchase a wheelchair accessible specialized VAN for the PAVILION residents. Presently, we have raised $20,000.00 and still need $15,000.00 for a used VAN.

Cheques can be made payable to:

SLOCAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE AUXILIARY SOCIETY BOX 253, NEW DENVER, BC, V0G 1S0

For more information or any questions,
Contact Barb Lahrer,
President SCHCAS
250-358-2653

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Warren, Deb, Nancy, Al & Betty

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Tales from the Fisherman’s Market: WE’VE GOT WHAT YOU NEED

December is a busy month. With people rushing from here to there, preparing for their holiday parties, get-togethers, and shin diggs. We all hope to create the most memorable, most humbly and the most heartwarming setting, to bring our guests in with open arms and warming hearts. Look to the sea to bring the atmosphere to life.

The Fisherman’s Market has spent over a decade serving you the best the ocean has to offer for your holiday season, and still we continue to provide! We catch the food you love; we provide tips and recipes on how to make your meals fantastic, and we give you the best deals on the best quality seafood the world has to offer.

We have a Traditional Smoked Sockeye Salmon to nibble on, or serve in a mousse, or even in a creamy white sauce over your favorite pasta; how about our Argentinian Prawns and Peruvian Scallops to cook in a fondue or top a zesty salad. Crab legs always make a good impression, with their sweet and rich flavor stimulating your taste buds. We’re also trail blazers by being BC’s premier provider of the world’s first Ocean Wise Black Tiger Prawn. This sweeter, heartier prawn can be found on special this month at all Fisherman’s Market locations.

These are only some of the things going on at the Fisherman’s market this month. We also take pre-orders in person, by e-mail, and over the phone. So be sure to book your bounty ahead and beat the rush, so we can get you exactly what you want, when you need it most. Because at the Fisherman’s Market, it’s Quality (and a stress free holiday season) You Deserve!

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Winter Celebration Reading to benefit the Nelson Food Cupboard

Christmas hours: Nakusp Glass will close December 24 at 3:30 pm. Reopening with regular hours on Jan 2.

For Emergency please call 265-265-1072

COMMUNITY

The Valley View December 11, 2013

Christmas time, which is wonderful and full of genuine concern for their neighbors," says Nelson Food Cupboard (NFCs) co-ordinator Kim Clarkworth. "This year, we’re launching our monthly giving campaign, encouraging donors to consider giving a small amount monthly. People are hungry all year round."

"Says that all donations are welcome, while monetary donations enable NFCs to more effectively meet their mandate of providing a variety of healthy foods, including fresh produce. NFCs volunteers will be on hand to help register monthly donors with Canada Helps. For more information on the Nelson Food Cupboard go to www.foodcupboard.org.

The Nelson Library’s annual Finals for Food community pleases during regular hours on the 17th. All fines for late materials collected on that day, directly benefit the Food Cupboard.

ALAC presents A Christmas Celebration

On Sunday, December 15, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents A Christmas Celebration, the first of our two community artists’ concerts for the 2013-14 concert season. These two concerts will be fundraisers for the Deepening Peace sculpture on the Nakusp waterfront by Toru Fujibayashi.

This community concert will include the NSS Senior Band, the Fang Singers, soloists, the Arrow Lakes String Ensemble, students from the Massey School of Music, and the Arrow Lakes Community Choir.

Come and support our community artists as they share their love of music during this Christmas season. The show kicks off at The Bowling Arts Centre and starts at 2 pm. Doors open at 1:30 pm. It’s open seating, and there will be a donation jar at the door for your contributions.

Come early so you can get a good seat, and note it will likely be standing room only.

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Documentary film starring New Denver resident premiers December 18

by Jan McMurray

The documentary film starring New Denver resident Eloise Charet, *Jaime saa sua noz enfants (Never without Children)*, is premiering to a sold-out audience of 400 in Montreal on December 18. Eloise is travelling to Montreal for this special occasion.

"I'm getting nervous," Eloise told the Valley Voice. "The tickets were sold out in two weeks, and the press will be there. I didn't think it was going to be such a big deal."

Eloise's experience saving 80 orphans from the Khmer Rouge revolutionary army in Cambodia

submitted

North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Columbia Basin Trust and RDCK Area D are pleased to announce that upgrades for the Lardeau Valley Community Centre (LVCC) Youth Room have been approved through the Youth Grants Program. Shannon Isaac, the Kalslo and Area D Youth Co-ordinator, will work with local youth, businesses and contractors, and the LVCC board on the planned makeover. The goal is to improve the atmosphere and to create an inviting, safe space for youth living at the north end of Kootenay Lake.

We are offering three youth mentorships to be involved with painting a mural, and installing a new floor, using funds from the RDCK Area D Community Fund. This project is an opportunity for youth participants to learn basic carpentry and painting skills in a safe and supportive environment. The LVCC board and the youth co-ordinator strongly encourage local youth between the ages of 13 and 21 years of age to sign-up and set an interview as soon as possible. The project is expected to get underway by the third week of December. The participants will be provided with honoraria and a few basic tools as an incentive to get involved. If you are a youth and interested in this project, contact Shannon at 250-353-

Lardeau Valley Youth Room makeover approved

CASUAL HOME SUPPORT

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services has openings for Casual Home Support in the New Denver and Slocan areas.

Duties include providing home support services to clients such as assisting with activities of daily living.

Successful candidate will have a Home Support Certificate or Residential Care Aide Certificate, as well as, a class 5 driver’s license and current first aid.

If interested please send resume to:
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Happy New Year!
Retired Health Canada scientists speak out on GMO foods

by Art Joyce

After 20 years of genetically engineered (GE or GMO) foods, the results of this public health experiment are in, and they aren’t good. That’s the conclusion of two retired Health Canada scientists, Dr. Chiv Chopra and Dr. Thierry Vrain, who spoke to a packed house at Nelson’s Unitarian Church the evening of December 6. The event was hosted by the Kootenay Co-op and Abra Bryne, president of the Co-op, a longtime activist with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN).

Dr. Vrain said the biotech industry’s claim that humans have been “genetically engineering” crops for thousands of years is disingenuous. Current biotech processes are unprecedented in their ability to insert foreign genes into organisms, creating unpredictable and potentially dangerous results. In particular, new proteins are created that humans and livestock have not evolved to handle.

Since there have been on nice showing organ damage, allergies and toxicity from these proteins. They have been implicated in a huge surge in food allergies in humans during the past 20 years, as well as a sharp rise in leaky gut syndrome. Studies with human volunteers who were fed engineered soybeans showed that engineered DNA resist digestion, with lateral gene transfer to gut bacteria. A graph shown by Dr. Vrain showed a direct correlation between the introduction of GE foods and an exponential increase in autism.

Scientists in the US tried to warn the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about the risks of these “rogue proteins” but were ignored by FDA chief Michael Taylor. Taylor was a former Monsanto lawyer who later returned to work for the company once GE foods were approved for the market.

Ninety percent of GE crops have been engineered to be herbicide tolerant (BT), specifically to resist application of the Monsanto product RoundUp. Dr. Vrain said farmers love it because it makes the weed problem simple – all you have to do is spray. This has led to a huge worldwide increase in the use of this herbicide. One study showed that RoundUp creates as much health damage as GE foods. Another 10-15 percent of GE plants are engineered to include bacteria thuringiensis (Bt), which is designed to kill insects and moths by creating leaky gut syndrome. Once again the problem of unanticipated new proteins arises by inserting BT into plant genes. Dr. Vrain explained that the same effect does not occur when using BTK, a common biological control agent used to protect fruit crops from tent caterpillars. Soon all the major food crops will be engineered to resist 2,4-D, which has been shown to cause Parkinson’s disease.

There are currently 500 million acres of GE crops being grown in the world, posing a major risk of cross-pollination, particularly for organic growers. To maintain organic status, crops must test out at 99 percent pure. None of the GE crops grown in Canada have been tested by Health Canada. The government has been silent about GE crops since 1996. Other GE crops grown here include corn, soy and sugar beet. Ninety percent of all soy and corn crops worldwide are GE and 100 percent of sugar beets. For families concerned about their health this poses a special challenge, since corn is used in a wide variety of prepared foods in the form of corn syrup, cornstarch and corn oil. Sugar beets are a commonly used sweetener in prepared foods.

GE products imported into Canada include cottonseed oil, often used in potato chips; American-grown potatoes, a common ingredient in fruit juices; and American squash, particularly yellow crookneck and straightneck as well as zucchini.

Although we can thank Dr. Chopra for keeping bovine growth hormone (rBGH) out of Canada, it finds its way “through the back door” via importation of American milk products. That includes everything that uses powdered milk, such as candy bars, frozen desserts and even imported mixed drinks with dairy.

Dr. Chopra’s book Corrupt to the Core – Memoirs of a Health Canada Whistleblower details his struggles to ban bovine growth hormone and other dangerous chemicals, received thousand of abuse for the campaign for his campaign and stand. He pointed out that Canada’s Food and Drug Act requires that any product any company wants to manufacture, sell or give away for human consumption must be proven safe before it enters the market. Yet he spoke of numerous instances where his supervisors overruled his scientific analysis, censoring him for not understanding “the North American way of doing business.”

In 2003 Dr. Chopra filed a complaint with the federal civil service office of the Integrity Commission alleging that the Privy Council was pressuring Health Canada to approve unsafe products, in contravention of the Food and Drug Act. The case was initially dismissed but the Supreme Court has ordered an investigation.

There are 64 countries that regulate GMOs, ban them, or require labelling. This does not include the US or Canada. Bryne urged the audience to continue putting pressure on federal authorities to ban or at least label all GE products.

For more information visit www.cbac.ca or www.tox.net.
Survey shows Whole School students exceed expectations

submitted
Over the past couple of months, the Whole School board of directors conducted a survey on how well their students did once they reached high school, college and university. Students seasonal sing-along December 22 at the Vallican Whole School submitted
You probably started singing 'Jingle Bells' before you could even walk – and then there are all those other seasonal ditties you’ve known all your life. Well, here’s your chance to belt them out in the company of your neighbours and friends. On Sunday, December 22 at 3 p.m., come to the Vallican Whole Community Centre and join with the Vallican Whole Community Choir for our second annual seasonal sing-along. Don’t worry, there will be enough

RDCK committee addresses Winlaw Fire Department conflict submitted
A report has been received from a committee of four RDCK fire chiefs who were tasked with reviewing the circumstances surrounding a disciplinary matter that resulted in the Winlaw Fire Department members withdrawing their services for two days in August. In addition to a number of

Mailboxes vandalized in Nakusp area submitted
The RCMP were advised November 19 that the mailboxes at Billings Road and Box Lake had been knocked over at some time during the previous week. Both boxes received “significant damage.” Then,

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Time for Hospital Auxiliary Light Up donations

submitted

The snow is here and so is the Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary’s Light Up the Health Centre campaign! Once again, Light Up donations will be added to the growing fund (current balance $18,625) to purchase a new van for the Pavilion residents’ excursions. Making a donation is easy: write a cheque payable to the SCHC Auxiliary Society, then drop it at the Health Centre reception desk or mail it to Box 249, New Denver V0G 1G0. A charitable donation tax receipt will be sent to you.

The Auxiliary is a charitable foundation supporting the Health Centre’s 24/7 emergency services, community gym, fitness centre and related community health activities. New members are welcome; membership costs $8 per year.

The Auxiliary supports the Hospice Society’s initiative to preserve the Pavilion Memorial Gardens and will donate $1,000 to the cause.

Warm holiday wishes from
Nakusp Veterinary Clinic

Holiday Hours
Monday December 23: 8:30 – 5
Tuesday December 24: 8:30 – noon
December 23 and 26: closed
Friday, December 27: 8:30 – 5
December 28 – January 1: closed
January 2 and 3: 8:30 – 5

Jodi Clark, owner of Peoples Pharmacy, gave a cheque for $500 to Bas Anton, representative from the Arrows Lakes Foundation, for the Light Up Hospital campaign. This year’s goal is to purchase a trauma stretcher and to provide WiFi capability so doctors can access information on their mobile devices when tending to patients.

Warm holiday wishes to all of my friends and customers!

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Season’s Greetings
From the Council & Staff of the Village of Slocan

Holiday Hours:
The Village Office will be closed at 4 pm on Monday, December 23 and will re-open at 9 am on Thursday, January 2, 2014

Wishing all of you a safe and happy holiday!

Happy Holidays to all of our valuable customers!

From Colin and Janice
Slocan Yard and House Care

Ph (250) 358 2561
Cell (250) 354 3423
Hope's Hands promote healing and wellbeing

submitted

Visiting GreenSong Sanctuary, just south of Slocan, and having a bodywork session with Hope M said can be a healing experience for both the body and the spirit. Hope has been practicing different forms of massage and bodywork for more than 40 years, but only recently fell in love with the Slocan Valley and decided to make it her home.

When describing her approach, Hope explains, “My work focuses on opening and relaxing the system. Our bodies contract and tighten for many reasons: stress, accidents, aging, depression, bad posture, weight gain, etc. This tightening restricts the flow of vital energy throughout the body. By working with the breath and gently stretching the body while elongating the muscles with deep strokes, a release can occur that allows this vital healing energy to circulate more freely through the whole system, promoting healing and wellbeing. I feel that it is an honour to be entrusted with somebody’s body, knowing I can affect change on so many different levels.”

Whether you spend your days hunched over a desk or in constant motion, massage can be an important key to a happier, healthier life. Here are just a few examples of people’s experiences with Hope’s bodywork.

“I have worked in a clinical setting for over 35 years and I can say that Hope’s work on me was the most transitional work I have had done. Her greatly intuitive work knew exactly what my body and spirit needed, transforming me in the process.” (Terry Willard, founder of the Wild Rose College of Natural Healing, Calgary.)

“A session with Hope left me ever so renewed! I didn’t realize how much I was carrying on these shoulders until she eased it all out. I am ever so thankful for Hope’s healing hands and highly recommend her.” (Grigg Stone, owner of Gaia Tree Whole Foods, Winlaw.)

The Christmas holidays are an important time for family and friends to gather and celebrate, remember the past and build new memories to carry forward into the future; however, the holidays are a bittersweet time as memories of those who are no longer here can bring both smiles and tears.

There are three small community based hospices in the area: Nakusp Hospice Society, New Denver Hospice Society and Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake. They each have dedicated volunteers and board members who provide help for the terminally ill throughout the year. Their trained volunteers can offer physical, emotional and spiritual support as determined by the wishes of the individual and family. They also offer grief support to those who have lost a loved one. There is no fee for this valuable service, which can be provided in hospital, a facility or an individual’s home.

The above hospices have special ceremonies or activities to commemorate loved ones at this time of year. Please contact: Helen Swons, Hospice Coordinator in Nakusp, 250-265-4137; Tanaya Thompson, Hospice Coordinator in New Denver, 250-358-7258; or Tanaya Thompson, Hospice Coordinator in New Denver, 250-358-7258; or Chelsea Van Koughnett, Director of the Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake, 250-353-2259, for information on these activities or for further information about becoming a volunteer or board member.

Remember “You are not alone... asking for help can make a difficult road easier.”

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE COUNCIL & STAFF OF THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Please note the following holiday schedule:

**NAKUSP SPORTS COMPLEX**: Closed Dec. 25, 26 & Jan. 1st.
Public Skating: Admission: Adults $8, Youth $2, under 5-free

**HOLIDAY ICE SCHEDULE**: Regular ice schedule from December 23 to January 3 except closures on December 25 & 26 & January 1.
Junior Hockey 8:30 am-10:30 am $2
Public Skating 10:45 am-12:30 pm $2
Hockey 1:45 pm-2:45 pm $5
3:30-6:00- Private Rentals Available-$36/hr
Please check with Arena Staff 250-265-4550 or 250-265-1171 for more information.

**VILLAGE OFFICE**: (011 St. Street NW)
The Village office will be closed at noon on Tuesday, December 24th and Reopen on Monday, December 30th.
The office will be closed on January 1st, 2014.

**PUBLIC WORKS**: Garbage pick up for December 25 will be moved to December 27 all other garbage pick up remain on regular scheduled days. Emergenency Only 250-265-9061

**HOT SPRINGS**: December 23 – normal winter hours 10:30 am to 9 pm
December 24 – open at 10:30 am to 5 pm only
December 25 – open at 10:30 am to 5 pm only
December 26- January 1 open regular hours of 10:30 am to 9:00 pm
Winter Wednesday- November to March excluding Statutory Holidays (December 25, Jan 1)

**NAKUSP FIRE DEPARTMENT**: The Nakusp Fire Department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. Please be holiday safe: be careful with candles and electrical overloads
Remember to change smoke detector batteries
In an emergency call 911
Sensible BC campaign fails but plans a re-boot in the future

by Art Joyce

Sensible BC organizer Dana Larsen announced on December 9 that the campaign to collect enough signatures for a referendum to decriminalize marijuana has failed for now. Volunteers collected 210,000 signatures – two-thirds of the minimum 310,000 required to get a referendum.

The ultimate goal of the campaign is to get the BC government to adopt the Sensible Policing Act, directing police forces to stop wasteing valuable resources policing marijuana. But Larsen was sounding upbeat when contacted by phone.

“We actually feel pretty good. It’s been a monumental effort on the part of our volunteers. If we’d been operating by the rules in several American States, we’d have qualified to get on the ballot. Our referendum system in BC is not designed to be accessible. We’re going to be trying again in a year or so.”

The Sensible BC website offers some perspective: “210,000 represents almost 12 percent of the actual votes cast in the 2013 election – 65,000 more people than voted for the BC Green Party. Our signatures total about 25 percent of the votes received by the BC Liberals, achieved with about three percent of their budget.”

Larsen noted also that the first campaign for electoral reform in BC during 2002 collected only about 98,000 signatures. Even that was enough to prompt then Premier Gordon Campbell to strike the Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform, leading to the two referenda that followed on proportional representation. So Larsen remains hopeful.

“We may not have got the signatures we need for a referendum this time but there’s no question there’s very strong support. If we launch again I’d like to start with the number of volunteers we have now.”

Larsen cites BC’s “designed to fail” referendum legislation as a major part of the problem. Canvassers have to understand how to correctly fill out 55 different forms. And the absurdly high number of signatures required just to get to a ballot is unprecedented in other countries. Also, under BC law, even a majority vote on a referendum question is not binding for the government.

Larsen maintains that the “vast majority” of British Columbians support either decriminalization or legalization of marijuana, with polls consistently registering 70 percent support.

During the Sensible BC campaign, canvassers in some cases faced open hostility. Several businesses called the police on canvassers, including a McDonald’s in Vancouver and Ferraro Foods in Trail, which “spent three hours blocking access to our canvassers and telling people not to sign.” Other similar incidents happened across the province. In Kelowna, a bylaw officer confiscated a sign and charged the campaign $100 to get it back. In Surrey, city officials claimed that any form of canvassing is banned in the city. “These actions are clearly a violation of all Canadians’ Charter rights to free speech and political engagement,” notes the Sensible BC website. In some cases, canvassers themselves had to call police for protection from harassment.

Support was weakest in parts of the Fraser Valley, particularly Abbotsford and Fort Langley-Aldergrove. Other regions with minimal support included the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Juan de Fuca and Saanich South on Vancouver Island, most of Surrey, Chilliwack-Hope, and parts of Richmond, Burnaby and – most surprisingly – five ridings in Vancouver. Kootenay East and Kootenay West as well as Nelson-Creston ridings collected signatures from well above 10 percent of registered voters. Five ridings came within two percent of attaining this goal, including Vernon-Monashee.

School trustees ask for exemption from Hydro increase for school districts submitted

BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) President Teresa Rozansoff has asked the Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett exempt public schools from the recently announced BC Hydro rate increases or provide an education utility rate to school districts.

Rozansoff expressed concern that unfunded cost pressures, such as the substantial increases in electricity costs for over 1,600 buildings housing more than half a million students, will negatively impact programs and services to students. Funding for schools has been frozen, while operating costs outside of school board control continue to rise. Collectively, projected hydro increases will cost Boards of Education $4,118,000 in 2014/15, and an accumulated cost of $29,465,000 over the next five years.

Gift-giving Ideas at Vince DeVito Shoes...