Sinixt Nation blockade set up to stop logging on Mt. Sentinel

by Jan McMurray

A Sinixt Nation blockade has been set up to prevent logging and road building on Mt. Sentinel near Pass Creek.

“Mt. Sentinel is a very important heritage site for my people,” said Marilyn James, spokesperson for the Sinixt Nation. Sinixt Nation members and supporters are not happy that the Sinixt were not consulted about the timber sale.

“We demand consultation in our territory. We’ve made very clear to the Ministry of Forests and BCTS. It’s our inalien right and they know it,” she said.

A ministry spokesperson confirmed that BC Timber Sales (BCTS) did not directly consult with the Sinixt, “since the Sinixt are not currently recognized by either the federal or provincial governments as an ‘aboriginal peoples of Canada’ within the meaning of s.35 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982. However, the Sinixt had the same opportunity to comment on the forest stewardship plan, as any other member of the public, during the legally required public review and comment period.”

The Sinixt people were declared extinct in 1956, following the death of the last Sinixt person who was registered with the government. Those who did not register were not officially recognized in Canada. The Sinixt have challenged their extinct status in court, but to this day they have no official standing with the BC or Canadian governments. Since last year, they have turned to international law to fight their case.

“We are standing on international human rights to come out of extinction and be able to practice our culture that is connected to the land and water,” said Jan James. She said that up on the ridge of Mt. Sentinel is Indian Flats, where the Sinixt gathered roots and huckleberries during seasonal migrations.

The Mt. Sentinel timber sale was awarded to a company owned by Porcupine Wood Products out of Salmo. Bill Kestell, Porcupine woodlands manager, reported that he was in the process of applying for a court injunction to order the protesters off the road. “We’ve asked them why they are blocking us when their fight is with the government,” said Kestell. “They’re the ones being hit. We’ve incurred significant costs in legal fees trying to get the injunction.”

“It’s unfortunate for everyone involved, including BCTS and the police, that the higher-ups aren’t making a decision [on the Sinixt issue],” he said. “It seems like it is left up to the lowest common denominator — the licencee and the contractor — and at our cost.”

Kestell explained that BCTS does all the planning and development work on its timber sales, including consultation, so the licencee does not expect to have to deal with any public or First Nations concerns. “We didn’t set aside the $30,000 or $40,000 for the legal fees. This is now a significant loss for the licencee.”

Kestell explained that local mills would also be negatively affected by the blockade as the wood from the timber sale was being targeted for three local mills — Porcupine, Kaleenwood and Interfer. With spring break-up coming, the mills are trying to build up inventory so they can continue to operate through the eight- to ten-week break-up period when most logging has to stop due to road restrictions. “I must say, the mills are going to shut down because the wood isn’t there,” he said.

The timber sale consists of two cutblocks totaling 45.6 hectares, with about 15,252 cubic metres of merchantable timber. It includes 1.8 kilometers of new road construction.

Kestell said one of the blocks is fully roved, while two new short spur roads are needed to access the upper and lower sections of the second block. He said the spur roads would be fully rehabilitated and then deactivated as part of the obligations under the licence.

AF Timber, contracted by Porcupine to do the road construction and logging work, was able to work for a week and push in a rough trail for the road before the blockade went up. They’ve been denied access since January 13, when a local woman stopped them and told them that the Sinixt would be getting involved.

On Thursday, January 16, Staff Sgt. Leanne Tuchsecheer and Sgt. Laurel Mathew from the Castlegar RCMP detachment attended. “It’s quite peaceful so far,” said Tuchsecheer. “They haven’t caused any problems. We’re concerned about this time.” She said there were three women, two men and a child blocking the road that day. On January 24, the Sinixt hosted a potluck at the camp, and about 30 people attended.

Last summer, the Sinixt set up a camp on Perry Ridge, stopping logging and road building. The road building contractor, Gahana Contractors, applied for an injunction, but it was not granted. The judge, Justice McFawn, felt this was a case of mischiefs and would be better handled by the police. Justice McFawn’s decision came as a bit of a surprise, as court injunctions have been the standard way for logging companies to deal with protesters in this area for years. The RCMP conducted an investigation to determine if the protesters were committing mischief or any other criminal offences, and submitted a report to crown counsel. Police are now waiting for a crown counsel’s decision on whether or not criminal charges should be laid.
Slocan feels budget crunch without mill property tax base

by Barbara Cary Mulcahy

With Village tax revenues from the Slocan mill property decreasing dramatically this year, Slocan council is looking for ways to cut about $1,000,000 from its budget.

Slocan council met on January 21 to discuss the draft 2014 budget, which was showing a deficit of $1,034,000 after allowing for 10 percent residential tax increase.

The mill site is now classified as a business property, which is taxed at a rate of 25 percent of the mill's industrial rate. What's more, the property value has decreased because of the demolition of the buildings, further reducing the amount of tax revenue generated by the property.

Last year, the Village received $134,710 in major industrial property taxes. This year, the Village expects $2,340, which would result in a 90 percent loss of industrial tax revenue.

Although business tax revenue will nearly double, this does not represent a big financial gain for the Village. Last year, the Village received $92,129 in business tax and this year, it expects to receive $18,302 — an increase of $13,177.

In addition, utility taxes received from Fortis (which this year will be based on one percent of power sales in 2012) are expected to drop by more than $5,000.

“Since we can’t balance this [budget] on the taxpayers’ shoulders,” said CAO Jack Richardson. Regarding the promised 10 percent cut in residential taxes, he said, “I don’t think that’s unbearable.” He pointed out that other fees (garbage collection, dog tags, utility) were remaining the same, while business taxes increased. “We will not consider imposing another tax increase,” he said.

CAO Jack Richardson emphasized that the budget was only a draft. He said some of the figures were estimates, and would be fine-tuned up soon. “This is council’s first opportunity to review the numbers,” he said, indicating that now that they have the whole picture, they will be able to study it and contemplate where to make cuts.

However, there appears to be no way to completely escape the cash crunch. Mayor Madeline Perriere said council would be “constantly monitoring financially” the past in order to prevent the Village from being underwater this year.

She suggested that council could seek out to SLICO in conference, or ask by sending one only councilor to the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments AGM and only councillor Hilary Elliott (who manages SLICO) to the Union of BC Municipalities’ annual conference. Council also discussed cutting expenses out of the two summer student positions, which would save $6,000.

Mayor Perriere said the Village would be looking at the budget for the coming year. “This is a hard year for us,” she said, but “if the microhydro project pays out in the next few years, the hardship will only be a temporary position.”

CAO Richardson noted that the microhydro project could generate enough power to save $1,000,000.

As a result, Slocan College is helping provide a proactive solution to the rural doctor shortage by launching its Rural Pre-Medicine Advanced Diploma and Associate Degree Program. Program enrolment takes place January 20–February 28, 2014. Ages 20–40, health care professionals are encouraged to apply. Students will be provided with full-time employment for the duration of the program.

Information for Canadians affected by the US Tax Compliance Act

Alex Atanamanko, MP BC Southern Interior, is sponsoring a public information session for Canadians considered to be ‘US persons’ for tax purposes, that is, US citizens and US permanent residents residing outside of the United States.

A panel of immigration and cross-border tax experts will address the issues related to US tax and the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

The session is free. It takes place Tuesday, February 11 from 7 to 9 pm at the FortisBC Conference Centre, 1810 5th Avenue, Castlegar.

The Canadian government is in negotiations with the Americans on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to impose US tax legislation on Canadian financial institutions.

The agreement may require Canadian banks and other financial institutions to disclose information on accounts held by ‘US persons’ to the US Internal Revenue Service.

Negotiations are being conducted in secret and raise concern that the IGA could potentially violate Canadian privacy laws. Furthermore, the misleading information and secrecy around FATCA is causing a great deal of public anxiety and anger.

“Canadians fear for the security of their personal banking information and the security of their savings,” said Atanamanko. “It is my hope that by providing my constituents with professionals who can offer advice and address their questions and concerns, we may alleviate some of the anxiety and give them the tools to make informed decisions.”

Richard Cannings is seeking nomination for NDP leadership.
Moving forward together: West Kootenay Tourism Alliance calls for input

As a resident of the West Kootenay, you may have become oblivious to the uniqueness of your environment. But to an outsider, it is anything but ordinary.

For a visitor venturing through for the first time, the diversity and serenity of this area is truly moving. From the steep valleys of the Slocan to the winding, low-traffic roads of the Arrow Lakes to the charming shops of Kaslo, the very things you might have written off as a normal tourist offering are a reminder of the unique outdoor experiences that make this area so special. That’s why the West Kootenay Tourism Alliance (WKT) has started a campaign to bring the tourism industry together.

The WKT has been working on an initiative to bring the tourism industry together and to promote the region as a whole. To do this, they have launched a campaign called “Moving Forward Together.”

The campaign is designed to bring the tourism industry together and to promote the region as a whole. To do this, they have launched a campaign called “Moving Forward Together.” The campaign will be focused on bringing the tourism industry together and to promote the region as a whole.

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To Corky Evans

A properly engineered road on Perry Ridge might indeed not be a bad thing, if the Sinixt accept it. However, I regret your description of the current post-fire forest as “n neither young nor healthy” when you present no evidence. First, only a young forest is young, and that’s not necessarily a virtue; after 40 years a Kootenay forest is only halfway to maturity. As to health, you are skating dangerously close to the biased and unscientific slander, long perpetuated by corporate influenced foresters, of the ‘decadent’ forest. The word itself has a dirty history, grounded in Dr. Lombroso’s late 19th century false psychology and the utterly false social theories of the German bigot Max Nauck. There is no such thing as a decadent forest.

Rev. F. Mark Mealing, Ph.D.
Kaslo

There’s more to a forest than the value of the logs

I read with interest the letter recently submitted by Corky Evans which called on people to re-think their conclusions on a roadless watershed. Corky’s contention that the forest is now decadent and presumably therefore in need of a serious trim comes straight out of the modern foresters’ handbook. According to them, the best thing to do is to log every 100 years or so in order to get the best crop.

As Corky’s guilt complex for having the government spend money to protect the property of its citizens, I think there are plenty of other things the governments waste my tax dollars on that he should worry about before he starts wringing his hands about that.

Rod Reitlafl Glade

Road building and logging don’t prevent forest fires

Road building and logging don’t prevent forest fires. Both are damaging to watersheds; roughly 75 years ago there was a forest fire that burned through our watershed. Mostly the few old growth trees remaining at that time survived the fire. The tree that logging companies want to take.

Over the last 40 years most of this forest is reaching a healthy maturity existence again, capturing and increasing the retention of water in and around the riparian zones. The water table has actually risen with the steady consistent flow further down the mountain even during the hottest driest summers.

With climate change upon us, I would rather keep my watershed intact and take my chances fighting fires with air power, which is faster and more efficient. Road building introduces a host of human activity, including possible new ignition sources, other entrepreneurs or industrial activities, hunting, poaching etc.

The new Interface Forest Management Plan is already in place around communities and this could be expanded to rural property owners. With government financial assistance and incentives, and possibly lower insurance rates, this could greatly reduce the threat of a fire to home owners in and around communities while at the same time creating more employment opportunities.

Mike Simpson
Rural New Denver

Response to Corky Evans’ strategy on Perry Ridge

For the public record, the Sinixt Nation is NOT in opposition to fire-road building and sustainable logging on Perry Ridge.

However, the Sinixt Nation is opposed to further industrial road building, clearcut logging, mining (including graphite mining), or any type of unsustainable developments on Perry Ridge, especially ones that neglect the cultural and archaeological interests beneficial to all peoples of the region, and any development that requires First Nations consultations by law.

At the August 1, 2013 Forest Service meeting in Winlaw, attended by myself and Sinixt Headman Vance Robert Campbell Sr., it was reported that the Perry Ridge fire was nearly always contained, and that firefighters were primarily dealing with small but spread-out hotspots with a concentrated region of the ridge above Benningker Creek. We were also informed that the fire wasn’t a “big deal” but that at that time there were available resources within the province, so even the historic Mars Bomber was brought in to battle the blaze at its peak. Also, Sinixt Nation communications with Forest Service representatives suggested that a fire road was not a concern.

There are many undocumented cultural and archaeological sites within Sinixt territory, including sites on Perry Ridge at higher elevations. The ridge itself as an old trail route used by Sinixt peoples and then widened by newcomers with horses. Sinixt elder Eva Adolph Orr travelled along this trail by horse sometime around 1940 with her elders to pick berries and for ceremonies.

In his letter, Corky Evans once again keeps Sinixt people ‘invisible’ while in reality it is Sinixt Nation members who are responsible for opening the road on Perry Ridge to the community to witness the clearest logging of our collective watershed, and also to hunt, hike, ATV, pick berries, gather firewood and hold ceremonies.

2013 was the first time many resident of Perry Ridge could witness and use a so-called ‘community forest.’ I wouldn’t say it may be time, but rather that it is long overdue to re-think the ethnecentric mismanagement and over-mechanized clearcut logging culture on Perry Ridge and all around unceded First Nations territories in BC.

If local politicians were truly concerned about meeting their obligations to Sinixt peoples, concerned for every one’s watersheds, and concerned about making truthful representations of the people in our region, then Sinixt people would have already been assured of their basic rights as Indigenous people and would not still be held hostage under a Catch 22 political status quo, and the community would not be throwing away money attempting to protect their drinking water.

Like the sign on the gate leading up to Perry Ridge says, if anyone needs access to Perry Ridge, they just need to consult with Sinixt Nation representatives. If their activities are respectful of the land, water, environment, archaeological sites, and Sinixt cultural-use areas, as well as other peoples’ human rights, etc., then, like all humans, they too have a guaranteed right to use Perry Ridge, but not a right to exploit it.

Dennis Zarelli Jr.
Sinixt Nation Communication and Media Liaison

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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Open letter to Minister Terry Lake re: Kaslo emergency

I am concerned about the emergency department hours at the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo. This affects me and my community because the nearest hospital is in Nelson, two hours away under ideal conditions due to weather or road construction.

My family and I are grateful for the services that the ER of the Victorian Community Health Centre offers, but we are able to stop the bleeding and provide him with IV fluids. The HART team was dispatched from Trail and they arrived in Kaslo about five hours later. He did not arrive at the Trail Regional Hospital until Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 6 am. He was not able to receive immediate help, he would not have survived.

There is something terribly wrong with our health system. Whenever there is a disaster in a foreign country, Canada is there ready to provide millions of dollars for relief, yet we do not have the funds to provide 24/7 ER service to our own village of Kaslo and surrounding communities.

I take this opportunity to beg you to reconsider the decision of reducing the emergency department hours at the Victorian Community Health Centre. Accidents are not scheduled to happen on a Sunday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm only.

Considering the fact that this area is well known as a backcountry recreational area, it is imperative to have our ER available 24/7.

Thank you for taking the time to look into this serious concern. Look forward to your reply.

Flora Seemark
Argenta

Open letter to New Denver Village Council

I now have 113 garbage stickers in my possession during a single week. I am sure you have received the same number to you in previous years.

Time to make a serious effort to incentivize garbage reduction. Most people do what’s easiest and cheapest.

How about collecting and recycling and requiring people to drop off goods at a central location?

How about village-scale composting – with worms. This would also reduce bear hazard and is about one-third of ‘garbage’ by volume. More frequent house drives would help.

Our current recycling, as with all previous systems, is unsustainable. There is no re-use possibility for the ridiculous volume of plastic packaging. It’s easy to use energy - human and fossil fuel – to take ‘away’ what we bought. No one wants to live next to the dump.

We can choose less packaging made of reusable materials every time we shop.

We can take a moment to wash it, mend it, reuse it, or give it to someone who can use it.

If budgets are so tight, let’s stop throwing money after bad to get ‘rid’ of stuff.

Village snow cleaning does a great job for vehicles, but increases hazard to people on foot. To cross a ploughed road I climb over a snow bank, cross a sheet of ice and another snowbank. These ice sheets persist through the spring thaw. There are three roads/alleys ploughed between me and the creek path – six snowbanks and three sheets of ice. The creek path by contrast is packed by walkers and skiers and safe even if you fall – a soft landing.

Cleats help on ice, snowshoes and skis in cold deep snow, but the mix of conditions in the village is impossible to dress for. Could we just plough streets and leave alleys for foot traffic? Could ploughs cut access walks where paths cross instead of obliterating them with mountains of snow? Could the Village clear the bridge and stairs after every snowfall?

Keeping bones strong requires daily weight-bearing exercise outside. Could we provide safe footpaths of an equal priority to safe roads? Ploughing less would leave many hours free for snowblowing across the bridge. Surely the Village is legally liable for injuries caused by ice and snow by the plough. Everyone has broken bone costs extra health care.

If we’re serious about increasing visitors in winter we have to make the village more pedestrian friendly. It could be what sets us apart from all the other beautiful Kootenay villages.

Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Road on Perry Ridge for firefighting not the answer

There are many areas on Perry Ridge, due to the extremely steep terrain, that even the Ministry of Forests and Recreation have admitted are unsuitable for roads or logging. Benninger Creek is one such area. Corky Evans, in his letter to the editor, that suggests that roads are the answer to firefighting. This would not apply to Benninger Creek or other areas where roads are possible.

Had the fire been attacked right away, the fire would have been under control much faster. The Ministry of Forests policy of letting the fuel load burn should not apply to areas where the public is put in danger.

Due to the fire on Benninger Creek, the fire system had admitted that since the trees are gone and there is slash and debris, there is now the potential after heavy rainfall for a debris flow into the creek. Our members on Benninger Creek have been advised in writing by Territorial Scientist Peter Jordan, BC Government, to be prepared to evacuate should there be heavy rainfall.

Mr. Otto Langer, BSc (Zoob) and MSc in fish biology (UofA), Fisheries Biological & Aquatic Ecologist, stated that the headwaters of the creeks and the clean water from the creeks are extremely important to sustaining the salmon run. Intact forested headwaters are also very important areas to our domestic water sources, both in terms of preventing laudis and protecting the other resources in the downstream months. Global warming brings more torrential rains and is creating landslides and washing out logging roads and bridges throughout the district.

Corky’s argument regarding the cost of firefighting by road vs aerial operation is extremely flawed. The aerial operation is more cost effective.

Keeping bones strong requires daily weight-bearing exercise outside. Could we provide safe footpaths of an equal priority to safe roads? Ploughing less would leave many hours free for snowblowing across the bridge. Surely the Village is legally liable for injuries caused by ice and snow by the plough. Everyone has broken bone costs extra health care.

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Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Unhappy with activities on Nature Trust land on Kootenay Lake

Since the Nature Trust at the north end of Kootenay Lake between Argenta and Cooper Creek decided to plant thistles and dandelions on the east and west sides of a field that was once the best producing hayfield in the area, the elk that habitually frequented it are no longer visiting. Perhaps they are staying away. Young white plastic cones and all the black plastic at the base of the seedlings. Local rumour has it that the whole meadow will one day be covered like this. Why? Elk like open spaces where predators are easily visible and food is plentiful.

I wonder how they like the herbicide that was sprayed in the field next to the Duncan River and erroneously labelled. The stuff was sprayed apparently to control orange hawkweed in October (during breeding season for ungulates) and it was written on this notice that Catherine MacRae of MFLNEO was responsible for the spraying. I did the study and knew nothing about it since her jurisdiction is on Crown land and this was done on private (Nature Trust) land. What was printed on the notice as having been sprayed was a non-insecticidal chemical called ‘Mainline’. Ms MacRae later got back to me after having consulted with Nature Trust and said what was sprayed is called ‘Milestox’, a long acting poison. The sign in question was promptly removed but to date no accurate one has replaced it.

Who are these Nature Trust people who blindly spray herbicides throughout their lands without any concern for the wildlife? For one thing, to spray just one field in an area rampant with both orange and yellow hawkweed seems like an exercise in futility. What else are they spraying? How about a public meeting to discuss anything they are doing.

Have you heard about UN Agenda 21? Democrats against UN continued on page 6

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LETTERS

continued from page 5
Agenda 21 came might open some eyes. Rose Krize has written a book called Behind the Green Mask and it paints the picture of another land planet wide being taken out of production and into the hands of the people by supposedly "green" organizations. In this what's happening here? Nature Trust has its office in Cranbrook, so they are far from liberal.

I would like to see people calling them to ask questions so that they know they are not slipping by unnoticed. If you oppose canine use of pesticides in a field usually used by wildlife let them know. Phoney or surreptitious herbicide application notices are not acceptable as an area that has to be opened being their use since 1963. Speak out. Be heard, or things may just get worse! Kenney Folk let your voices be heard united and true.

(Thanks for reading my rave).

Gabriela Grabowsky

Glacier Creek

Open letter to FrontCounter BC

The application by TMI Mobile Inc. for a Telus cell tower and 1.5 km of road north of Hills is seriously deficient and I would not recommend it be approved until wildlife and other community concerns, including those who have concerns about electromagnetic radiation, are addressed properly in a revised application process.

As a local wildlife biologist, I know the application area well. The application area is in critical deer and elk winter range and in the past I have observed mountain caribou crossing the site. The upper reaches of the application area (as well as areas below the highway) have numerous interconnected wetlands that I have verified from field and are important spring habitats for grizzly and black bears. In a regional context the application in a large landscape wildlife/biodiversity corridor between Valhalla and Goat Range Provincial Parks. According to the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan the area is a Special Resource Management Zone (SRMZ) but guidelines were never done by the province.

First, all BC timber sales has now new logging plans for the same area but neither the applicant nor BC timber sales are aware of each other's proposed development plans, including the road system.

Although the hills community, Valhalla Wilderness Society and others are generally opposed to the roads of reading and clearingcutting in the Valhalla-Goat Range Park wildlife corridor SMZ, last year we did do a field trip with BC timber sales in the same area to the Telus-Telco application; as a result BCTS modified some of their cut plans to mitigate some of the issues of their development plan on existing grizzly bear habitats both in the upland areas (such as roughly in the same area that the proposed TMI Telus cell tower will be) and below the highway. BCTS plans to develop and modify the current de-activated road network located on the map in the TMI application, do some fairly extensive clearingcutting and then deactivate the road to mitigate human disturbances from motorized access in sensitive spring grizzly bear habitat. They have also made some cut modifications to increase protection of other spring riparian grizzly bear habitats as well as to remove stands around several ancient larch trees (500+ years of age) that are near the top.

I have no idea how the TMI application will introduce on the old growth reserve for ancient heritage trees that appears to be near to top of their road system and cell tower location.

TMI Mobile Inc. claims they were going to contact stakeholders considering this application but this has not happened, not even with BCTS. If they had, they might have become aware of these grizzly bear and other community concerns.

I would like to recommend that the application not be approved until the above mentioned wildlife and other concerns are adequately addressed and a meeting is convened with the hills community.

Wayne McCrory

Response to Corky Evans

As usual, I find myself intellectually hooked when reading one of Corky's submissions, and this particular one I can even claim to understand. Corky's comments are made with a greater point of view. I agree with at least part of what he says.

I take as not stated but understood by Corky that while he believes "Wildlife is now the greatest risk to our water supplies," other serious risks do exist. Such as, there are many serious risks to our water supplies that are not wildlife related. When Corky precedes the above quote with: "Forty years ago it probably made sense to think that logging might put our water at risk. In those days, most of the timber sales were young (about 60 years old) and healthy;" in no way do I take that to mean it no longer makes sense for the public to become involved in ensuring that the logging that takes place in our watersheds is done in an acceptable and perhaps even a community supported manner. As well, I have no idea what Corky believes I will as speak out for the right of indigenous communities, on whose unceded territory all such activity taken place, to be a participant in, and, vector of the outcome of the process, in the same way as the provincial government, the water suppliers, the public and everyone else. In many ways, I offer that Corky should take my word for it.

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TMI Mobile Inc. claims they were going to contact stakeholders considering this application but this has not happened, not even with BCTS. If they had, they might have become aware of these grizzly bear and other community concerns.

I would like to recommend that the application not be approved until the above mentioned wildlife and other concerns are adequately addressed and a meeting is convened with the hills community.

Wayne McCrory

Corky's letter ignores the Sinixt

West Kootenay's Cranbrook-based Canadian farmer socialist MLA's Perry Ridge letter in the January 15 Valley Voice safely advocates that we ignore the Sinixt people's fight for their land and legal spiritual struggle to have their 1950 Incan Act extraction revoked.

The first major immigration of California-native people into the late 1800s wretched murderous havoc on the Sinixt people. A few lucky 'threw (Kootenay) Lake human beings had managed to barely survive the earlier onslaught of European diseases. This former MLA knows that Perry Ridge is a significant spiritual/cultural place for the Sinixt people.

Yes, we write a public discourse about Perry Ridge that completely ignores these human beings' efforts on Perry Ridge to mitigate a Canadian red government's forest destruction of drinking water, create value-added forestry work, and prevent the extirpation of wolves, grizzly and other endangered species that rapidly cling to existence on planet Earth.

Many local citizens support the Sinixt's legal and spiritual journey to help the corporate state of Canada reflect the Sinixt sense of moral fibre that is our next complete genocide of these luxuries.

This public discourse does not even mention the Sinixt. He puts forward an idea that functioning fallow industrial logging clearcuts and miles of collapsing logging roads will protect us from forest fires. He suggests global warming forces us to clear log all domestic wood use, not protect our rural water works from wildfires.

This is not surprising considering this former MLA was part of the BC socialist governing party (mid 1990s) that pissed down from logging protest on the Ridge and near 1,000 people in the largest mass rally in Canadian history.

The Clayoquot Sound old growth logging protest and resulting arrest and Kangaroo NDP pats a new low in my opinion, for Canadian socialists. Their main interest was the union and common resource extraction vote, which they secured for another feeding of the corporate coffers.

Logging and climate change don't improve the global warming or forest fires. In fact, global deforestation is the single largest source of man made carbon release. Protecting Canada's old growth rain forest, along with tropical rainforest, is likely the most effective way to curb the effect of a warmer planet.

Hopefully, current local socialists are aware of the Sinixt legal and Indian issues and have a more scientific approach to human planetary pollution.

Tom Prior

The Valley Voice January 29, 2014

Letters to the Editor
Prevent chimney fires: sweep your chimney at the first sign of trouble
by Bill Tobeck

So far, this has been an exceptional year for chimney fires. Yet most wood burners understand the ‘how, why, and what’ of chimney fires and have adopted ‘standard operating procedures’ to avoid them. So why the sudden increase? Because the weather is different. The past month has been wetter, warmer, damper than normal. We have had a mix of rain and wet snow. Every day there is dew or frost on our cars. And when we bring in that four-year-old firewood, it feels wet.

Chimney fires start when there is a build-up of creosote. Wet wood causes creosote to build up. Even four-year-old stockpiled firewood, if it feels wet, is no longer dry enough to burn without resulting in a build-up of creosote in your chimney.

It’s very important to understand: If you have trouble getting your fire started, If you have trouble getting a strong draft.

If you get a puff of smoke in your face when you open your woodstove, there is a problem in your chimney, and you need to sweep it from the firebox to the raincap. The LPs only happen when there is a restriction in your chimney.

You can call your local chimney sweep or you can do it yourself, but you must sweep your chimney.

If you store your firewood outside, even in a ‘dry’ shed, it will absorb the moisture in the air. Your firewood might have been 12% last summer, but it’s very likely that a moisture meter today will tell you it is much higher.

But only one thing counts. If there is a change in how your wood heater is working, sweep the chimney!

South Slocan hospital auxiliary raises $1,500 for Kootenay Lake Hospital

The Kootenay Lake Hospital Auxiliary, South Slocan Chapter has announced the winners of its annual KLA Equipment Fund raffle. The first prize of a handcrafted quilt was won by Jannie Peterskin of Nelson; the second prize, a bent willow chair and teddy bear, went to Sharon Kanusseney of Grand Forks. Both winners were thrilled, and went to Joan Karfoot of Wsawew; and fourth prize of a quilted pillow was won by Darlene Heon.

The Chapter sold a total of 1,928 tickets, raising $1,500 for the KLA Foundation’s ‘Light up the Hospital’ campaign. This brought the total given to the Foundation to $2,500 for 2013. Newly elected Kootenay Boundary representative on the BC Association of Health Care Auxiliaries, Darryl Smitel, attended the January meeting and installed the new president, Elaine Woods, and vice president, Joan Karfoot. Since its inception the Chapter has contributed more than $147,000 for equipment, services and programs at KLA. This is a great achievement for a small, but very enthusiastic, rural hospital auxiliary.

Silverton Community Club donates $3,800 in 2013
by Jan McMurray

The Silverton Community Club (SCC) is all about community service. Not only does the club organize cherished community events like the July 1st Celebration and the Volunteer of the Year Dinner, it also gives grants to other community organizations.

In 2013, the club donated to the following groups: Arena Society ($700), Christmas Sharing ($300), Red Cross for Alberta Flood victims ($500), Hospital Auxiliary Community directed youth fund seeking input for year two

The youth co-ordinator for North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society invites everyone to a workshop to gather community input for the youth fund’s second year.

This workshop will identify priorities with the intention of improving the overall lifestyles of young people living in Kaslo and communities at the north end of Kootenay Lake.

If you are a young person, anyone who lives with and cares for youth, or anyone who works with youth – you are invited.

The workshop takes place Thursday, February 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Kaslo and Area Youth Centre, 201 A Avenue in Kaslo. Dinner will be provided.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by February 7 so organizers can plan for enough food. Contact Shannon Isaac, Kaslo and Area Youth Co-ordinator, at shannonisaac@alderes.org or 250-353-7691, extension 304.

Applications Now Accepted

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines and arts, culture and heritage groups in the Columbia Basin to apply for project funding.

Program brochures and application forms are available online at www.basinculture.com, or call CKCA at 1-877-505-7355 or email vkrac@telus.net.

Deadline for applications is March 7, 2014, or March 21, 2014, depending on the program.

W.E. Graham Community Service Society is offering Free Adult Art Therapy Group

Hold every Tuesday from 3:30 pm – 5 pm
Drop-ins welcome

Experience Art Therapy in a fun, creative and nurturing atmosphere.

Art materials are provided.

*Art experience is not necessary to participate. Bring your curiosity, willingness to play, create, and explore!

This group will be co-facilitated by Art Therapists employed by W.E. Graham Community Service Society; Lindsey Dow and Suzanne Gray.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jones Boys Boats

Yamaha Outboard Specials

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Nakusp council, January 13: Disappointing news on wharf and biomass energy project

by Art Joyce

As ever, the thorn in council’s side was the wharf project. Council received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights, stating that BC Hydro has no obligation to provide year-round access to the boat ramp, or to maintain the marina. Further, there is no obligation on BC Hydro relative to the breakwater. ‘The terms only refer to a launch and boarding float,’ he states.

Council was very disappointed with the letter. ‘The CAO and I have had a couple conversations with them and I don’t know if they’re not reading our correspondence or what. For them to say the marina protects the wharf so you don’t need a breakwater doesn’t make sense to me,’ said Mayor Hamling.

CAO Tynan reported that the Rod and Gun Club is ‘currently assessing strategies’ to have their concerns about the lack of year-round boat ramp access known.

Councillor Zaleznik reported that the biomass energy project has encountered serious practical difficulties. The moisture content of local wood waste is too high for most uses without first being dried. Councillor Duquette suggested looking into a drying kiln, though it would add to the infrastructure cost. CAO Tynan said at this point most of the grants and subsidies for the wood waste initiative have run out, so council would have to come up with the funds out of its operating budget to the tune of about $75,000. Councillor Zaleznik is comparing notes with the City of Nelson, which has done a draft report on a district biomass heating system. He thinks there may still be a chance to produce a biomass system in Nakusp with a private/public partnership. Council referred the matter to budget discussions.

Council decided to have a strategic planning meeting in coming to consider NACF0R’s request for council input into its grant writing process. CAO Tynan will prepare a report for that meeting that looks at different options, including information on how other community forests distribute grants. There are still NACF0R funds from the 2012 financial year that need to be distributed.

Laurie Page addressed council on behalf of the Nakusp and Area Development Board (NADB), providing an update on the board’s activities to date. Page explained that core funding from the Village is key to the board’s success as it is the only project that benefits the community, such as the Business Retention and Expansion Project (BRE). Other projects reaching completion include the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Directory, which launched its new website last June. Page reported on the completed BRE survey, which recommends ways to improve communications with and between local businesses. One idea proposed was setting up lunch events with guest speakers to help facilitate professional development. Peter Walker/Ling is heading up a Chamber of Commerce committee for tourism marketing, with the goal of forming a regional brand covering the area from Revelstoke to Nelson. Rosy Brown-Hydes is directing an initiative to further develop local agriculture, gathering information on co-operatives and non-profit enterprises. The NADB has had the old firehall inspected and an Expression of Interest (EOI) has been released in hopes of redeveloping the building for other uses. Page also mentioned a number of projects the board is interested in pursuing if they had the resources. These would include giving local tourism a boost through the development of recreational maps for ATVing, canoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling to augment existing maps. Access to high-speed broadband remains an issue when it comes to expanding existing businesses or attracting new ones. Page said NADB is interested in doing a part-time resilient survey to determine their impact on the local economy and assess what might motivate them to reside here full-time. The board would also like to investigate opportunities for expanding wood manufacturing operations. The Nambud and Area Community Forest (NACF0R) is connecting with regional groups to explore possibilities for marketing.

Cedar Eisenhauer, Chamber of Commerce office manager, presented the Chamber’s annual report. The Chamber’s new website will be online soon. Eisenhauer said an important goal is to increase year-round traffic to the community, which meant having enough budget to keep staff in the Visitor Information. About 80 percent of the Chamber’s annual budget goes to employees. She said staff is already communicating with visitors planning summer vacations here and more time is needed to co-ordinate the community calendar in order to avoid event scheduling conflicts. ‘But our hopes are bigger than our budget,’ another goal is to get visitors to stay longer. Consultant Mike Stolte says people staying the night spend three times more money than people on pit stops, she explained. Ecosense Rockin Townships estimates that overnight visitors contribute $2 million per year to the local economy. Visitors who normally only use their cell phones for information have said they enjoy the personal contact at the centre – this often convinces them to stay longer.

Nakusp Rotarian in line to be District Governor

by Jan McMurray

Past President of the Nakusp Rotary Club, and currently one of ten Assistant Governors in Rotary District 5080, Keess van der Pol has been chosen to be the Governor of the district in 2016/17.

‘It’s such an honour,’ said Keess. ‘I never thought that someone from a club as small as Nakusp’s would ever be District Governor.’

Rotary districts choose their District Governors three years in advance to give them ample opportunity for training. Then, after they’ve completed their year as District Governor, they serve as Past District Governor for one year. ‘All in all, it’s a five-year commitment, for both my wife, Mayumi, and me,’ explained van der Pol. ‘They consider the governorship a team effort so, although I have the title, Mayumi and I were interviewed together.’

Keess and Mayumi were interviewed in November in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. They have just come back from Seattle, where the first of their training sessions was held.

Rotary International consists of about 350 districts around the world. District 5080 includes 60 clubs and covers the geographic area from Golden to the Oregon border, the Alberta border to Grand Forks, Northern Idaho, and Eastern Washington, including Spokane. The 60 clubs in District 5080 have memberships ranging from 8 to 300.

‘It’s very exciting and it’s daunting, too – all the responsibilities and all the learning. I imagine myself, from our small town of Nakusp, delivering a 30-minute speech to a club of 300 people – inspiring them to follow our motto, “Service above Self.” I’ve done public speaking as a high school principal in my own community, but this is much, much bigger,’ Mayumi said she was very excited about it. ‘It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,’ she said. ‘The people I meet through Rotary have been so much for others – they are very inspiring. I think I will thoroughly enjoy it.’

As District Governor, Keess will be responsible for growth in membership and club development, donations to the Rotary Foundation, and getting more youth and young adults involved. He will visit all 60 clubs, and will be in charge of the annual District Conference.

Keess has been a member of the Nakusp Rotary Club for nine years, and Mayumi for one. Keess was president of the club from 2011 to 2013.

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

The Valley Voice January 29, 2014

NCUSP

The Mayor and Council invite you to drop in to the Auditorium for a FINANCIAL OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Location: Sports Complex Auditorium
200 8th Avo N.W.
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The purpose of the Open House is to give residents the opportunity to give input on the level of services provided by the Village for the 2014 budget and to answer questions about where your tax dollars go.

Village management staff including the CAO, CFO and managers of each department will be on hand with the Mayor and Council to answer your questions and show you our displays illustrating the activities of each department.

Refreshments will be served!! Drop in format.

If you have ever wondered how much the Village spends on the waterfront walkway, what’s been going on with our capital projects, what the costs of operating the hot springs are or any other questions about the Village finances and your taxes…please drop in and see us!

Financial Open House
submitted
There will be lots to do, great entertainment in the big tent, and plenty of food. Herb Thompson and his lovely horses will give rides in a dandy sleigh ride along the edge of the forest. The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society will give beginner cross-country ski lessons, and will have skis of all sizes (if you’d like to try out this easy-to-learn sport. Bring your old hockey stick and jump into a game of 4 on 4 street hockey. Or learn all about the forest’s flora and fauna. Creek Walk led by Sabrina Mutterer and Gillian Sanders (pre-registration is encouraged.) Try out hot sweet and sticky maple taffy, served on a stick and washed down with some hot bannock on a stick and cook it over the bonfire. Get some wilderness survival recipes in a workshop led by Paule Flanagan.

The woodland competition has some fun events that anyone can enter, like the Swade sawing race – kids against the parents (the adults get a hand or two of help from the kids.) Won the prize for being the first to boil a coffee can of water over a fire you made only with a bundle of cedar, a bow drill and a handful of wooden matches.

At noon, catch all the action of the Human Doged Race. Teams of three humans and one pants-sized musher will bvy for the grand prize of $200 towards their favourite charity. So far five teams are entering:

Karlo’s Christmas Bird Count shows numbers are down
December 30 was a relatively mild day with light snow falling, but birds were scarce.

Due to the largest number of field participants ever, the Kaslo Christmas Bird Counters were able to break into five teams in efforts to cover as much of the large designated area as possible.

Alberta company buys out Falkins Insurance
Falkins Insurance Group, which has 11 offices in the Kootenays including Kaslo, has been bought by Alberta-based Western Financial Group, now the largest Canadian-owned network of insurance brokers in Canada.

No offices will be closed, and no jobs will be lost, Western says.

Falkins has been in business for 115 years. The brokerage began selling insurance in the Gold Rush town of Fort Steele in 1879 and relocated to Cranbrook in 1928, and in the 1990s, where it continued to expand and meet the needs of the region for the following 100 years. Falkins Insurance is the largest general insurance brokerage in the Kootenays, with 11 offices and more than 100 professionals.

The company sells personal, travel, auto, and commercial insurance and operates its own claims service.

Some winters, hundreds, even thousands, of these imperious forest birds find their way to the West Kootenay.

Three others never listed before in the 13 years of the Kaslo Bird Count were bufflehead, western grebe and golden eagle. The number of Exinion gulling also jumped up. A total of 11 was noted in Upper Kaslo and seven more in lower Kaslo. This species has been observed for a short number of years and expanded from two to four in the past year. As it is not a native species, its expanding presence is not of mixed reviews.

Details of the count: Canada geese (50); mallard (138) bufflehead (1); Barrow’s goldeneye (1); horned grebe (1); western grebe (1); wild turkey (1); bald-eared guile (4); bald eagle (4); golden eagle (1); merlin (1); Exinion collared dove (18); dowey woodpecker (2); northern flicker

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Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

January, 2014

Governing
Planning for the society’s annual general meeting is getting underway. The AGM will be held on Wednesday, April 16.

Four seats on the board need to be filled. Two vacancies were created by resignations during the year (Ken Waples and Jeff Reyden) and two more by the expiration of the terms of current directors, Jeff Matties and Steve Anderson. We hope there will be a number of candidates running for these positions and we especially encourage candidates who live at the end of the north of the lake to put their names forward.

Winter in the Forest Festival
It’s fun and it’s free so mark your calendar! This year’s Winter in the Forest Festival will be held on Family Day, Monday, February 10, 10 am – 3 pm at the Kaslo Turf.

There will be 4 on 4 street hockey, a woodsmen competition, human doged races that will benefit local charities, and logging rides. The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society will be co-hosting once again, offering kids of all ages the opportunity to X-country ski. KORS will have skis on hand in all sizes, so whether you’ve never tried skiing before, now’s your chance! Come and enjoy bannock on a stick by the bonfire, a cup of home made soup and maple taffy on the snow. Sign up for a free fauna nature walk with Sabrina Mutterer and Gillian Sanders, fire a hay-bale seat in the big tent and listen to some of our area’s talented musicians and storytellers. This great family event is a Kaslo tradition. Catch all the details on the Kaslo Winter Forest Festival Facebook page. http://www.facebook.com/.

Harvesting
Settle Holdings Ltd. has been harvesting in CP 15 located in the Keen Creek/Nashville Creek area since September. Approximately 7,400 m³ has been harvested to date; there is approximately 8,000 m³ remaining to harvest on the one-block cutting permit. Two access roads, approximately 2 km total length, were constructed by CG Logging Ltd. (Colin Jacobs) in late summer last year. The timber is being sold to Kalesertoff, Interfor, Porcupine Wood Products and Stell-Jones, and some wood has gone to Wancoiffe Enterprises (Kaslo) and Hamill Creek Timber Frame of Muck Creek.

Sunshine Logging Ltd. is constructing a main access spur into CP 34. This three block permit (approximately 17,000 m³) is accessed via the MRCK transfer station and the Keen Creek/Nashville Creek. The harvesting of the cutting permit has been advertised for tender and February 3 is the closing date. The tender has to be submitted. Tendering of this permit is scheduled for the 2014 season. Maps and more information is available on the website.

Silviculture
The winter months are allocated to forward planning and updating our maps and electronic and hardcopy data. It’s also the time to incorporate the new cut blocks and survey information that was collected over the past field season. At the January board meeting Sabrina Mutterer, who oversees our silviculture program, presented the board with a tool to track current silvicultural activities and future plans. The spreadsheet provides a comprehensive overview of over 30 cutting blocks for which the community forest is now responsible and tracks the status, trend and budget throughout the time span required before we can declare them “free to manage.” An example of this type of management is current in one block, which is now updated periodically. The board is now able to assess quickly where we are and how we line up with the 30-year silvicultural plan. It is a very accessible archive of information and it’s a planning tool that reassures us that our forest regeneration program is in good hands.

Community Economic Development
In November 2013 Bill Kestell, Woodlands Manager attended a workshop in Nakusp that was sponsored by the Nakusp community forest. The emphasis of the workshop was to investigate economic opportunities that could be developed through the community forest and the Village. Bill found the process very interesting. The workshop and KDCFS has begun planning a similar workshop in Kaslo, although this workshop will focus on economic opportunities of the whole forest specific to Kaslo and will be submitted. Highlands and Kaslo representatives to look at opportunities to enhance economic returns from our forest resource, whether these opportunities are KDCFS specific, Village specific or present a synergy that can be built on. The workshop is being planned for late March.

Youth Employment Program
Happy with the success of last summer’s youth employment program, the board applied to Columbia Basin Trust to help us fund a bigger program in 2014. Unfortunately, the application was not successful. Despite this setback, we intend to proceed with a youth program and have budgeted $40,000 for that purpose. We have also had conversations about applying for funds to deploy the young workers over the summer.

Two themes emerged. The first was to devote time to trail building and maintenance like the youth crew did last year. These initiatives are a benefit to many and were widely appreciated. The second idea was to put the youth to work on forestry related tasks, like site recces and data gathering preparatory to cutoff layout, thus giving the students foundation skills and experience that might serve them well should they wish to pursue work in the forest industry.

Water Monitoring
A couple of years ago, the KDCFS water monitoring program was enlarged in scope with financial assistance from the regional district and Columbia Basin Trust. Then last year the same extreme runoff event that washed out Hamill Creek damage several of the water monitoring sites. The Basin Trust and the KDCFS have begun planning a similar water program in Kaslo, although this workshop will focus on economic opportunities of the whole forest specific to Kaslo and will be submitted. Highlands and Kaslo representatives to look at opportunities to enhance economic returns from our forest resource, whether these opportunities are KDCFS specific, Village specific or present a synergy that can be built on. The workshop is being planned for late March.
New Denver’s Nikkei Centre featured in national magazine

by Karine Campbell

This year, the Nikkei Intermountain Memorial Centre in New Denver marks its 20th anniversary and manager Monique Ito is working on celebrations events.

The centre is featured prominently in the January edition of *The Bulletin*, a magazine for Japanese-Canadians. The front page features Tatsuko Kikuchi (Koko), Gayle Swanson, Ito and Emiko Morita in front of one of the centre’s original winsome courthouses. Inside are six stories and a full-page ad, with a promise of more to come during the months leading up to the August 9 celebrations.

"The Bulletin" articles were a collaborative idea initiated by the Nikkei Intermountain Memorial Centre with the support of the National Association of Japanese Canadians," says Ito.

The stories, available at http://jccbullettina-ggpo.ca, include one on the NIMC’s history and the anniversary; a message from Ito and a request for stories of both camp life and the development of the centre; an editorial and story on musician Terry Watada and his song "New Generation," a memoir about internment in New Denver, and an appeal from the NIMC president that gives a full-page ad (donated by *The Bulletin*) requesting donations for the NIMC.

"The celebration events are still in the early stages," Ito says, and all depends on money.

Silvertown Gallery and Lucerne School launch music art, spoken word project

What does the Slocan Valley mean to you? In a new project, students throughout the Slocan Valley will have the chance to create work around this theme, using the media of music, art and writing. Starting in February, the project will culminate in April with a final youth coffee house performance.

The opening celebration coffee house will be held Saturday, February 8, at the Silvertown Gallery with musicians Logan Carlston and Dylan Heidt. Both are members past and present of the Coquihalla Youth Choir. Zve Reinhart will dazzle us with his drums, and former Blackfish bass player Norbert Maucher with friends Michael Dorey and Richard Burton will make this a spectacular evening. Norbert and Richard will play and sing a variety of songs including his own original. The coffee house starts at 7 p.m., and admission is $10.

Logan Carlston will work with the intermediate students at Lucerne School, with the support of the Silvertown Gallery’s Community Music program.

For 10 weeks, he will guide students through an in-depth study of the guitar and singing.

Based in Nelson, Carlston has been crafting his own sound, singing and playing the guitar and piano. Always trying to keep his head in the music scene, he has played at many local venues, solo or with different bands. Carlston studied music at Selkirk College in Nelson before travelling to France in 2012, with his guitar in hand, hitchhiking and experiencing the culture.

Proceeds from the coffee house will go to the Slocan Lake Gallery Society towards the purchase of new fire doors. The Community Music program and Lucerne houses are funded by BC Arts Council and the Slocan Lake Gallery Society.

2013 bird count: they were all hiding from the cold

Of interest this year was a yellow-shafted flicker, which normally does not visit this area (our flickers are the red-shafted variety). There was also a sighting of a northern pygmy owl in New Denver a couple of days before the count day.

The species and number of birds this year were: Canada goose (38), trumpeter swan (3), northern shoveler (1), mallard (5), mallard (2), red-shafted flicker (3), Stellar’s jay (9), American crow (2), American magpie (4), black-capped chickadee (35), chestnut-backed chickadee (3), red breasted nuthatch (12), American dipper (3), golden-crowned kinglet (26), Townsend’s solitaire (2), ovenbird (2), phoebe (1), Bohemian waxwing (100), song sparrow (2), Oregon junco (1), house finch (5), purple finch (5), evening grosbeak (50) and evening grosbeak (30).

The Christmas bird counts take place in both North and South America. We hope to continue the tradition here over 100 years ago. Counts are filled with Audubon as well as Bird Studies Canada.

Eloise Charette hosts local screening of Janaies sans nos enfants by Jan McMurray

"Janaies sans nos enfants (Never Without Our Children)," the documentary that tells the story of New Denver resident Eloise Charette’s escape from Kikum Rouge Canvas with 80 orphans, will screen at the Bonn Hall on Saturday, February 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The film is free and goes on until 4 p.m. Eloise is in French, so Eloise will translate.

"The film not only tells the story of our courage at that time of war, but it also shows the aftermath of the appalling living conditions of children in Canada today, which is still ruled by the Kikum Rouge, only under a different name," she said.

The film was produced for CBC Radio Canada TV by a company called Tellagring. Eloise attended the première of the film in Montreal on December 18. "It meant a lot to me for my sister, Anna, and I and our mother to see our beautiful babies again and to be so honoured," said Eloise. The president of the Canadian Society, Eloise couldn’t believe that our story had never been told.

Eloise, Anna and their mother escaped with the 80 orphans from Cambodia to Vietnam in 1975. All of the orphans were placed with Canadian families, mostly in Montreal. One of the orphans, Kim Rosalie Philen, now 38 years old, instigated the production of the film.

The documentary can be viewed online at http://www.tbc.ca/janaies-sans-nos-enfants.
Silverton council, January 21: Silverton to enter Communities in Bloom again

By Jan McMurray

Gray Willman attended to report on the success of Nichols opening in 2013. The program continues in 2014, and Willman said he anticipates a “good year” with even more participants this year than last year.

The 2013 budget was $20,000, with $14,000 administrated by Willman and $6,000 administrated by Village of Silverton. Willman came in under budget, with expenditures totalling only $5,944.

The program, held at the Memorial Hall, included workshops to discuss the program in depth and a free lunch every second Thursday. The sessions offered an informal gathering place to play cards, Wii or walk around the hall for exercise. “It was a place for seniors to come and get a kick,” said Willman.

There were 57 seniors registered from Silverton to Ronan, with an average of 10 attending on Tuesdays and 17 on Thursdays.

Council thanked Willman for coordinating this positive community program.

Silverton will participate in the New Denver council, January 14: CAO Carol Gordon announces retirement

by Karine Campbell

CAO Carol Gordon, who has worked at the Village for 27 years, formally announced her retirement. As of March 10, she will start taking all the holidays and overtime she has accumulated, then return to full retirement.

“We will receive this and cry later,” said Mayor Ann Buunk.

The Village accepted the recommendations of Norden Centre Manager Monokoro Ito and will submit applications to both Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works for wage subsidies to hire up to two summer students for the Centre.

The Village will also support the Norden National Museum’s proposed applications to the BC Arts Council Early Career Development grants program. The Village is not an eligible candidate for this program, so the NNM will submit the application, identifying Ito as its interim. If successful, this grant would offer a solution to relieve $30,000 worth of NMMC manager wage expenses... while providing Monokoro with hands-on career development experience which will benefit the future operations of the NMMC.

She would work at the museum in Bumby from October 2014 to March 2015, while managing the Centre remotely, then return for the opening season (summer 2015) as a practitioner.

• Council rescinded policies on Alcohol within Municipal Buildings and Parks and Public Lands and replaced them with new policies. No alcohol will be allowed in municipal buildings or property unless a provincial liquor licence has been issued. Knob Hall and Centennial Park have separate policies.

The Parks and Public Lands policy covers conditions for use of such lands, with guidelines and facility rental costs listed.

This project was led by the Silverton Economic Development Commission in collaboration with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. She said she would be calling a steering committee meeting very soon to plan presentations of the results of the study to Slocan Valley communities. “This data helps us understand in concrete terms what the strengths and weaknesses of our economy are,” she said, adding that training was one of the needs identified in the study.

• Mayor Provan reported that she would be happy to take on the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board appointment. This appointment had been given to Councilor Main, with Mayor Provan as alternate. Council agreed to reverse this, so Mayor Provan is now the appointee, and Councilor Main is the alternate.

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 friendly folks at Overwaitea in Nakusp:
1. The Black Stallion by Walter Farley
2. Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World by Zig Ziglar
3. Honor Harrington Series by David Weber
4. Message in a Bottle by Nicholas Sparks
5. Handle With Care by Jodi Picoult
6. Pet Sematary by Stephen King
7. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
8. Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White
9. The Help by Kathryn Stockett
10. The Handmaids Tale by Margaret Atwood
11. The Seventh Scroll by Wilbur A. Smith

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 asaio@cbl.org or lbarnason@cbl.org.
Support your local food movement

submitted
Farms Food Fork is a food-focused gathering for hundreds of West Kootenay stakeholders, including farmers, producers, retailers, chefs, consumers, advocates, food policy makers, butchers, ranchers and beekeepers.

The West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op is undertaking a four-part project focused on strengthening and supporting the local food movement. We are examining food issues specific to our region and creating events that encourage growth of West Kootenay food economies. We will be celebrating all of the work that has brought us to where we are now.

Part 1: We are taking the pulse of our region's food needs. Multiple 'Food Hub' events are planned for the West Kootenay region over the next few months, hosted by various food-related groups. During a grand two-day event in Nelson in early April, speakers, workshops, and sessions will be customized to meet all of the needs identified during this information gathering process. The Slocan Valley Food Hub Day will be February 23 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Val Camonica Whole. RSVP required.

Part 2: Saturday April 5 Festival + Feast will feature the Lexicon of Sustainability art show, food films, education, local producers sampling Kootenay-made foods, speakers, workshops and a local seasonal feast in recognition of our food shed – a true celebration of our local food system. Tickets will be available online March 1 or at the door for $30. Take our online survey in February and receive $5 off your door admission. All of the profits from Festival + Feast will go directly back into the community through our bursary for food action.

Part 3: Forum + Feast is our stakeholders' event on Saturday April 6. This will be a solutions-based, action-driven facilitated workshop. It will wrap up with a cash bursary, democratically awarded to various 'ready for action' projects that address the needs of our community. To participate as a stakeholder you will need to pre-register on our website.

Part 4: In April, we are launching kootenayfood.com, an online directory of the West Kootenay food shed. This will be a user-friendly, visually appealing web resource that will put people in touch with food, inputs, events, workshops and the many groups working so hard to secure our region's food futures. Kootenayfood.com will give recognition to our farmers and producers. Those listed in the directory will find it easy to log in, update, expand, and customize their own listing details, keeping kootenayfood.com fresh.

We value your experience, opinions, and ideas, which is why we have created an engaging way for you to share them with your community. Please visit farmfoodfork.com and take a few minutes to participate in our food surveys. We will create programming specific to the needs our surveys identify. Your participation will help ensure that Farm Food Fork will best serve our community and will direct our future actions towards what is needed for the success of the West Kootenay food system.

What's your beef?

Local history book by Tom Lymberry published

submitted
Tom's Grey Creek - A Kootenay Lake Memoir, part 1 by Tom Lymberry has just been published. The book covers the history of early transportation such as sternwheel boats, especially the Moyie and Nasookin. As roads were built, Greyhound buses ran daily from Kaslo and Nakusp to Nelson, meeting the Greyhound that connected the Kootenays with Calgary and Spokane. The bus was carefully balanced across the bow of the largest steamer, Nasookin.

Since Tom's parents had the Gray Creek Store at the ferry landing, Tom and his sister ran phone messages to the bus drivers and the captain of the stately sternwheeler. The ferry brought Trans Canada traffic by their door, including those escaping the dusted and brutal of the Great Depression on the Canadian Prairies. Fresh growing, life in a general store, as well as memorable characters of earlier days are brought to life in the 205 previously unpublished photos that readers of Tom's newspaper articles have been asking for, enjoying history interspersed with humour. The foreword is by historian Greg Nesteroff. This new book is in stock at Pigments in Kaslo, Balfour Superette and Otter Books in Nelson. Mail order info: www.graycreekstore.com

Valentine's dance at the Silverton Gallery

submitted
The Jan Van Gold Band presents "My Funky Valentine" dance Friday, February 14, at the Silverton Gallery, with special guests Howard 'The Grizzly' Beatham on saxophones and a surprise new act. The dance starts at 7:30 pm, and tickets are $12.15 at the door.

The Jan Van Gold Band is an original funk, jazz, blues, rock trio, mixing progressive arrangements with a retro-soulful twist, creating visionary groove-jaded songs that move easily from strong funk dance beats, to slow improvisational guitar, bass and drums, often within the same song. Members of the Kaslo-based band are Jan Van Gold, composer, lead guitar, vocals; Hunter Stanway, bass and vocals; Kevin Stanway, drums and vocals. Jan is a multi-instrumentalist, playing guitar, slide guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, percussion and trumpet.

If you like Blues, Jazz, Funk, Rock and the guitar playing of Hendrix, SRV, Clapton and Cooder, you will love the original music of the Jan Van Gold Band.

This concert/dance will be recorded for the 'Live at the Silverton Gallery' CD project which is sponsored by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and BC Arts Council. For more info: facebook.com/thedjangoldband and www.silvertongallery.ca.

The Jan Van Gold Band presents: 'My Funky Valentine' dance Friday, February 14, at the Silverton Gallery.
Spend Groundhog Day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

submitted
The annual winter ‘Day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail’ event sponsored by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) will take place on Groundhog Day, this Sunday, February 2 from noon to 2 pm. This year the event will begin and end at the Winlaw Station of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, located on the Winlaw Bridge Rd. Perhaps Punxsutawney Phil will even make an appearance and let rail trail users know if there’ll be six more weeks of skiing!

Families are invited and encouraged to come out for a ski in the direction of their choice. Both directions run along sections of the scenic Slocan River. When skiers return to the Winlaw Station, there’ll be a warm bonfire waiting, with hot chocolate and hot dogs available for a small donation to the society.

The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society has been offering these winter events for several years as a way for trail users to connect, perhaps ski a new section of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and catch up on the latest trail news. As well, they’ll offer memberships to any who wish to support the society, which has been managing the Rail Trail for the past 10 years.

To get to the event take Highway 6 in the Slocan Valley and follow the signs to the Winlaw Trailhead. For more information phone 1-888-683-SVRT (7878), visit www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca or join them on Facebook.

Chicken Day at the Whole
submitted
Join us for Chicken Day at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, from 10 am to 4 pm on February 22.

Back by popular demand, Chicken Day is for anyone interested in learning how to raise chickens for their own use or for sale. Experts in small-scale poultry production will explain everything you need to know. Topics include ordering and raising chicks, nutrition, equipment for indoor and pasture production and protection, preparing to process and more. This year there will be a session on scaling up from a small flock to larger production, and will include a panel of local and visiting experts.

Raising chickens can help small farmers build profits and soil fertility. Poultry processed in a licensed abattoir can be sold in stores and restaurants as well as at the farm gate.

Admission is $10 – and bring something for the potluck lunch. Information 250-226-7100.

This event is sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust and Passmore Pleadkers, the West Kootenay’s poultry abattoir.

For more information contact Judi at 250 226-7100. For directions go to www.vallicanwhole.com
Kaslo council, January 14: Study recommends improvements to Kaslo's backup water system

by Ian McMurray

A presentation on the Kaslo River Water Intake and Emergency Power Options Study was made by proponents 9dot1 Engineering and AquasDiversInc. out of Nelson. The study looks at options for an improved backup water system for Kaslo. When the Kamp Creek dam (primary water system) was destroyed in the 2012 landslide, it became apparent that the backup system on the Kaslo River was inadequate to supply the population in an emergency situation.

Steven Thompson of 9dot1 told council that it was well worth making improvements to the Kaslo River system rather than looking for another secondary water source. “The system is excellent – it’s just plugging up,” he said. To address this, the 9dot1 study recommends using automated “air assisted backwash” (estimated cost $136,000) and includes suggestions on ways to improve filtration.

The 9dot1 study also looked at Kootenay Lake as a possible water supply for Kaslo. “This may be a long-term plan as Kaslo grows,” said Thompson.

For emergency power at the pumphouse, the study recommends a mobile generator, which could also be moved to wherever it was needed in the village.

The CAO stated that council should look at the options during budget discussions, and that gas tax money would be a good source of funding for a project to improve the Kaslo River intake.

The 2014 strategic priorities chart was adopted. Council’s top 10 priorities are: Water Street redevelopment, City Hall renovation project, A Avenue water line, boat launch on Kootenay Lake, WaterSmart project, Broadway initiative, Kaslo river intake project, resolution of boundary extension issue, Kaslo waterfront, Kaslo aerospace (potential partnerships). Advocacy priorities for council are 24/7 healthcare, Parks Canada grant, residential curbside recycling and municipal land opportunities.

Council received a letter from resident Sandy McLeod, with a formal request to have the airport runway plowed on a ‘controlled need’ basis from our Company, Tower Aerospace and its “other world” runway. This is one of the many services in anticipation of organized flights arriving approximately one week to Kaslo Airport.

Mayor Lay also expressed disappointment and feels the RDCK has “missed the boat” on a number of opportunities to save money on this.

He feels the airport’s fees are “way too high.”

“I feel we should take a very strong stand on what happens during phase two,” said Mayor Lay. “Let’s see what happens at look-up. That’s when local citizens can get involved if they want.

CAO Neil Smith reported that a resident has been “badly affected” twice in the last two years when the sewer system has backed up due to too much grease in the system. He said Forrest Walker is looking into the cost of some old sewer maintenance machinery from the city of Nelson that would help prevent this. Councillor Lay mentioned that Village staff had spoken to the restaurants in town about grease traps some time ago, and suggested a friendly reminder be sent to them.

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Rossland man applies for low-impact backcountry ski tenure in Passmore

by Art Joyce

Rossland skier and mountain biker Stewart Spooner has applied to the BC government for tenure to operate a small, low-impact backcountry skiing tourism business in Passmore. Plans are to build a single six-person cabin near Mt. Creek for access to alpine terrain in the Airey and Russell creeks drainage. But this is not just another rich man's playground – Spooner is aiming for a package that any local could afford.

"There are already lots of high-end services that provide a luxury experience," says Spooner. "This would be something that would allow you to go in with a small group of friends and go ski touring."

The cabin would be accessed 11 kilometres up the Little Slocan Forest Service Road in Passmore, close enough for experienced skiers to make the trek. Others could choose to snowmobile to the cabin at the terminus of the forestry road and ski from there into the high country.

The cabin – at 1,700 metres elevation – would be considerably smaller than commercial operations, which typically have a capacity of 12-20 people. Spooner deliberately chose a location that wasn’t too remote because that would raise the costs of access. He also researched the area to ensure it didn’t conflict with existing farm tree licenses, mining claims or other recreational tenures. Another consideration was to avoid areas that had access restrictions due to being sensitive habitat for caribou or other wildlife.

"I’m hoping that by keeping it small scale people will use this as something they can use, rather than a threat. If we’re using public land to provide an elite experience for people from elsewhere, then I’d expect opposition," Spooner bails from Melbourne, Australia where he first got captivated by climbing and skiing. He moved to Canada 26 years ago and is a Canadian citizen. Spooner, who has been in Rossland for 23 years and works in the winter as a part-time ski guide for cat skiing. During the summer months he works on maintenance of mountain biking trails – a vital service for locals now that the Forest Service no longer has staff to maintain roads and trails.

"I think we’ll have something by the end of the winter on his proposal. If people have an opinion they want considered they should contact me," Spooner said. In his capacity as Councillor, Spooner said he attended the 2014 BC Mayor's Caucus and the Council of Forest Industries conference, with expenses covered by his council job.

"Discussion of council travel plans will be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Staff reported that it costs $3.00 per square foot per year to operate the Fernie Memorial Centre. A full cost will be presented at the February Committee of the Whole meeting."

"Explored or existing leases in the Fernie Memorial Centre will be reviewed for this calendar year only at the rates currently negotiated, or on a more regular basis. These discussions will be informed of building service improvements coming in 2015, likely resulting in changes to future agreements."

"Council granted permission for the eagle sculpture by Spring Shime to be situated in the Fernie Memorial Centre earmarked as a temporary public exhibit."

The following people were appointed to serve on the Health Select Committee: Mayor Greg Lay (all Councillor Lama), Councillor Andy Shadrack (all Alme Wetton), Tim Humphries, Maggie Winners, Maggie Crowe, Deb Boros (subject to acceptance), Ward Taylor, Glen Stewart (subject to acceptance) Council agreed to budget $3,000 to support the activities of the Health Select Committee in 2014, on the understanding that it will be matched by the Area D RDCR Director.

"A letter of support will be forwarded to the federal government in support of the proposal that Kaslo host the 2014 BC Rural Network Rural Summit.

Food for Thought talk: Love for the Mountains submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery will present a Food for Thought talk this Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 pm, at the Knox Hall in New Denver. Admission is by donation; admission is free for students.

Nadine Raynolds and Gary Parkinson’s talk is called “Love for the Mountains.”

Mountains as teachers – how does nature guide and teach you? What role do wild places play in our lives and the choices we make as human beings?

They will present their understanding and experience of being in nature, from daily walks to extended time in wilderness. As avid adventurers, they will share their perception of the many facets of wild places and experiences, and the impact it can have on life.

As educators and facilitators, they will discuss the ways of nature immersion in helping young people develop their views, values, and actions in this world.

The website is located at http://www.frontcounter.bc.gov.ca/locations/cranbrook.html.
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RCMP report: Break and Enter sprees in South Slocan, Castlegar and Nelson

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND OPERATOR 2014

NAKUSP
Closing Date: Friday, February 14, 2014
Closing Time: 4:00 PM Local Time

The Village of Nakusp invites proposals from individuals or organizations for Municipal Campground Operator for the 2014 camping season.

General duties will include overall management of the campground, collection of fees, cleaning and maintenance of the campground.

Details of this opportunity are outlined in a Request for Proposal-Campground Operator and RFP packages are available at the Village of Nakusp Office, 91-1st Street NW, Nakusp BC or on the Village website at www.nakusp.com.

The contract period will be negotiable and may include a right of renewal for 1-2 years upon mutual negotiation. The campground is open from May to October.

All submissions for responding to this request must be submitted to the Village of Nakusp Office, as stated below, on or before the following date and time (the “Closing Time”):

Time: 4:00 pm local time
Date: Friday, February 14, 2014

Late submissions will not be accepted. Submissions will not be opened in public.

Please submit submission to the Village of Nakusp Chief Administrative Officer before the Closing date and time addressed to:

Linda Tyran, Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Nakusp
PO Box 280, 91 – 1st Street NW
Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
Fax: 250.265.3788
Email: ltyran@nakusp.com

All queries related to this RFP shall be directed to Linda Tyran, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Nakusp at 250-265-3689 (office) or 250-265-1727 (cell).

COMMUNITY

Submitted

The RCMP along with Nelson City Police, are investigating a series of break and enters that occurred January 14-16. At approximately 1:15 a.m. on January 15, the Nelson RCMP responded to an alarm at the Kootenay Savings Credit Union located at Playmor Junction. Upon arrival the officer discovered the two glass doors had been smashed and the ATM room door had been forced open. However, no entry to the ATM itself had been gained. It appeared a small amount of loose change was stolen from the establishment.

Police in Castlegar responded to a break at the B.C. Liquor Store at approximately 2 a.m where they found that the front glass door had been broken. Video surveillance indicates a lone male entered the building then kicked open an office door before gaining access to the safe. The thief managed to steal cash from the safe plus the ATM cash cassettes containing an undetermined amount. A witness to the incident reported seeing a male driving a small older model grey vehicle flee the scene carrying a duffle bag.

Castlegar RCMP also responded to a report of a break-in to the Canadian Tire store. The investigation determined the front door had been smashed at approximately 10:30 p.m. however, no cash was taken or equipment stolen.

The Nelson City Police responded to a break-in to Amando’s Restaurant located on the west side of the orange bridge. Video evidence indicates a lone male smashed the front glass door to gain entry at approximately 12:15 a.m. The individual was also observed in a dark jacket with black pants carrying a duffle bag.

Submitted

Requiem for a Glacier in Nelson

Requiem for a Glacier, a video and sound installation by Victoria artist/composer Paul Walde, will be exhibited at the Oxygen Art Centre January 4 to February 5. Independent curator Karen Lynch, who co-ordinated the project, is the guest curator at Oxygen for this exhibition. The 40-minute video will be presented on a 27 x 76” screen inside the gallery. For two site-specific performances of Requiem for a Glacier, performed this summer in the East Kootenays to the glacier audiences of Fernie and Coquihalla Glaciers (two of the glaciers in an cluster of five glaciers which includes Jumbo). Documented by five video cameras and a sound system, the audience is part of the performance, the project brought close to one hundred participants together in what would result as an experience of a lifetime.

Orchestra conductor and choirmaster from Nelson and the surrounding region were made up of students and professional musicians ranging in age from 12 to 84 years old. They were accompanied by Hungarian soloist Veronika Hajdu and conducted by Ajayn Case, conductor for the Central Kootenay Chamber Orchestra and the University of Victoria Symphony Orchestra.

Requiem for a Glacier speaks to the issue of climate change, resulting in rapid and unprecedented glacial melt, as well as to the lightly constructed ice of the BC government’s approval of the Jumbo-Glacier Alpine Resort. The video installation portrays both the stunning magnificence of the glacial landscape as well as a deep sense of foreboding and impending loss.

Submitted

Kaslo Folk Festival back for fourth year

From June 28 to July 1, hundreds of people will be flocking to Kaslo to hear some of the country’s best folk musicians perform at the fourth annual Canada Day Folk Music Festival. This year’s festival is planned to take place in and around Front Street Park with a large outdoor stage and spectacular views of Kootenay Lake.

“We’re very excited about the direction the festival is going this year,” says John Ecklund, chairman of the Kaslo Canada Day Festival Society.

“We plan on bringing some amazing talent to Kaslo, which we hope will help stimulate tourism to the village and the surrounding area."

Kaslo is a great new venue, the hiring of a full-time producer, and plans for significantly increased media exposure.

“We want to put Kaslo on the map as a family oriented event that brings back the celebration of Canada Day to our community," says Ecklund.

In celebration of Canada Day, the Kaslo Canada Day Festival Society will stage a free concert, family activities, free Canada Day cake and late evening fireworks on July 1. The vision for this event is to bring together people from across the region and beyond to celebrate Canada Day with music, culture and fireworks.

Visit the festival website at kaslofest.com for more information.

Blue Knuckle Derby in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s Blue Knuckle Derby was held January 15. With no access to the lake at the public boat launch because of the winter project, Isaaco Vieira and Carl Timoheen volunteered their waterfront property as an alternate location. Rod & Gun Club president Hank Scown says later brought a floating dock from the other side of the lake so people could get into their boats side by side. The derby was well attended, with 125 people showing up.

Scown provided the results, as follows: I trust this is clear. The larger of the two Bull Trout is being held by Matt Robins, but was caught by Mike Smith, who used to be called Mike Westhead. It should be noted that these names are remaining tight lipped about their methods — well, in the family, eh. It tipped the scales at 16.5 pounds. The second place fish was also a Bull Trout, which, until recently was called a Dolly Varden, or, Dolly. Weigh-in officials recorded this second place winner at 13 pounds, but Charlie Verbeke claimed it was actually 13.2 pounds. He may yet lodge an objection with the I.C.O., after he deposits his winnings! The Rainbow Trout caught by Ernie Marvin weighed in at 11 pounds. It took third place. Now my only question is, "Who’s on first?"
Selkirk College students preparing Implementation Plan for Slocan Village

by Barbara Curly Malecky

Selkirk College students are working on an implementation plan for the Village of Slocan’s Official Community Plan (OCP) as a school project and the students’ professor, their instructor, Peter Holton, from the Integrated Environmental Planning Program, met with council on January 13 to finalize the project.

Holton said Slocan’s setting and the recent closure of its sawmill are an opportunity for the students to gain experience with both rural issues and issues of a community in transition. He said this was valuable experience for the students, as these issues are found throughout the province.

Holton described the class project as a “consultation-studio” for Slocan. He talked about how important it is for the community to have a vision of where it wants to be in the future and to begin planning schemes that need to take hold against that goal. The students are working to “ignite visions and imaginations,” he said, and the implementation plan will model the expected development trends in the future. Some recommendations might be for objectives to be met in 5 or 10 years, or to be seen in the longer term.

The students have been working on the project since October, when they toured Slocan. Each of the 22 students then chose a specific topic to work on, either alone or in pairs. Topics include mill site redevelopment; mill site remediation; waterfront public spaces and access; environmentally sensitive areas; watershed management; open space; Western Screech Owl habitat protection and interpretive site; trails/pedestrian safety; commercial core and business areas; sciences housing; age diversification; parks; green energy and carbon footprint reduction; climate change and sustainability; design and economy; food security; revitalization and self-sustainability; smart growth and green technologies; branding, imaging, and visibility; and marketing. They are now working to gather information from residents, landowners, businesses, officials, and agencies to develop planning goals and objectives for each topic.

Each of the topic plans will include precedents of how at least two other municipalities in North America or elsewhere have dealt with that topic. Students will research guidelines or regulations already in place, and will list technologies and practices appropriate for Slocan. Each topic plan will be divided into phases, outlining discrete action steps and identifying who would be responsible for each step. Students will also provide a list of local organizations to support grant applications.

Mayor Madeleine Perriere emphasized the need for the Village to have a specific plan. She explained that a previous sustainability study had been too general, so the Village couldn’t use its recommendations to support grant applications. Another challenge for the Village is that although infrastructure grants are available, the Village often does not apply because it does not have the resources to maintain and staff new projects. The mayor also mentioned that the Village is in conversation with other local municipalities about creating a regional brand.

Perriere referred to the null site and the lack of information regarding the site. She said the Village has heard that the null property owner’s position is “the land is not for sale unless we have an offer we can’t match.” She described the Village as being “in an in-between kind of a stage.”

Holton replied, “The best time to plan is when nothing’s going on.” He also said “land ownership can change overnight” and that the students should not make plans based on what someone else might or might not do. The students will present their draft topic plans at an open house in March, with final plans to be submitted in April. The Village will then have the option of listing someone to compile the separate topic plans into one unified plan.

The Integrated Environmental Planning Program has offered pro bono planning to local governments, interest groups for the past 12 years. It has prepared implementation plans for Nelson, Castlegar, and Rossland; Kootenay Lake Partnership Stewardship plans; and RDCK Integrated Sustainability Support plans. This year’s project will provide a different focus for the students.

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**NOTICE OF 2014 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Subject to the requirements of the section 127 of the Community Charter the following is the approved schedule for the Regular Meetings of the Council of the Village of Slocan for 2014. All meeting to be held in the Village of Slocan Council Chambers commencing at 7:00 p.m.

- **Monday, January 13th**
- **Tuesday, February 11th**
- **Monday, March 10th**
- **Monday, April 14th**
- **Monday, May 12th**
- **Monday, June 9th**

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J.L. Richardson

Chief Administrative Officer

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**CHECKLIST**

- **January 25, 2014**
- **The Valley Voice**
- **COMMUNITY**

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**Artists in all disciplines – as well as arts, culture and heritage organizations – are invited to apply for funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), which has delivered the Arts, Culture and Heritage Program of Columbia Basin Trust for 17 years.**

For 2014/15, CKCA is receiving $706,000 from the Trust. Funding is available for: individual artists; groups of artists; arts community arts councils; minor capital projects; touring; arts and heritage mentoring/master classes; organizational development; major projects; artists in education; major exhibits; major heritage capital projects; and new heritage projects.

Applications are adjudicated once a year by a board of directors that consists of the CKCA Steering Committee. "We look forward to another year of helping to foster creativity and to preserve our Basin heritage,” said Lynda Laffleur, Trust community liaison. “The work these people and organizations do tenaciously keep our region and its people – and a difference to our communities and quality of life."
Slocan Valley Legacy Fund grants now available

The board of directors of the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund is pleased to announce the 2014 granting cycle. Guidelines for the granting process, as well as applications, are now available online, at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Grant applications are due by March 14.

In 2013, the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society awarded four grants totaling $5,000 to valley organizations. Through the continued generous support of Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, the funds available for the 2014 granting cycle have increased to $8,000, with grants up to $2,000 each.

The endowment fund is growing steadily because of sizable donations that will be matched by the Columbia Basin Trust. All donated gifts are invested prudently. The annual income from this perpetual nest egg is distributed back to the community in the form of grants that provide ongoing benefits to the Slocan Valley.

To learn more about the fund, the society, and how you can contribute to this living legacy, visit the website, where membership applications are also available for purchase or renewal.

Public asked to report bat activity during winter months

A disease that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America may arrive in British Columbia during the next five to ten years.

White Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease that kills bats during their winter hibernation period. In order to improve the understanding of bat biology in BC and potentially increase their survival rate from the disease, provincial wildlife officials are urging the public to report any bats observed flying during daylight hours this winter, or sites where they are known or thought to hibernate.

Bats provide tremendous benefits because they are such effective consumers of pest insects, and their loss could lead to significant ecological and economic impacts.

White Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease that kills bats during their winter hibernation period. First discovered in New York State in 2007, the disease has killed millions of bats in 22 states and five Canadian provinces.

The fungus is thought to have been introduced to North America and is primarily spread by bat-to-bat contact, although human spread by contaminated clothing and gear cannot be ruled out. It is currently not known to exist in bat colonies west of the Rockies.

Scientists in BC are working to understand what bats need, how to protect them from White Nose Syndrome, and how to help populations survive should the disease arrive. One of the first steps is to better understand bat behavior and habitat use in the winter.

British Columbians are urged to contact provincial government biologists at 290-387-2900 if they see bats in the winter. Information of particular importance is the location of winter bat roosting sites, minimal behaviour such as flying during the day, and observation of dead or dying bats.

For more information on how to protect British Columbia's bats, consult the 'Current Issues' section of the B.C. Wildlife Health webpage. www.env.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/

RCMP Traffic Services report: 9 deaths in 2013

2013 was a very busy year for the West Kootenay Traffic Services and West Kootenay Integrated Road Safety Unit. There were nine fatalities in the area; two were alcohol related and two were pedestrian fatalities. The other causal factors were speed, mechanical or distracted driving.

Drinking and driving, not wearing seatbelts, and distracted driving are leading factors in serious or fatal collisions. In

Flu symptoms? Stay home and call 811 first

It is influenza season and if you have flu-like symptoms, you may be wondering about the best way to seek medical attention. If you have influenza, you can be highly infectious and so an unnecessary visit to the emergency room, clinic or doctor’s office, could put others at risk. Calling 811 from the comfort of your home provides 24-hour access to professional medical advice while also helping reduce the spread of the flu.

When you call 811, you will speak to a health services representative who will direct your call to a registered nurse. Registered nurses are available at any time of the day or night, every day of the year. They are able to assess your symptoms over the phone and advise if you need to visit your doctor or go to the hospital.
Supreme Court rules in favour of teachers submitted by BCTF

Teachers across BC are celebrating today’s ruling by the BC Supreme Court, reaffirming that provincial legislation limiting teachers’ bargaining rights is unconstitutional, restoring collective agreement provisions stripped in 2002, and ordering the Province to pay $2 million in damages plus court costs.

“I’m very happy today”, said BCTC President Jim Enar. “This is the end of a long and costly legal battle for the teachers of BC. It’s a great day for democracy, and for all working people across BC and Canada.”

Bar noted that the legislation was already declared unconstitutional in 2011, and the judge gave government one year to rectify the situation. However, government simply re-introduced the same unconstitutional provisions.

By removing class-size limits and class-composition guarantees, the government did significant damage to learning conditions in schools across the province.

“Children who were in Kindergarten when those bills were passed are now in Grade 12, and have spent their entire school careers in larger classes with fewer resources,” he said. “For the past 12 years, thousands of children couldn’t get the services they needed because government broke the law.”

The legislation removed provisions that guaranteed smaller classes, support for students with special needs, and services from teacher-librarians, counsellors, and other specialists. Government then cut hundreds of millions of dollars a year from public education budgets, forcing school boards to cut programs and close more than 200 public schools. More than 3,500 teaching positions, including 1,500 specialist teachers, were also cut.

“If government had respected the Charter, teachers would not have had to spend the past dozen years fighting for our rights,” Iker said. “Now we expect that government will do everything necessary to demonstrate respect for the court’s ruling and make the situation right. Restore our smaller classes, reduce our specialist colleagues, and help us rebuild the excellent public education system that British Columbians expect for their children.”

Slocan Steelworkers donate remaining funds to local causes submitted by Jan McMuray

The Slocan Steelworkers announced on January 27 that they have closed their account at the Heritage Savings Credit Union and have disbursed the funds to causes in the community that afforded them an opportunity to raise our families and contribute to local economies.

The group donated $1,625 to the Slocan Valley Food Bank and $1,625 to Rachelle Simmons, former Slocan Slocan Valley Miners Society and Minor Soccer Society League. The Sticky Iris Coffee will also receive a portion of the proceeds.

National Leadership Clinic coming to the Kootenays

This spring, eight teams of four will have the opportunity to participate in the Kootenays’ first-ever Environmental Education Leadership Clinic. Teams will be selected through a rigorous process and will be trained by experts in the field of environmental education.

The clinic will provide leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to become effective leaders in their communities. Teams will also have the opportunity to connect with other leaders and share best practices.

The clinic will be held from May 3-7, 2023, at the Kootenay Science Centre in Cranbrook, BC. For more information or to apply, please visit www.kootenvision.org/leadership-clinic.
A Valentine’s Art Extravaganza at the Valloca Whole Community Centre

Submitted

Coming up on Friday, February 14 is a very special way to celebrate the evening with your loved ones. A Valentine’s Art Extravaganza is happening at the Valloca Whole Community Centre from 6 pm to 1 am. The Whole School, with the generous help of many additional community volunteers, is hosting this event to raise funds for their ongoing “Build a Legacy” campaign.

The evening starts with a homegrown, gourmet lasagna dinner (vegetarian and gluten-free options available) accompanied from 6 to 7:30 pm by the soulful sounds of Bo Conlan and Carol Street, Sally T and Rob Hay then an aerobics dance performance by Nelson’s Farada Dancers. For those looking to satisfy their sweet tooth, there will also be a decadent dessert concession of homemade treats (which the Whole School folks do so well!) available after dinner with coffee, tea and other warm drinks to take the chill away.

The evening’s fun continues after dinner at 7:30 pm with a live art auction featuring delightful art by All Crossley, Pamela Negley Stevenson, Pete Corbett, Rabin, Vanessa Bate, Cindy Moore, Bubzee, Tanya Pixie Johnson, Crigg Stone, Christina Smith, Teresa O’Neary and many more. There will also be a silent art auction running alongside for those folks interested in taking home a local artwork treasure but perhaps not up for the high energy stakes of live bidding. What a wonderful way to add some colour to winter’s dull plate?

Following the art auction, a fun dance party at 8 pm, there will be the sounds of Nelson’s hottest new four-piece live band Catalyst with Kyla Hanna on vocals and guitar, Ross Butler on trumpet, guitar and vocals, Brad Mair on guitar, vocals and drums, and Warren Holoboff on bass. Catalyst plays up-tempo rock with a quirky twist — sure to be a fun dance party and crowd pleaser. For those who enjoy the later vibe and are having way too much fun to go home, continue into the night with the enchanting youth sounds of Latin funk with DJ Synthesis.

Admission for the Valentine’s Art Extravaganza’s wonderful evening of entertainment is $10 per person at the door. Dinner is an additional $15 per person or $25 per couple and reservations (recommended) can be made by emailing wholeschool@gmail.com or calling (250) 226-7737 at least a day in advance. Contact Event organizers the same way if you’d like more details.

All proceeds go directly to the Whole School’s ongoing Build a Legacy campaign to secure a permanent home for this valley’s alternative education treasure.

Sultans of String tour Kootenays with new symphony album

by Art Joyce

You may have heard them last year at Kaslo Jazzfest or later in the red-hot club atmosphere of the Hlubette Bistro, prepping feet and hips to the rhythms of rhumba, flamenco, Celtic and other world music traditions. The Sultans of String are returning to the Kootenays with a new album titled Symphony! that weaves orchestration into their already compelling sound. The band will perform at Nelson’s Capitol Theatre on January 29 and Kaslo’s Langham Theatre on February 3, in addition to two dates with the Symphony of the Kootenays in Cranbrook and a concert in Creston.

The founders of the Sultans are Chris McKeoff and Kevin Laliberté. Since recording their first album in 2007, the band has worked at breakneck speed, including a Juno nomination, two Canadian Folk Music awards, plus invitations to play with such legendary artists as Dave Architecture, David Bromberg, and Livingston Taylor. The chairmen’s Padry Moloney, a master of the Irish bouzouki, guests on the new CD. A 5-piece orchestra was assembled to help create new versions of existing songs as well as providing texture for five new songs on Symphony! West Kootenay music lovers will see a more “unplugged” version of the Sultans at the Capitol and the Langham, minus the orchestra.

Band leader McKeoff grew up in a Lebanese–Egyptian household exposed mostly to classical and Middle Eastern music, so naturally it forms the core of his musical styling. His Egyptian-born mother is a piano and theory teacher. He trained on violin but as a teenager gravitated to the guitar to learn folk and progressive rock. Today he mostly plays six-string violin. McKeoff busked his way through a degree in psychology at Simon Fraser University in Montreal before deciding to return to Toronto. For awhile he played with a group called Club Django, performing the songbook of gypsy jazz guitarists Django Reinhardt. It was in Toronto McKeoff met guitarist Kevin Laliberté. And the rest, as they say, is history.

“I had a weekly jazz show I was putting together in my house in Toronto. He came in as a substitute for another player who couldn’t make it. I heard him warming up with a flamenco piece and I thought, wow, that’s really cool. He’d just come off the road playing with Jesse Cook.”

The engine of any great band is its rhythm section and this began to coalesce when he met bass player Drew Barston, who had performed with Canadian chanteuse Chantal Kreviazuk. Barston had trained as a jazz musician. By 2007 they were ready to record but were still calling themselves Laliberté and McKeoff, “which sounded too much like a legal firm,” so they hit upon the name Sultans of String. Since then the band has expanded to include second guitarist Eiskle Paton, Cuban percussionists Chandy Leon and alberto Suarez, and master end player Bassam Bishara, bringing in yet another stream of musical influences. Other albums followed in 2009, 2011, and 2013’s helia helia.

The current tour is a combination of large theatres, small theatres and symphony gigs – two with the Symphony of the Kootenays in Cranbrook and one with the Kamloops Symphony. Not to mention the seemingly endless list of performances the band has booked right up to May 2015 across Canada and into the U.S. Among the highlights will be two shows with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, which first entered the realm of cross-cultural performances with British prog-rockers Procul Harum in 1971.

For information about tour dates visit http://mckeoff.wordpress.com/tour/