Hope for Kaslo 24/7 Emergency Room as group of doctors steps forward

by Jan McMurray

A group of physicians interested in providing 24/7 coverage for Kaslo’s emergency department has come forward, creating much hope in the community for more stable health care.

Interior Health had planned to reduce ER hours in Kaslo as of January 6 to Monday to Friday 9-5, but has now put those changes on hold until April 1, 2014.

“More discussions are needed to see if we have found an answer to the long-standing staffing challenges at the Kaslo health centre, and we felt it was important to hold off on any permanent changes to see if there is an alternative solution,” said Dr. Michael Purdon of IH in a press release issued December 20.

The decision to hold off on the change was made after the physicians informed Interior Health that they want to explore a fee-for-service option other than contract compensation model.

“We’re still waiting for a written proposal from the physicians,” said Chad Whittetson of Interior Health on January 10. “We’re hoping to have something soon so we can move forward.” He added that she feels the three-month extension to April 1 is a realistic time frame to establish a new model in Kaslo.

Whittetson said there are four interested doctors in the group, and this is an optimal number to keep the emergency department open 24/7.

The identity of the doctors is being kept confidential for now, but Maggie Watters of the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group said they are familiar with Kaslo.

Watters explained that in working on their written proposal to IH, the doctors will be looking at Victorian Health Centre statistics, so they will be paid by the visit as fee-for-service physicians.

She says the community is showing strong support in a petition circulating around town. “People are pleading to get their health care services in Kaslo and support this group of physicians. The petition will be presented to the physicians so they know the community is behind them,” she said.

Watters explained that the doctors will also be applying for funding from the Ministry of Health’s Rural Emergency Enhancement Fund (REEF), available to fee-for-service physicians in rural BC communities if they keep the emergency department open 24/7/365. There must be a group of at least three physicians willing to provide service in an emergency department to be eligible for the REEF funding.

Watters pointed out that Kaslo has a shortage of not only doctors, but also nurses. Emergency departments require one doctor and one Registered Nurse on staff at all times, and Kaslo’s ED has had many closures over the past year because this requirement cannot be met.

“A significant number of our closures are morning related,” said Watters. “Our nurses are not on full-time – they are part-time and casual – so if they decide not to come here to work, we sometimes can’t staff the ER. We need the nurses and IH to come to the table to address this.”

Whittetson said the meeting issue is part of the discussion between IH and the interested group of physicians. She explained that two full-time RNs in Kaslo are currently on leave, “so we have to work through that process before we can post permanent positions.” She said recruitment efforts for nursing staff in Kaslo are ongoing, but only for relief staff at this time. She said RN staffing needs for a 24/7 ED is 4.2 FTE (full-time equivalent).

Winters said the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Working Group was involved in getting the deadline extended, but it is now between the physicians and IH to come up with a workable arrangement for Kaslo.

The working group is in the process of becoming a select committee of Kaslo council, which will give the committee a stable funding base. Winters says the committee’s focus will be on recruitment and supporting the physician group.
Condos now selling in Kootenay Co-op's ambitious Nelson Commons project

by Jan McMurray

When the Kootenay Co-op in Nelson bought the Extra Foods property at the east end of Baker Street, the original plan was to renovate the building and move the burgeoning store into the bigger space. That plan has morphed into a much more ambitious $25-million re-development of the property. ‘Nelson Commons’ will be a four-story building with the co-op and three other commercial spaces on the main floor, three floors of condominiums, underground parking and a beautifully landscaped outdoor gathering space.

Deirdre Lang, general manager of the co-op, explained, “After we bought the property, we saw that we had almost three-quarters of a city block and an opportunity to develop it into a great space. We could see that it was a place people would want to live.”

Also encouraged by the City’s interest in seeing more infill in the downtown core, the co-op conducted an online survey on the development concept. “That showed us overwhelmingly that people want to live in downtown Nelson. So we took the next step and went through the design process, and now we’ve got a showroom and a sales office and we’re selling condos,” said Lang.

Lang reported that they have sold 20 condos so far, and their goal is to sell 46 before breaking ground. There are 54 condos in total – one, two, or three-bedroom units, ranging in size from 667 to 1,176 square feet and in price from $215,000 to $399,000. Lang says the interiors have been beautifully designed by local architect David Dobie, and the second-floor units have large private terraces, great for container gardening.

Three or four of the units will be affordable, thanks to a restricted re-sale program. The co-op, VastCity Credit Union and probably one other organization will contribute to the program, reducing the cost of each of the restricted re-sale units by $60,000. People who meet the income criteria will be eligible to purchase these units, and must sell them at a restricted price to ensure they will always be affordable.

The brand new co-op will occupy 20,000 square feet on the main floor, and the commercial spaces beside it have been leased to BC Wineyards. Two more commercial spaces on the main floor and one on the second floor are all for sale.

The underground parking will be mostly for residents, with some public spaces. The existing upper parking lot on the property will remain, providing 39 parking spots and a 4,000-square-foot green space designed by local landscape designer David Fisher. A path will wind through the space, connecting Baker from the parking lot to the alleyway that runs from Hall to Hendryx Streets. “The green space along Baker from the parking lot to the alleyway will have water features and lots of nice places to sit – David Fisher is a brilliant landscaper,” said Russell Precious, project manager. “The alleyway will be restricted to commercial traffic only, making it more pedestrian friendly.”

The building will be solar-ready for hot water and all windows will be triple glazed, but the real energy efficiency will come from the Kootenay Co-op store. The heat from the co-op’s refrigeration system will be captured and will heat the store and the underground parkade, preheat the store’s water, and potentially pre-heat the water for the residential units, as well.

Precious says the "greenest" thing about the building is its eco-density - 30,000 square feet of retail and residential space on the same size of land where you’d have 10 houses in uphill Nelson. There’s also the whole notion of people living on a much smaller footprint, and for most people, these units would mean significant downsizing.

Lang says the community and co-op membership is generally supportive of the project. The City has approved the Development Variance Permit and has been helpful throughout the process, she said. Focus groups and general meetings on the project have been well attended, and the online surveys and 100 of 441 responses. “People come into the showroom every day and say this is the best thing this town has had in a long time and we have to make sure it happens,” she said.

The co-op has kept the project very local, maximizing its economic development potential for the city. “This is truly a community-owned project,” said Lang. The co-op set up a development corporation for the project, so it’s a co-op economy running the whole project and the co-op is the ultimate owner. We wanted to do it this way because otherwise, we would have hired a developer who would have sold our piece and walked away with several million. This way makes it possible for us to build a state-of-the-art new store.

There’s a pretty strong contingent of local players,” said Precious. Eight out of ten people on the project team are local. The lead architect (Ray Lement) and the construction company (ITC) are out of Vancouver, the principal of ITC was born in Nelson and has many relatives in town. VandCity and Nelson and District Credit Union are financing the project.

The display suite and sales office is located at 621 Vernon at Hall, where there is a 3D model of the development and a display kitchen and bathroom. “Once people see the model and see what the architect and landscape have done, usually even the naysayers make peace with the project pretty quickly,” said Precious.
BC Hydro submits smart meter options numbers to BCUC

by Art Joyce

BC Hydro has announced that following its December 1 deadline to register for the Meter Choices program, 48,240 customers chose to accept a smart meter, while 50,001 customers have chosen to opt-out. Of those, 6,270 chose to keep their analog meters while 13,110 customers did not contact BC Hydro and will set their meters by default.

While the crown corporation may be tempted to declare victory, Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) sees it as a battle yet to be won. “We must continue to threaten people with power shut-off and coercing them to accept ‘something against their will that will translate to success,’” comments CST President Urs St Clair. “Since when has it been an acceptable BC government strategy to browbeat its citizens to acquiesce to an unacceptable situation within their own homes?”

At present, the opt-out fees proposed by BC Hydro are under review by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC). BC Hydro proposes to provide a smart meter with the radio turned off for a set-up fee of $100 plus a monthly fee of $20. Another option allows customers to keep their analog meters for a monthly fee of $35. Customers who move will only be able to choose a radio-off smart meter or a radio-on smart meter. When old meters break or the measurement Canada accuracy seal expires, BC Hydro will replace them as long as existing stock lasts, but is phasing out analog meters. If BCUC adopts fees downward — as it did with FortisBC — customers billed from December 1 will receive the difference in a rebate.

Despite claims from BC Hydro that the smart grid will detect power outages sooner, other smart grids have not delivered on such promises. During the Christmas ice storms in Toronto, when 100,000 people were left without power for a week during the coldest temperatures of the year, that city’s smart meter system failed. It did not provide Toronto Hydro with notification as neighbours lost power due to downed trees. Instead, customers had to phone in reports of power loss.

“Automated systems designed to track the damage, upon which ratepayers have shelled out big bucks, failed to produce usable intelligence to guide the restoration,” explains independent energy consultant Tom Adams. “It appears that some of the skilled staff required to reactivate manual outage management systems had been downsized.” Meanwhile, the utility has continued a massive expansion of management staff.

In addition, the Toronto Star reported that the smart grid’s automated billing system malfunctioned, charging customers for days spent “freezing in the dark.” “Toronto Hydro’s time-of-use tracker — an online service that shows customers their power consumption by hour — showed use at times when there had been no supply,” explains Star reporter Wendy Olenick. British telecom expert Nick Ham has declared that nation’s grid’s “in IT disaster waiting to happen, due to its complexity.” And to customers saving money? So far this has not been demonstrated to be the case in any jurisdiction where smart grids have been installed. In November, Toronto Hydro announced it was facing a deficit of $2.6 billion, with off-peak power increasing by 7.5 percent peak period power up by four percent and mid-peak up by 4.8 percent. BC Hydro has yet to introduce its peak- period rates.

Nor are smart grids living up to their “green” promise of saving energy. The Star reported on January 3 this year that a recent study of Ontario’s time- of-use rates reveals “modest, if any, impact on conservation.” The study was conducted for the Ontario Energy Board by Navigant Consulting.

A class-action lawsuit was filed against BC Hydro by CST in July 2013 on behalf of all account holders who do not want a smart meter, including those with smart meters who have changed their minds and now want them removed.

“If you felt forced into agreeing to accepting a smart meter because of the high fees and the pressure/ threats from Hydro, and still have your analog, I strongly encourage you to consider rescinding your decision,” says CST director Sharon Noble.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, January 15
Kanevsky Oscar Lions Meeting
Panorama Hall
7 pm

Thursday, January 16
ROCK board meeting
Boardroom, Nelson
9 am

Certified Mango
Blueberry Barn, Kaslo
7:30 pm

Coffee House
Silverton Cafe
7 pm

Sunday, January 19
Poetry reading
Stewart Library
1:30-3:30 pm

Tuesday, January 21
Silvertone council
Council Chambers
7 pm

Thursday, January 23
Nakusp Chamber AGM
Chantry’s
7 pm

Friday, January 24
WINTERFEST 2014 Snowshoe Invitational Downhill Kaslo
Snow Hall, New Denver
2 pm – late

Saturday, January 25
WINTERFEST 2014 Snowshoe Invitational Downhill Kaslo
Noco – late

Locomotive Fest (100 Mile Potluck)
Village White Community Ct
5 pm

Riverstone Tuna Trivia Show
Silverton Cafe
5 pm

Monday, January 27
Nakusp council
Council chambers
6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 28
New Denver council
Council chambers
7 pm

Radio council
Council chambers
7 pm

Wednesday, January 29
Open House
Kanevsky Area Society
7 pm

Silverton Memorial Hall
8:30 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
at the Nakusp Rotary Villa • 706th Ave
Renewed hope for Kaslo health care

This is a reply to the December 20 BHA news release that the plans to change the Kaslo Emergency Department hours have been put on hold until April 1, 2014. This announcement was an unexpected but joyous gift to the community of Kaslo and Area D residents.

You have been well aware of the tension, fear and frustration that the citizens of Kaslo are hopeful that there will be a satisfying breakthrough, and that we can put behind us the fears that have held us so tightly, and caused so much anxiety.

We gather all our positive thoughts and support for those who are working on this new phase of discussions for the solution to maintaining an adequate standard to our Kaslo Health Centre.

With renewed hope and thanks, on behalf of the Kaslo publishers.

Mary Stieckel
Kasco

End of an era in Silverton

I thought you and your readers may be interested to read about the end of an era in Silverton.

This year, my father Gordie Nelson and his good friend Dick Hanbly passed on. Dick was born in 1919 in the Miner’s Union hospital (Lindene’s house) in Silverton, and Gordie was born in 1925 in a house that was on the site of the current Silverton Resort. Dick and Gordie resided in Silverton for their entire lives. Dad spent a short time away when he joined the army, and Dick was forced to spend some time working out of town, but neither one of these men ever actually moved out of town. Dick

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please include your name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

The ordinary daily details that they do to keep us safe and comfortable.

We are all ordinary people in this beautiful village and we have chosen to live here for reasons that so many outsiders enter us for. I aim at trying my very best to do my small part to make Kaslo a better place for all of us and even though I am just one individual in the big scheme of things, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Glen and the rest of the Village staff for their efforts.

Thank you!

(P.S.-Good job on the snowplowing and sanding, too)

Charles DePape
Kasco

Water Street at long last

Congratulations are due to Kaslo’s Village government for its decision to proceed with the redevelopment of Water Street during 2014. The Kaslo Hotel has been working and hoping for this announcement for more than five years. The plan as presented is quite nice and closely follows one of the plans put forward by the most recent Water Street citizen committee some two years ago. Redevelopment of Water Street will convert the currently dusty, muddy and rutted slayy into a showcase for Kaslo that should become a major tourism attraction. This redevelopment fulfills a

major commitment by the Village of Kaslo and should greatly improve the investment climate in the village. For the hotel, it gives us the confidence to go forward with some significant capital improvements. It also allows us to consider development of the land parcel located at the corner of Front and Fifth Streets.

The hotel would like to thank the Village CAO, Mr. Neil Smith, for shepherding this project to the stage where construction will take place in 2014. Thanks are also due to Mayor Greg Lay and to the Village council.

We hope this step marks a distinct and continuing improvement in relations between the council and Kaslo’s business community. Kaslo’s economy is facing difficult times and stands to benefit greatly from better co-operation between the Village government and business investors.

The Village has many opportunities for improvement and growth, beginning with opening the Kaslo airport to business and regular charter operations and the initiation of proposed affordable housing projects within the Village. There is much to be done, and this involves change for a better and more prosperous future for all of Kaslo. It can all begin with the redevelopment of Water Street.

John Ekland
Kasco

The Valley Voice

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Time to re-think strategy on Perry Ridge

Last summer we had a serious fire on Perry Ridge, where I live. Residents were scared because the last time Perry Ridge burned, it destroyed the watershed for the Lakota and, therefore, the drinking water of thousands of people. Now the fire hazard continues to grow, and the amount of water we use on a daily basis has increased as the population grows. This is a problem for our water and irrigation needs.

Our concerns about our water have resulted in opposition to logging and road building on the ridge for 40 years. Thus, there are no roads above our homes. When fire broke out last year, it was fought by the Forest Service with helicopters and water tenders was saved.

Like many of us, I have fought fire but I have never seen the concentrated helicopter activity we saw last summer in the Willow area. At one point we counted eight helicopters flying water to the fire.

Fighting fire with air power instead of ground power means increasing in terms of both money and fossil fuels. Some of the fuels even wound up in the river.

I am largely appreciative that the Forest Service put out the fire. I think the fire was put out enough, that it might be time for those of us who live here and worry about water to rethink our strategy.

Forty years ago, it probably made sense to think that logging might put our water at risk. In those days, most of the timber above us was young (about 60 years old) and healthy. Now the massive snags started by the last fire are neither young nor healthy. Nor do we know that climate change is real and will get worse. Wildlife is now the greatest risk to our water supply. I am thinking that we, the residents of Perry Ridge, cannot ask that we have no road access to our forest and, at the same time, the Forest Service protect us from fire with massive air power. It feels selfish. Maybe we need to re-think our opposition to road access or accept the inevitability of the next devastating fire.

Corky Evans

The Valley Voice, a valuable Kootenay resource

It has become very clear to me, in the past year, just how important it has been to have accurate and accurate news reports printed in The Valley Voice concerning many of the issues that are of concern to all of us. Just two examples are the Lemon Creek fuel spill and the health care crisis in Kaslo.

With the recent announcement of Kaslo being the site to print a daily newspaper, the reality of the importance of our local small newspaper comes into focus.

Technology is changing the way we receive news. Many people use texting, twitter, radio and TV for their news. But really, how much indepth information is there in a text or tweet? There is certainly a place for well written, factual newspapers reporting. It is often assumed that people get their news online, and that newspapers are going the way of the dodo bird, but that is as yet just a乏力.

I believe that the young person is not very interested in some of the news unless it directly impacts them. The next age bracket checks the news, but that generation is so busy that they often do not have time to actually read through the news.

Another group do not have computers, and are not interested in pursuing that medium. The newspaper still has a valuable role to play, especially the small local area paper that presents the changes and developments that are being planned for our area, and allow us to voice our concerns about how we feel about them.

Is this resource important to you? It is to me, and for that reason, I am paying the subscription fee to the Valley Voice, so that it can continue to be a viable resource, present news and provide a place for us to respond.

There will be some people who are not able to pay for this, but if enough of us do, we may be able to bring this publication back, and we can all continue receiving the publication as we have been.

Mary Stickel

The slippery slope

Having spent many summers in the West Kootenays, I was surprised by the state of the roads here, in this my first winter. I have experienced winter driving in most of Canada, but it was striking to me, how all but the primary highways in the region seem to have a comparatively lower standard of winter maintenance.

Snow ploughing, ice removal and timely salt and sanding are presently not adequate for our winter road conditions.

All this is in a region where passengers have more potentially fatal consequences if they were to slide off the road and end up in a steep cliff. Thus is stating the obvious, but it is important to point out, regarding an outdoor adventure pleasure. For a small town, we have a rich cultural tapestry of interesting, intelligent, creative people, many of whom are not used to having an average city dwellers, and we are a community that genuinely cares for each other.

Mary have thanked me for my contributions to this cause, but really all I did was write a few spirited letters (as did many others), organize a couple of community rallies demonstrations (I just told people when and where to show up), and set up an email list and the 'Healthy Kaslo Facebook group (keeping people informed). We have all been on the same page on this issue for over a year, and that has been really nice to see — some political unity for a change! (But sorry... I’m not going into local politics until my kids are grown up!)

The real redux to Maggie Winters, Tim Humphries, Mary Ballon, Maggie Crow, Greg Lay and Andy Shearer, and for all of you, thank you for all your efforts and for your dedication to this cause.

Carolyn Maxwell

LETTERS

Power to the people

Well, I missed the deadline, December had come and gone. And, as of December 12, we have once again received yet another notice from BC Hydro.

This one states that as we had refused a smart meter at our previous request, we had rejected the meter choices, therefore, as well that we had requested to retain an old meter at no cost.

Neither my wife nor I have done any of the above.

Some time went by and we then received another notice from Hydro stating that only residential customers who had requested our delay installation of the smart meters were eligible to make this choice [of retaining the old meter and paying a monthly penalty, or accepting the new smart meter, or having a trustee fee installed but with the sending device disabled, again paying a penalty. Since I don’t recall ever having made such a request for a delay to Hydro, I didn’t feel that any of this applied to us.

Again, a short time later we got another letter saying the same thing, I sent a fax to Mr. Greg Reimer, Hydro VP of Communication and Distribution, asking him to please produce the letter I had supposedly written them to ask for the delay. That never happened. But in short order we got two more notices warning that we were going to get a notice that we had passed the deadline. We made it.

It was all so confusing that I felt that the best action to take was no action.

Now here we are, Friday the 13th of December, and the Hydro bullies have told us that we can keep our old meter but will have to pay monthly (that’s a laugh) fees. It is absurd, plain and simple.

Believe that every cloud may have a silver lining, and the reason that Hydro didn’t come up with this penalty plan at the very outset is that they saw that once the smart meters were installed at a customer’s residence, the increase in their bill was so small that this is less than the $35 penalty for the customers who don’t want these dangerous devices installed on their property.

The latest letter we received from Hydro states that the customer has no legal right to withhold any amount of their bill at the risk of ultimately having your power cut off. I thought this wasctor’s right. How naive!

The thing to do if you are presented with the kinds of letters that we have been getting, if you haven’t sent anything to Hydro asking for a delay of installation, is to contact the Utilities Commission and ask them the specific wording of the rates being used by Hydro. Save all your correspondence and when it all goes to court, as it will, you can get back every penny you pay to BC Hydro.

Power to the people, it’s ours!"
continued from page 5 adverse health effects do not exist. “In May 2011 the World Health Organization elevated exposure to wireless radiation, including WiFi, into the Class 2b list of Carcinogens; recent research strengthens the level of evidence regarding carcinogenicity...”

“To install WiFi in schools plus public spaces risks a widespread public health hazard that the medical system is not yet prepared to address. Statistics show that you can expect to see an immediate reaction in 3% and delayed effects in 50% of citizens of all ages. It is better to exercise caution and substitute with a safe alternative such as wired connection.” (http://aemonline.org/docs/WiredSchools.pdf)

To ponder some of the extensive research that has caused doctors and scientists to reach these conclusions, see the BioInitiative Report, a meta-analysis by a working group of scientists, researchers and public health policy, at http://www.bioinitiative.org, particularly the summary of research.

In view of what may be an important legitimate controversy in which the actual health impacts are not resolved, why do you prematurely decide that foisting your smart meters on us is appropriate, much less that you use coercive and extortive means to do so? Is it because it supports your corporate profits and that million-dollar executive salaries always trump ethics and principles?

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Update on our opt-out options for FortisBC power meters Just before Christmas, with the help of many concerned about what is right and fair, BCUC announced its final decision on the FortisBC smart meter opt-out. It said that FortisBC’s proposed fees for its customers of $120 plus a bi-monthly rate of $22 in perpetuity for reading, were unacceptable high. The Commission’s final word was $60 for the ‘install’ fee and $9 per month to read the meter. The BCUC also instructed that Fortis document all instances of meter reading, and be accountable to them regarding their ongoing costs with the new meters. Therefore, if people pay the one-time opt-out fee of $50 up front, and enough people do so, in a neighbourhood, then meter reading costs would obviously go down, as it would be much cheaper for a reader to read a neighbourhood all at once than one meter here, one meter there. If we could manage that, then it should be that after the initial hit, we’d be free of any significant further fee. As well, as a community in accord, we could avoid radiation by the wireless collectors on our nearby power poles.

Developments from the CST class action lawsuit by 3,000 BC Hydro customers through Nelson lawyer David Aaron is making good progress and they ask for your (no names no details) support, as that upcoming court ruling will affect FortisBC customer too. (They say, and I believe them, that “100% of every penny will go to court costs.”) Also, out of the initial approximately 130,000 who said ‘no’ to the smart meter installation, those 20,000 who continued to stand their ground are now allowed to keep their analogue meters (BCUC ruling!). Congratulations! I guess it pays to stand firm, as it did recently in the Kaito hospital situation.

Unfortunately, the fact is that the new smart meter with the microwave transmitter off (i.e. the opt-out version) still has many of the problems that the full blown smart meter does. It still has, for example, the SMPs, which causes high levels of dirty electricity. It still has the design flaws that make the smart meter a real fire hazard. And the new meter, even without the radio on, can still convey data not needed for billing purposes.

Advice, therefore, to FortisBC customers at this time is to keep the meter you have by locking it up while people continue to get more informed and the BCUC and courts make their decisions. The base of your meter is the homeowner’s property, the meter is the company’s, and it is against federal law to have a radio transmitter on your home, so locking it up so it can’t be taken off for now appears to be a legal and right thing to do.

Finally, the link between cell tower installation (coming quicker than David Aaron led us to believe) and smart meters? Yup, you guessed it – hand in glove. Putting 2 and 2 together... Ouch! Happy New Year, and New House! Daphne Fields

Sloam

Open letter to Minister Lisa Raitt re: Canada Post Like many Canadians, I was shocked to hear Canada Post’s announcement that it was planning to eliminate home delivery services, pursue the privatization of postal outlets, increase postal rates and lay off 6,000 and 8,000 postal workers. The Canada Post Act doesn’t call upon Canada Post to make a profit at any cost. The three major mandates are service to all Canadians, reasonable costs and good labour relations. The changes to service proposed by Canada Post will in reality undermine all of these.

These proposed service cuts will have the biggest impact on seniors and persons with disabilities, who depend on home delivery to receive pension cheques or who cannot easily leave their homes. The suggestion by Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra that regular walks to community mailboxes might actually do them some good does not coincide with winter reality in communities such as Nelson and Trail, with their steep hills and icy streets. Canada Post has an existing infrastructure and is often the only federal presence in small communities. It does not make any sense for the government to tear it apart and make it irrelevant.

The proposed hike in postage rates will also affect small businesses, many of whom compete with businesses in other countries that have more favourable postal rates. The increases will destroy the level playing fields that universal postal service was designed to create. Rather than attracting and retaining customers, raising prices and eliminating services will only serve to push customers away.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the so-called Canada Post consultations on the proposed service changes were designed as a series of invitations-only discussions. The only communities in BC that were consulted were Nanaimo, Vancouver, Coquitlam and Kamloops. No small, northern or interior communities were included in the consultations. The result is that those most affected by the proposed changes were not given adequate opportunity to voice their opinions. What is also disturbing, to give only one example, is that of those consulted only 13.3 percent were in favour of community mailboxes replacing door-to-door delivery.

The Government of Canada has a perfect opportunity to create a win-win future for Canada Post that would maintain jobs and services and explore new means of generating revenue. Canada Post could begin by entering into meaningful discussions with members of CUPW and CPA, who have expressed an interest in finding a wise solution to the question of the cuts in jobs and services. Other countries are addressing the problem of a decrease in letter volume by introducing new services such as postal banking services and the introduction of new parcel delivery options. For example, a study conducted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives shows that postal administrators in other countries such as New Zealand, Switzerland and Italy are generating significant profits from postal banking.

As Denis Lemelin, National President of CUPW, states in his 11 December 2013 release, “The post office belongs to the public and should have public service as its priority... It is the challenge for CUPW to demonstrate to the public that CPC can achieve this objective by expanding into new revenue-generating services instead of imposing unilateral cuts. We are ready and capable of meeting this challenge.”

Minister, Canada Post and the Government of Canada are being presented with a golden opportunity to not only strengthen existing postal services, but also to introduce innovative change to assist Canada Post in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. I strongly urge you to direct Mr. Chopra toward these goals.

Alex Anamunjokwu, MP
BC Southern Interior

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The Valley Voice January 15, 2014
Slocan Valley council, December 9: Lease of land for Food Bank Garden requested

by Barbara Curry McAloney

With Counsellors Luman and Elliott absent, council postponed decisions on several items.

Marilyn Christenson, board member of the Slocan Food Bank Service Society, gave a presentation on the proposed Slocan Food Bank Garden. She explained that grants to the Food Bank had been released by BC Housing, and the society had received a grant of $30,000 this year, and about 30 families use the Food Bank each month. Christenson asked the Village to lease some of its land south of 4th Avenue to the society to use as the Food Bank Garden, where the society aims to produce 600 pounds of fresh organic vegetables and fruit in 2014. Mayor Perriere said that council would get together once the other councilors were back to consider this.

Denis Defaut, member of both the Springer Creek Restoration and Partnership (SCORAPA) and Slocan River Stormkeepers, spoke with council about energy security. He said he wanted to work with council on the proposed Springer Creek micro-hydro project and solar panels on the south-facing roof of the cutting sink. He had wanted to apply for a grant to support these projects but realized that she did not have enough background information. Mayor Perriere explained that since the micro-hydro was a Village project, only the Village could apply for a grant for it. She also said it was "a very long-term project" and council will need to be sure that the very expensive investment will pay off before going ahead.

On another topic, Defaut said he was concerned about talk that council wanted to use Springer Creek for a secondary source of water. She said cadmium levels in Slocan Lake have increased and there is a possibility heavy metals are leaching from the tailings ponds of old abandoned mines along Springer Creek. Mayor Perriere answered that Springer Creek has always been designated as a secondary water source for the Village but that there are no "plans in the works" for its use. Mayor Perriere emphasized that the Village must follow strict guidelines for the testing of potable water.

Mayor Perriere spoke about a proposal by the City of Castlegar for the municipalities of the West Kootenay and Boundary Regions to meet and map out a strategy for acute care in this area. Council agreed to circulate the information prepared by Ian Christenson about this initiative and to hold a public meeting in January 2014 to allow the public to join in the discussion and help develop a community position on acute care.

The Village gave the 20 Slocan volunteer firefighters a 350 Christmas hamper, which passed to the Fitness Centre for 2014.

Counsellor Elliott was appointed to the RDCK and West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District board, with Mayor Perriere as alternate.

Council has until February 10 to submit resolutions for the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments’ AGM. Mayor Perriere said she would like council to consider submitting a resolution allowing municipalities to charge an administration fee to property owners whose land was put up for sale because taxes had not been paid. The fee would cover the costs of organizing, advertising, and holding the tax sales.

Council will send letters to Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review, and Pat Pann, Minister of Agriculture, calling for the preservation of the Agricultural Land Commission and the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Dick Kelly, chair of the Slocan Community Library Society, spoke during the public part of the meeting about the "wonderful atmosphere" at the library. He said the board had met weekly for four months. There was now a full contingent of board members. Many new policies have been adopted, the accounting system revamped, an occupation agreement with the Village signed, a media room constructed, and all volunteers interviewed. Kelly credited the transformation to "a lot of hard work by many people." Mayor Perriere congratulated the society and expressed council's gratitude.

Mayor Perriere responded to a question about social housing for the Village. Referring to the micro-hydro project and the closure of the Springer Creek sawmill, Perriere said "A lot of big things are happening" in the Village right now and that in the meantime "housing is on the back burner.

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In the Columbia region, nearly 56,000 hectares of floodplain (floodplain habitat) and wetlands were lost to reservoirs created by dams. Wetlands provide habitat for hundreds of wildlife species, filter water and provide a buffer from floods.

Dr. Elizabeth Barbour-Jones honoured

submitted

More than 50 neighbours and friends turned out on Sunday, November 3 to recognize the years of service Dr. Elizabeth Barbour-Jones provided to the people of the Slocan Valley. The group assembled at Dawson Hall and walked the Rails to Trails one kilometre south to a spot where the Kootenay-Slocan Lions have installed a bench in her honour.

Liz, as she is commonly known to her patients, practiced medicine at the medical clinic in Slocan Park from 1996 to earlier this year. Bonnie Nygren, who has worked with and for Liz for that whole time, summed up her feelings for all Liz's friends and former patients, when she said: “It has been an honour and privilege knowing Dr. Barbour.”

Liz has always put her patients’ needs above her own. Her diagnostic and prognostic skills are well known – something one former patient commented on during the walk to the bench, referring to the skill as "Liz Power".

Willy Rimmer, president of the Kootenay-Slocan Lions, added his personal congratulations to Liz and summed up the feelings of those present when he said: “We were so very fortunate that Dr. Barbour chose our Valley for her practice. Dr. Liz is high standards and a high quality medical care in the most caring and compassionate way any patient could ask for. While we miss having her full-time in the Valley we are heartened to continue to practice at the Kootenay Lake Medical Clinic in Nelson, where she also serves as a role model for the next generation of doctors.

In an ongoing joint initiative with the Rails to Trails Society, the Kootenay-Slocan Lions have now built and installed 12 memorial benches on the Rails to Trails. The program was initially developed by Don Munro when he was president of the Lions club. For more information, contact Don Munro at 250-226-7855 or dcmunro@telus.net

We Serve in the Valley

The Kootenay-Slocan Lions Club has been active in the lower Slocan Valley since 1977. Our members are women and men who volunteer time and energy to serve and assist our neighbours. We meet regularly each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Passmore Hall. We welcome new members who share the ideal of “Service to Others” and bring new ideas and perspectives to the Club.

Valley Read

Family Literacy Day is January 27th. Celebrate with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Valley Voice! Enter our Valley Reads draw to win tickets to the Slocan Valley Storytellers Day or free books!

Check out these great reads from The Grassroots Grammars:
3. Bipolar by Kay Redfield Jamison
4. The Wise Woman by Phillipa Gregory
5. Flying with Amelia by Anne de Grace
6. Signature of all Things by Elizabeth Gilbert
7. The Dove Keepers by Alice Hoffman
8. A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry
10. Any of the “Erica and Patrik” series from Swedish crime author Camilla Lackberg

Nomination Form:

What was/is your favourite book to read to children?

Title:

Author:

Tell us why this book is a great read:

* "Look for the top nominations in February in the Valley Voice.

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

* Nominations may be dropped off by Monday, February 3rd at the Slocan Community Library, Winlaw Strong Start Centre, Slocan Valley Rec Office, Nakusp CAP Site, Nakusp Public Library or emailed to asso@cbl.org or ljbrarnson@cbl.org

207 10th Ave, Winlaw, BC V0G 1P0

* * *
Nakup Hot Springs rates will be increasing as of February 1. Single passes will go up by 50 cents, so a single adult pass will be $8.10, up from $8.90; and seniors, youth and students’ passes will rise to $8.50. Special winter rates for Monday bus users and Winter Wednesdays’ customers will go up to $8 from $7.25. Punch passes will cost adults $85 for 10 swims ($80 for seniors and youth) and $160 for 20 swims ($150 for seniors and youth).

Family passes will change, as well. Previously, a family of two adults and up to four children paid $31; as of February 1, a family of four will pay $32, a family of five $37 and a family of six $42.

A new rate for accommodations will be brought in, in response to a request from the Chamber of Commerce. Accommodators will be able to purchase 50 adult passes for $375 – that works out to $7.50 per pass, the lowest adult rate available.

Nakusp CAO Linda Tyman provided council with a written report and made a presentation at the December 9 council meeting on the hot springs rate increases. She pointed out that Nakusp rates were quite a bit lower than Ainworth and Halsey rates. "Halsey and Ainworth are concerned that Nakusp Hot Springs do not have (e.g. cold plunge pool and large pool), however the discrepancy in rates is large," she says in her report. An adult swim at Halsey costs $12 and at Ainworth $11.

Tyman’s report states that the rate hikes, which average six percent, would increase revenue by approximately $12,000 if there were no change in attendance. Nakusp has about 38,000 visitors annually.

"There has not been an increase to pool rates in some time and even with the rate increase, Nakusp’s fees are less than those at neighboring hot springs," Tyman concludes in her report.

Debra Rushfeldt exhibits drawings in Okotoks

The exhibit runs from January 10 to February 22.

Debra Rushfeldt’s charcoal drawings will be exhibited at the Okotoks Art Gallery January 10-February 22.

Nakusp figure skaters competition results

Four StarSkaters from the Nakusp Figure Skating Club attended the East Kootenay competition in Kimberley in late November. Results were as follows: Olivia Mao, Bronze Evaluation in Star 1 Group 3; Chiana Menchin, Silver Evaluation in Star 1 Group 2; Haven Rahn, Silver Evaluation in Star 1 Group 3; Kiley Waterfield, Bronze Evaluation in Star 3 Group 2; fourth place in Elements Group 1, fifth place in Introductory Interpreters Group 1.

The StarSkaters have also been busy preparing for the new season. They held a test day on December 7 and in addition to the seven skaters from Nakusp who tested, there were also skaters from Revelstoke, Castlegar, Nelson and Rossland clubs. The evaluator was Cheryane Irvine who travelled from Kamloops, and dance partners were Freestyle brothers Jacob and Robert Verfelde.

Nakusp skaters who were successful in passing their tests were Haven Rahn, Dutch Waltz and Canasta Tango; Chiana Menchin, Canasta Tango and Baby Blues; Olivia Mao, Canasta Tango and Baby Blues; Melissa Hascall, Baby Blues; Maya Watson; Kiley Waterfield; Rees Fooot and Senior Bronze Skating Skills.

The skaters are now preparing for upcoming competitions in January in Rossland and Fernie, and in Kelowna in March.

Registration is ongoing for Pre CanSkate, CanSkate and StarSkate Programs for boys and girls ages three and up. For more information or to register, please contact Kelly Waterfield at 250-265-4675.

Diamond Jim’s towing company moves to new location

by Jan McMurray

North Nakusp Towing is moving to a new location at 784 Hwy 6 East, just past the Nakusp Golf Course.

Owner ‘Diamond Jim’ Pozdzeikoff says the towing company has run out of room at its current location at North Nakusp Automotive. Despite the similar names, the two companies have always been separate.

Pozdzeikoff has been a CAA contractor since 1970, when he started up Hwy 6 Service. When he sold the Hwy 6 Service property, he continued the towing business out of North Nakusp Automotive as an independent towing company.

‘Now we’re going out again on our own,’ says Jim.

The company does towing of all vehicles including motorcycles, recovery of vehicles in accidents, lockouts, etc. They respond to ICBC, BCAA, Roadside Assistance, and private insurance calls.

Five part-time drivers are employed by North Nakusp Towing, and the company owns tow trucks, deck trucks, and a pickup for fifth wheels.
KASLO DISTRICT

December 10: Water Street final drawing approved

Appointment


West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District: Mayor Lay, Councillor Holland. Alternate: Councillor Lang.

Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee: Councillors Hewit, Holland, Lang. Mayor Lay stepped back from formal participation in the committee, indicating that he would attend as required.

Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee: Mayor, Councillor Logan. Alternate Chair: Councillor Lang.

Kaslo Recreation Select Committee: Councillor Logan. Alternate Mayor Lay.

Counselling Services: Silky Bird.

Kaslo Kootenay Lake Historical Society: Councillor Castledash.


January 15, 2014 The Valley Voice

Kaslo council December 10: Water Street final drawing approved

by Jan MacMurray

COUNCIL approved the final drawing for Water Street redevelopment and asked staff to circulate it to the community. In 2014, the Village plans to curb and gutter the lake side of the street, and pave the street. Landscaping will likely not be done this year. The C.C.A.R. will have business meetings, asking them to remove any encroachment on the public right-of-way, unless there is a legal assessment by Kaslo. Council identified the top five priorities for 2014 at the December 3 Committee of the Whole meeting: Water Street, City Hall, A Avenue, Water line, Boat launch public wharf and the Watermart project. Another five will be ranked in a second exercise.

by Art Whyte

With government funding being cut, the city has to look into all avenues every sector, it's encouraging to know that community foundations are alive and well, and growing. The Community Foundation of the Kootenay Lake (CFKLN) is one of several West Kootenay community foundations helping the area. The CFKLN along with the Osprey Foundation, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, Cotton Creek Basin Trust and the Kaslo and District Foundation. 

In 2000, a group of citizens in Nelson created the Osprey Community Foundation to serve Nelson and area. The Osprey has $2 million in endowment in excess of $600,000, with yearly grants and distributions now exceeding $1 million. It usually takes a large urban centre to support a community foundation, which tends to leave rural communities at a disadvantage. This gap was addressed by the creation of the Osprey Foundation in 2000, and when it provided seed funding for CFKLN, creating one of the first foundation in the area.

The risk of allowing people to return home to the Johnson’s Landing area at this time, says the Regional District of Central Kootenay. As such, it will maintain the current evacuation order and work closely with the Province to address the outstanding issues of land-use zoning. The KCDC Chair and Chief Administrative Officer have met with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Sport and Cultural Development to status the status of risks associated with occupancy of those properties located in identified hazard areas of the Blackwater Creek drainage (Johnson’s Landing).

The existing structures and the lake of sediment and the lack of long-term monitoring data necessary for accurately determining the likelihood of further landslides, has raised the potential for a large and unacceptable risk to life and property associated with occupation of the area. The KCDC is working to ensure that the risk is managed and a safe and sustainable solution is developed.

The Kaslo and Area Youth Centre (KAYC) are hosting their annual open house on January 29th, from 4 pm to 6 pm. The open house is a wonderful opportunity for the community to learn about the programs and services offered by KAYC. The open house will feature information about their various programs, including sports, arts, and cultural activities. The open house will also provide a chance for parents and students to meet with KAYC staff and learn about the opportunities available to them.

Advertise in The Valley Voice. It pays!!!

By Robin Marshall

The Nelson house games in Kaslo are to showcase our Kaslo kids playing for the Nelson Leafs.

At the Nelson house games in Kaslo are to showcase our Kaslo kids playing for the Nelson Leafs.

KASLO & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HOME GAME SCHEDULE 2014

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>HOME</th>
<th>DIVISION</th>
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The Nelson house games in Kaslo are to showcase our Kaslo kids playing for the Nelson Leafs.

The Nelson house games in Kaslo are to showcase our Kaslo kids playing for the Nelson Leafs.
History comes alive in colour at Nakusp Library

submitted

The history of the Arrow Lakes is about to come alive in living colour at the Nakusp Public Library.

On Saturday, January 25 at 7 pm, Kyle Kusch of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society will present ‘Our Coloured Past: The Arrow Lakes in Colour, 1940-1980.’ The 90-minute presentation combines more than 150 colour photos from the society’s collection with rare colour Super 8 film footage of Nakusp taken during the 1950s and 1960s.

“When most people think about archival footage, they tend to think about old black-and-white photos, but we’re now at the point where commercial colour film has been around for almost 90 years,” says Kusch. “It’s absolutely stunning to see Nakusp in full colour in imagery that’s over 70 years old. If you’ve never seen what Broadway Street looked like in 1940, how narrow the lake really was at Burton before the dam, or what the old St. Leon Hot Springs looked like, or even if you’re too young to remember when the arena burned down in 1978, now you’ll be able to see it for yourself.”

An ever-increasing portion of the historical society’s archives is colour images. While many locals are familiar with older images of Nakusp thanks to the society’s numerous books, the trove of rare colour photos and film remains unseen by many.

“These images were archived by the late great Milt Parent, but only he knew how he organized them, and when he passed on, he took that knowledge with him,” Kusch says. “Recently, we found an old laptop of Milt’s sitting behind a filing cabinet with thousands of images loaded onto it that probably hadn’t been touched in four or five years. The only personal files on the computer were three PowerPoint slideshows labelled ‘Our Coloured Past’ that he had compiled strictly from colour photos and intended to show publicly, we guess. A large number of digital copies of these images were donated to him by families such as the Spiers, the Allans, and the Morfolds, and some of them represent the oldest colour photos of Nakusp in existence.”

Kusch has expanded on these slideshows and combined them with Super 8 film footage of the Arrow Lakes taken by Jehro Shino during the 1950s and 1960s.

“Milt’s colour films capture everything from the final run of the Minto to July 1st parades to old Cedar log drives along the Arrow Lakes. It’s stunning stuff that may be a few dozen people have ever seen.”

The presentation begins at 7 pm at the Nakusp Public Library. Free tickets to the event are available starting January 4 at the library, but donations will be graciously accepted at the door.

Hockey Day in Winlaw

submitted

Once again, hockey fans in the valley are invited to Hockey Day in Winlaw. This all-ages, all-levels round-robin annual hockey tournament is planned for Saturday, January 18 at the Shep as for Slocan rink. Take part and enjoy a little friendly competition, or warm up by the campfire on the sidelines and watch the game. Everyone is welcome.

Registration is $5 and starts at 10:30 am. Players are asked to bring their own equipment and safety gear. Teams will be balanced as much as possible by age, size and skill, and the first puck will drop around 11 am.

This event, as well as other Slocan Valley Rec programs, can be found in the 2014 Winter Leisure Guide. The guide can be viewed online at www.rvrd.bc.ca. For further information or to volunteer at this event, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.
January 15, 2014  The Valley Voice

Erica Konrad art exhibition waxes poetic

submitted

In the realm of the honeybee, an alchemy of industry and communication creates the magic of wax and honey. In the realm of Nelson artist Erica Konrad, the alchemy of industry and creativity combine in encaustic (wax) paintings that communicate their own poetic magic. Her work is on display at the Nelson Public Library in January and February.

Konrad’s approach doesn’t stray far from the bee.

“The waggling dance is the symbolic
Kaslo Whitout coming up for sledgers

submitted

Whitout 2014, Kaslo Snowmobiling Invitational is a snowmobile-focused weekend being held in downtown Kaslo January 24-26. Kaslo will be converted into a snowmobiling mecca all weekend with free activities around town, information sessions, displays, dealer reps, trail rides and a live band with dancing and parties at the Kaslo Hotel Pub.

Kicking off the festivities on Friday will be a mid-afternoon trail ride, with location and time to be announced closer to the event. For those not wanting to ride on Friday, downtown Kaslo offers many boutique shops, bakeries, coffee shops, restaurants and galleries to keep you entertained. Friday night celebrations are filled with food and entertainment. There's Christmas by the Lake, 2013:

submitted by Andrew Lange

The Silvertown Community Club and the Christmas by the Lake committee would like to thank all of the volunteers and volunteers who have supported our annual Christmas by the Lake celebration over the past seven years. We hope that all children and children at heart who had an opportunity to visit this wonderful

EVENT ACTIVITIES
• Free Hot Chocolate
• Nutella Kitchen
• Dealer Reps
• Live music and karaoke
• Dance Party: Blackwood Wool Live

For more information about the event go to kasloevents.com.
email: kasloevents@kaslo.com
phone: 250.351.2290

The Village of Silvertown
The Village of New Denver
and New Denver & Area Fire Dept.
For their support and providing a perfect location.

The Vendors, Crafts People, and Live Entertainment Artists
For creating a festive ambience.

The Visitors – young and old –
For bringing it all to life

A THANK YOU to all Volunteers
Without your hard work and dedication it could not be done! You are the heart of association work.

...and finally the blame goes to Jack Frost who kept the temperatures below -20˚C over the course of the three days!

Visit www.christmasbythelake.ca and check out for photos, comments, ...
Motorcycle accident victim shares story with JHV students

submitted

Karlo resident Kelsey Berston was in a motorcycle accident when he was young, and is permanently disabled as a result. He visited JV Humphreys School last month to share his story with the students.

He said in an interview that the thought that he may be able to save one child motivated him to speak to the students. This is the first time he has spoken at a school.

Here is the talk Kelsey gave to Karlo students:

Motorcycle safety

Motorcycles can provide one with an extra good time. The feeling of freedom when you’re cruising down the highway feels inordinately good. When you are on mountain roads like the ones around here, with all the twists and curves, it makes you feel extremely good.

But like most good things, there’s a trade-off. You have to be careful, because it’s too easy to get hurt. I was young, sharp, athletic, and had excellent reflexes. I could do endless wheelies and was always in control when on the bike. But you have to realize you are not alone on the road. You have to always keep in mind that other vehicles could do what you least expect them to do.

Like what happened to me. A car turned without signaling and the next thing I knew, I was flying but the car in front of me. And oh boy, has my life ever changed since that day.

I’ve gone through tons of different emotions since that day. I woke up months later in a hospital, unable to walk, to talk, or even to swallow. I’ve lost so much of my life.

I used to have a couple of houses, a good job as an electrician, a beautiful partner and plans for the future. It’s amazing how much your life can change in a second. I’ve lost my girlfriend, jobs and my home. My whole life has changed, just from having fun on my motorbike.

I’ve learned that when you’re on a motorbike, it’s pretty easy to let your speed get carried away and the next thing you know, you’re going way too fast to react to anything out of the ordinary. No matter how tempting it is to "fly", it’s not worth the consequences, so keep your speed down!

Another important thing about motorcycles is your gear. Leather works well to protect you from road rash, and chances are you’ll survive road rashes. The most important part of your motorcycler gear is your helmet. Everything else is important, too but the helmet can save your life.

But motorcycles can be both fun and safe if you are able to keep your speed down, be aware of hazardous road conditions and always be aware of the other cars. I still promote motorcycles but when I’m around people who are just beginning to ride, it worries me. It worries me because I realize how tempting it is to push the limits and how dangerous that can be. Now I’m feeling the consequences and I don’t wish that on anyone.

Locavores’ Feast and more at the Vallicken Whole

submitted

It’s time once again for that wonderful celebration of all things local, the Locavores’ Feast, aka the 100 Mile Fortnight. This scrumptious community event takes place at the Valkicen Whole Community Centre on Saturday, January 25. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner will be served at 6 pm.

The idea, of course, is to celebrate local abundance by creating food from local ingredients. While local food is key, no one cares if you have to slip in the occasional exotic ingredient from foreign climes. This is a celebration of one another’s culinary creativity, using whatever it takes to get that local food to the table.

As well as a chance to share the amazing local food, locally grown and home-processed foods everyone brings, this is a great opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours old and new. What a way to remind ourselves of how much we love living here and being part of this creative community.

Speaking of creative - dinner is only part of the fun that evening has to offer. First of all, the silent auction will give everyone an opportunity to take home a piece of this valley’s abundance, whether art, food, a service or who knows what else might be on offer.

Then, after dinner comes the pièce de résistance, Six Skoan Valley Minute. Intrepid members of the community (this means you!) jump up on stage and do (practically) anything for six minutes. You don’t have to sign up in advance, you can just write in your name on the set-list when you arrive.

Here, the concept of performance art is expanded to include whatever your imagination can conjure up. This can include demonstrations of how to do something, food prepared right on stage, serious discussion of important topics, or spontaneous eruptions of extreme mirth, as well as the usual song and dance and storytelling.

"I’ll never forget the time Rita and Bruce tried to take a chainsaw apart and put it back together in six minutes!" said one observer. "Sadly it just wasn’t possible. But boy was it fun!"

Silverton council, December: Electronic Recycling no more

by Jan McMurray

• Mayor Provans reported that Waste Management will no longer provide the bin for the electronic recycle program. She said she assumes this is because of contamination - items deposited in the bin that are not classified as electronics. She added that the Village has been working to address contamination. Council will bring this issue to the next Slocan Valley Local Governments Forum.

• Stéphanie Musciano of SFICo presented the fuel treatment prescription for a 37-hectare area northeast of Silverton, roughly from the water reservoir to the Hicks property along the highway. The area includes a small piece of land near Silverton Transport. No decision has been made yet on the next steps, which would likely be to apply for funding to do the fuel treatment work.

• Silverton and New Denver councils will attend a free workshop on Community Energy Planning at the Silverton Memorial Hall on January 23. The workshop will look at opportunities to help increase energy consumption for residents, and will be facilitated by Megan Lohmann of the Community Energy Association.

• Councillor Clarke reported on the recipients of the Recreation Commission’s fall/winter grants: Hidden Garden Gallery ($200), Nikke Goto (Skii ($400), Kootenay Sufferfest ($400), Christmas by the Lake ($300).

Kootenay Savings Community Foundation gives

submitted

As a financial partner, sponsor and business leader, Kootenay Savings takes an active role in Kootenay life, forging a real connection with the communities of the area.

In keeping with that proud tradition of community investment, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation has announced $51,540 in new grants, as well as a donation of $50,000 to eight local community foundations and fund.

This funding will help provide assistance to educational, health, social, cultural, environmental and economic projects, and brings the total amount it ever fun to see them try!"
submitted

On Saturday, February 1, the trusses will tremble when three killer acts—Clinton Swanson and Friends, No Excuse, and Dr. Fun—ignite the loyal cadre of revellers as well as curious newcomers at the 22nd annual Winter Blues Boogie at the Memorial Hall in Silverton.

Typically, the doors open at 8:30, and the eager crowd pushes into the hall, casting coats aside to gather on the spacious dance floorably the warm-up tapes, and this is well before the band takes the stage at 9. It’s just that kind of event and the energetic crowd it draws.

Clinton Swanson will open the show with his ‘Friends,’ one or the several bands he manages. This five-piece group featuring female vocalist Sydney Black is the one he takes to the dance parties, and that’s exactly what this Boogie is all about. Expect memorable, because that’s what you’ll take home from this spectacle. Soak in every moment and sweat it back out with these remarkable musicians. After all, that’s why you came here.

After the first break, ‘No Excuse’ will take the stage with two blistering and seamlessly meshed guitar virtuosos, a bassist, a drummer, a keyboard player and a female vocalist. At any event and any venue, this band can land a punch. But for this evening, they’re importing a horn section as well, with Swanson on sax and Ron Butler (from the old ‘Nightcrawlers’) on trumpet. The fever will rise, and it will be infectious.

Raising the roof at the Winter Blues Boogie

Tales from the Fisherman’s Market:
LET THE MANAGER SPECIALS SHINE A LIGHT ON ME!

The seafood industry is always an amazing spectacle over the holidays. People think Christmas dinner and they think turkey. While that is most always the center piece of the table the rest of the holidays is filled with delicacies from the ocean. From smoked salmon lox and crab cakes on Christmas morning to crab legs and lobster tails on New Year’s Eve, believe me we get our share of the glory at the table.

I was always on the sales side of things at the holidays. Our warehouse freezers would be crammed to the roof with everything people would want. Line ups would stretch out the bay doors and the poor girl working the till would have crumps in her hands by the end of it all. January 1st the dust would settle and the organization for another year would begin. You wouldn’t believe the stuff we would find in the freezer, cases and cases of top notch products that were overlooked by the salesmen in the past and simply not the main product of the festivities. I remember being a young rookie on the sales floor and getting an earful from the manager for not selling everything including the furniture. No matter what we sold or how well we did, there was always a surplus of premium products that needed a home. January becomes the month of the manager’s specials. Over the years January became one of our biggest sales months of the year at the fisheries because people knew that the whole month was dedicated to phenomenal deals on great quality inventory.

Now at the Fisherman’s Market our freezers may not be as large but the crowds at the holidays are just as eager and the mayhem no less chaotic. So we have given up control of all our locations to the light of the manager’s specials. Head down on your local Fisherman’s Market and see what deals they have in store for you! 

Cory S. Fisherman’s Market
Quality you deserve

January Special:
SEAFISH BULK PACKS

f www.thefishermansmarket.ca 250. 505. 5515

COMMUNITY

Silverton Gallery coffeehouse kicks off fundraising campaign

Silverton Gallery lives and with its latest coffeehouse event, will be kicking off its fundraising campaign for improvements to the gallery building. The Kootenays have long been known and celebrated both for the do-it-yourself spirit and the talent that seems to be under every bush. For a sampling of Slocan Valley talent, come out on Saturday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Enjoy the music of Sally T, Wes Murray and Allen Keirstead, Jim Dobie and Jim Berrill, Jeff Fluhar and the poetry of Sadie Butler.

It has long been noted that art is the medium by which we find a means of escape from the tragic or merely mundane events of life. More than that, in the exercise of imagination and creativity, we enrich our spirits. Doors have long been used by artists as symbols of the imagination – gateways to change, enlightenment, or new ways of thinking. It’s in this spirit that the Slocan Lake Gallery Society will launch this year its Doors of Perception fundraising campaign to help pay for needed fire doors throughout the building. Avid readers will no doubt recognize the phrase ‘doors of perception’ from two separate works, one inspired by the other. The original was written by the poet William Blake in his work The Marriage of Heaven and Hell: “The doors of perception were cleansed every everything would appear to man as it is – infinite.” This proved a potent starting point for Alessa Huxley, who based an entire book, The Doors of Perception/Heaven and Hell, on this quote. The project was devoted to both pushing the limits of perception and a committed pursuit of spiritual growth, just as Blake himself was a convert to the occult. And as Blake pointed out, in a spiritual sense, often this requires a ‘cleansing’, finding a new way to see things that releases the full potential of perception. For artists this is a constant pursuit.

Now with a new year, we too at the Slocan Lake Gallery Society need a new way to approach things so that the full potential of the gallery can be realized. Construction and fire codes change – just as aging bodies and buildings do – to reflect the needs of changing times. For the Silverton Gallery, this means raising money to do the various code upgrades required, including the installation of fire doors and other necessary items. Our survey last summer revealed that gallery patrons still highly value this venue and support our efforts to keep it open and moving forward.

So in this case the need to step through new doors is literal. With negotiations for a new lease nearly complete, the Slocan Lake Gallery Society is committed to keeping the Silverton Gallery the same serene, culturally vibrant place it has been for the past 35 years. Please help us do so with your support of events and your donations. Help us open a new door of perception.

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

TALES FROM THE FISHERMAN’S MARKET: LET THE MANAGER SPECIALS SHINE A LIGHT ON ME!

For info on lodging, dining and tickets, email: yeomans@netfied com or call Dick and Barbara at 250-358-7765. As always, we expect a sell-out crowd, so book early and gear up to ‘Feel the Heal.'
New Denver council, December 10: Hiring process for new CAO underway

by Katrine Campbell

Drought forced Kootenay Electric to close the cemetery in closing for the new year, and the council decided the CAO position would be advertised through Kootenay Electric with the closing date for applications to be January 6.

Mayors' Banquet will respond to the BC Utilities Commission and advise them to proceed with their request for an ORC Hydro service issues in the area.

Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBHBD) meeting November 27. The board has asked the Minister of Health to define the word “operate” from the Act, which says the purposes of the KBD is “to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospitals and hospital facilities.”

Interior Health’s Capital Strategy and Facility Report shows the three buildings in New Denver are not in good shape. On a scale of 0 (very poor) to 6 (very good), the Health Centre is at 0.57, the storage building at 0.69, and the maintenance annex at 0.69.

All district facilities are in need of upgrading, von Krogh noted, and the board is still grappling over which model would best serve the needs of people in the region: a primary care centre, a community hospital, or a hospital district.

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Great horned owl rescued in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

An injured great horned owl was rescued in New Denver on January 9, and flown to the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (OWL) in Delta. It was hoped that the owl would recover at the centre and be flown back to New Denver for release. Unfortunately, OWL’s veterinarian recommended euthanization, as the New Denver owl’s broken leg was beyond repair.

This news will sadden the many New Denver residents who played a part in the owl’s rescue. “It took the whole community to get it done,” commented Ralph Wilson, who was on his way into New Market Foods to do his grocery shopping on January 9 when he noticed commotion on the Villa Dome Quixote property across from the store.

“About 50 crows were dive bombing what I thought was a cat,” he recounted.

Mt. Sentinel gets writer in residence

submitted

The new year brings a first for School District 8. Creative writer Julia Caeces Booth will be Writer in Residence for students of Mount Sentinel as well as LV Rogers and Trailford Schools beginning in early 2014. While writer visits to schools are not uncommon, having the same writer working with students over multiple visits is definitely unique. Contact time will be valuable in helping students craft their writing skills to a deeper level.

For Julia Caeces Booth, the key lies in the editing process, a process that takes time and practice and cannot be learned in a single session.

After graduating from Mount Sentinel, Caeces Booth chose to focus on psychology. Yet, it was the creative writing classes she took at Selkirk College that transformed her from psych major to writer.

“The creative writing program [at Selkirk College] really is an exceptional program,” she says. She claims it was at Selkirk College where she finally understood how she saw the world was important and interesting. It is the understanding and awareness of each writer’s inebriable voice that Caeces Booth hopes to bring to students.

A principal focus of her work with the Kootenay Lake students will be to help them view writing as an effective means of strengthening empathy and providing them a sense of being connected.

“I want to help build a group of writers with a deeper awareness of their community. Youth can be a lonely time, kids struggle with questions like, ‘what to do, where to go next?’ Writing can be a solace for people. It reminds us that we see in this together.”

This Writer in Residence program is supported by the Kootenay Writers Society and is funded through a generous grant from the Columbia Basin Trust.

Joint reading at the Slocan Library

submitted

It’s a happy start to the new year at the Slocan Community Library. The new audio-visual room (“the foyer”) is complete, the electronic checkout system is up and running, and the library is celebrating with a special event. On Sunday, January 19 starting at 1 pm, everyone is invited to attend a joint reading by Tom Wayman and Barbara Curly Mulcahy.

Tom Wayman, who has lived on the Winlaw back road since 1989, will read from his latest two books of poems, Winner’s Skin (2013), his 19th book, is a collection of winter poems, many set on the Slocan Valley rail trail, and illustrated with photos of the valley by local photographers Rod Currie and Jeremy Adlington. Dirty Snow (2012) was recently declared winner of the 2013 Acorn Plantos Award for People’s Poetry. This book deals with the effects of the mining industry on daily life in southeastern BC.

Barbara Curly Mulcahy, who now lives in Slocan, will read poems from The Man with the Dancing Monkey, which was short-listed for two national awards in 1998. She will also read from one of her current writing projects, The Pilgrim Ryders, a collection of new poems about the human body inspired by a period of family illness. Canadian TV writer Andrew Wengert (North of 60) has described Barbara’s poems as “crafted with love and ruthless intensity.” She is also working on a biography and a novel.

Tom and Barbara have published poetry, fiction, essays, reviews, short stories, radio plays, columns and articles. Both of these accomplished writers are personable, approachable and entertaining.

Plan to treat yourself to a comfortable Sunday afternoon gathering at the library in Slocan’s Wellness Centre/Fitness Centre. Library in the little red schoolhouse across from the Harold Street Café.
Revolution Biodiesel’s next logical step: ‘green’ long haul trucking

submitted

For the first time since the horse and carriage, BC organic fruit is again being delivered without fossil fuels. Until climate change brings conditions up to a growing zone or two (or we learn to love winter kale and carrots for eight months a year), the bulk of our produce, especially stone fruit, must come from Okanagan or California farms. These ‘food miles’ leave a large carbon footprint. Selkirk Valley entrepreneurs Paul and Clare Kelly, of Revolution Biodiesel, saw a business opportunity in developing a solution to the problem.

Traditionally these ‘food miles’ require massive volumes of diesel fuel to move fresh food from faraway orchards to packinghouses, distribution warehouses, then on to retailers and consumer markets. With perishable foods like produce, dairy, eggs and meat, additional diesel fuel is required for the truck’s refrigeration unit, making climate-controlled trucking one of the most costly ventures in the transportation sector, both financially and in terms of CO2 emissions. A typical freight truck will use over 500 liters of diesel fuel to bring a load from Cowtown, BC (Canada’s organic fruit capital) to Calgary. Often these trucks return to the Okanagan empty or with a partial load, making it a 1,000-liter round trip. Many handlers also operate centralized refrigerated warehouses, further increasing carbon footprint and food miles to reach and operate from these hubs. Sourcing produce from California extends this round trip by over 4,000 kilometers, and consumes an additional 1,200-1,400 liters of diesel fuel per truckload.

Making use of their contacts from a combined 25 years in Calgary’s natural food sector, and fuel from their on-farm biodiesel plant, the Kellys invested in a refrigerated truck that they could run on pure biodiesel. The 100 percent post-consumer fryer-oil-derived biodiesel that they produce is calculated to have an 89 percent lifecycle carbon emission reduction compared to conventional fossil-fuel diesel. Shockingly the 5 percent biodiesel portion at diesel fuel pumps in BC is primarily imported from Finland or the US, and is derived from virgin palm oil from Indonesia, or virgin GMO oils from the US Midwest. It has a carbon footprint and energy balance closer to diesel from the tar sands. This blended diesel fuel simply isn’t an ethical or ecological option for the Kellys.

Additionally, by shipping directly from farm to retail store without warehouse nodes, Revolution Biodiesel was able to increase the share of retail proceeds to the farmers, and dramatically reduce food miles. A backhaul of Alberta organic crops such as feed, hay and straw ensures that the truck is running full to capacity as much as possible, and helps feed the BC interior organic farming community’s need for these commodities.

The supply of waste-to-energy biofuels is currently limited to the 130,000 litres per year of oil feedstock the Kellys collect from local restaurants, providing enough biodiesel to run up to three semi-loads per week to Calgary. Still, that’s over 120,000 pounds (54,000 kg) of fresh organic BC fruit shipped weekly. They are hopeful that as new technologies such as diesel-hybrids become commercially viable, they can improve fuel economy and further extend their ability to offset our food miles.

The Revolution Biodiesel freight service maintained weekly deliveries throughout the 2013 BC produce season, bringing over 300,000 kg (133,000 lb) of produce. Their biodiesel truck logged nearly 100,000 kilometers from June through November, with no breakdowns or damaged freight claims. They served organic retailers in Nelson including Earthly Good Organics, Ellison’s, and Endless Harvest; and in Calgary, Sunnyside Market, Community Natural Foods, Amaranth Whole Foods Market, and SPUD, plus Canmore’s Farm Box. Nine farms participated in the first-year venture along with wholesale Direct Organics Pits and Cowtown Cold Storage.

With the BC cherry season now just a few months away, Revolution Biodiesel is already getting calls to run larger and more frequent hauls in order to serve the growing demand for farm-grown fruit.

For more information visit http://revolutionbiodiesel.ca

For safety’s sake, Be Seen!

submitted

If you are walking on roads or highways at night or when visibility is poor, please ‘Be Seen.’ It only takes a moment to add a couple of strips of high-visibility tape to your outerwear. A simple X on the back and strips on your wrists will make you visible.

The Winlaw Fire Rescue is making the tape available at the Winlaw store bulletin board.

Members of Winlaw Fire Rescue met with the students at Winlaw Elementary and the Whole School and have initiated the ‘BE SEEN’ campaign in all schools in the Slocan Valley.

“We want to keep it simple: ‘be safe, be seen,’” says Carol Fehr of Winlaw Fire Rescue.

Plans to have tape available at public transit stops in Slocan, Perry’s Siding and Winlaw are in the works.
NEW DENVER HOSPICE SOCIETY would like to thank UC Health, New Denver Hospice Auxiliary, and the many members of the community for their generous donations towards the Pavilion Memorial Garden. These funds are a great start to preserving and maintaining our garden for 2014. Support for the garden is always welcome and you can donate through our website www.newdenverhospice.ca or by mail at New Denver Hospice Society, PO Box 217, New Denver, BC V0G 1X0. You can also view progress of the garden through our website.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to the Applehead Hall for hosting our Christmas party. A fun time was had by all and the atmosphere was cozy. Thanks again! -Fire Rescue

COMING EVENTS

NEW DENVER MERCHANTS’ NIGHT - Thank you to everyone who made the evening a smashing success! The New Denver District Commerce would like to thank all the merchants, Rhonda Boisvert, Lor L. Brooks and the royality, the New Denver Volunteer Fire Department, Santa Claus, the Valhalla Community Choir, and KSCU for their participation and contributions. Special thanks to New Market Foods and Bobby McNabb for providing the hot chocolate, hot dogs and goodies. And of course a huge thank you to all the community members who came out and filled the main street with warm, holiday cheer! The draw basket filled with treasures from our local merchants was won by Walter Yvonne.

COFFEE HOUSE

AT THE SILVERTON GALLERY:

Coffee House, fundraiser for Silvertown Gallery, Ju. 18, 6 p.m. at Jeff Plater, Jim Dore, Jim Bellr, Shaye, Sally T Yves, Allan Volrathsman; Dance Rock a Funk with the Jan Van Gold Band, Fri., 11 p.m., $12-15. BCAC funded. Two very talented artists Songwriter/imaginators Christa Centre and James Lamb, Feb 2, 8 p.m. $20.00 Tickets at the door only. Info: www.silvertowngallery.com

SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY event: Tom Wayman and Barbara Curry Milosky present a joint reading of their poetry on Sunday, January 19, 1 p.m. to 3:30 at the library. Call 220-7132 for information.

RESTAURANT

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CLASSIFIED ADS

CERTIFIED MANGO—original world jazz groove at the Bluebele Bistro in Enderby—Saturday January 19th at 7:30 pm.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY AGB Tues., Feb. 18, 11 a.m. at the HGG, 805 Killets St., New Denver. What’s your vision for the gallery? Let us know. This is your space!

BOTTLE DRIVE—GRADS—February 8. If you want pick-up, call Katrina 250-358-2224.

LOCALS’ FEAST (100 Mile Potluck), Six Slocan Valley Minutes, Silent Auction, Saturday January 25, 5 pm door, 6 pm supper. Valhalla Whole Community Centre. www.socalvalleycd.com. Follow the signs!

JOIN US FOR THE RIVERSTONE TRUNK SHOW at Sew Much More in Silvertown on Saturday, January 26 from 11 am to 4 pm. Riverstone yams are locally hand-dyed yams from fingering to bulky weights of wool and blues. There will be samples and patterns to inspire everyone and Clyde will be bringing his spinning wheel. Drop in and check out the trunk show!
Live in Downtown Nelson

In 2012 the Kootenay Co-op acquired the former Extra Foods site in the heart of downtown Nelson. We are developing the site into the Nelson Commons, a mixed-use commercial and residential development. The Nelson Commons will be the future home of the 20,000 sf Kootenay Co-op, the BC Wine Guys and 54 residential condominium units. We invite you to visit our Display Suite & Sales Office and imagine the simplicity of Life in the Heart of Downtown Nelson.

The Site:
- Right in the Heart of Downtown Nelson
- Easy walk to recreation centre, civic theatre, medical clinic, restaurants

The Building:
- Energy efficient contemporary design
- Low strata fees

The Suites:
- Beautiful mountain and lake views!
- Private decks and extra large terraces
- Stone countertops and quality stainless steel appliances

Display Suite & Sales Office
621 Vernon St, 12:00 to 5:00, Wednesday to Sunday
(or call to book an appointment)

t: 250 352 5847
www.nelsoncommons.ca

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