Shift does not happen in the RDCK - taxpayers to continue to pay for recycling

by Jan McMurray

In just three months time, the cost of recycling is supposed to shift from taxpayers to industry. In the RDCK, however, it looks like this shift is not going to happen by the implementation date of May 19.

MMBC (Multi Material BC), the non-profit organization set up by industry to roll out the new recycling program, has not contacted the RDCK about its application to operate spin-in deposits under the new system.

“We had anticipated an answer from MMBC last week – it’s quite disturbing that we’ve had no answer yet,” said RDCK board chair John Kettle. “Clearly, we need to look at Plan B at this point, and that’s to continue to provide the same service we’ve been providing since we started the recycling programs.”

RDCK General Manager of Environmental Services, Uli Wolf, reported that MMBC had promised to let service provider applicants know by the end of January. “We’ve sent urgent requests to MMBC, but we haven’t received confirmation from them that they will contract with us,” he said.

Allen Langdon, MMBC Managing Director, explained that MMBC has issued agreements only to those service providers who signed on to the new program by the deadline of September 16 last year.

The RDCK did not sign on until the end of November because of its many concerns about the new program. “When we originally discussed this situation with MMBC, we noted huge disparity between what they were offering and what would work for rural areas in this province,” explained Kettle.

Langdon says MMBC has no immediate plans to issue agreements to applicants like the RDCK who signed on later than September 16. “There’s no timeline for that. By May 19, some agreements will be in place. This will be an evolutionary or staged process.”

Asked what happens in areas like the RDCK, Langdon replied, “If they continue to provide the service, it will continue to be paid for by taxpayers dollars.”

Chair Kettle is outraged that the taxpayers will have to continue to pay for the recycling service when the producers of the recyclable materials were mandated to pay for it as of May 19. “This is double taxation. An extra million dollars is going to be spent on the RDCK recycling system for another year – doesn’t sit well with the taxpayers paying for it when the producers are getting a free pass at their expense,” he said.

Langdon reported that MMBC has reached agreement with 160 service providers, serving 1.25 million households in BC. “By May 19, we’ll be providing the service to 1.25 million households. That’s a tall order – a good baseline to start from,” said Langdon.

Chair Kettle is not impressed. “They continue to tout that they are taking care of less than 10 percent of the province. A Shetland pony in a one horse race looks good. They need to get into a real race, and take care of business outside of the Lower Mainland and make sure this works for everyone it’s supposed to. I think it’s time for Minister of Environment Mary Pollock to use every weapon in her arsenal to make sure we get the service we were promised. We will support any effort she makes to make this happen. Because now, this is not working for the province – it’s only working for some in the province.”

Small businesses exempted from MMBC recycling plan

by Jan McMurray

Thousands of small businesses will now be exempt from BC’s new recycling program after an outcry about the red tape and costs imposed in MMBC’s recycling plan.

“Thousands of BC businesses can now breathe easy, knowing they will face no new costs or red tape under this recycling regulation,” said John Winter, president and CEO of the BC Chamber.

The Province announced on February 4 that it would create new regulations exempting businesses that have annual revenues of less than $1 million; produce less than one tonne of packaging and printed paper annually; and/or have a single point of retail sale (and are not supplied by or operated as part of a franchise, chain or under a banner).

There are approximately 3,000 businesses in the province will be captured by the regulation, out of more than 385,000.

Chamber spokesperson Doug Grant confirmed the alert about the regulation last summer after businesses across the province were contacted about coming new obligations and fees by Multi Material BC (MMBC), the agency charged with producing a stewardship plan under the regulation.

Environment Minister Mary Pollock admitted in an opinion editorial she issued February 5: “While I am pleased about increasing recycling and shifting responsibility from taxpayers to producers, I acknowledge the roll-out and consultation surrounding this program could have been improved. This is especially the case with the small business community, who came to our government with a number of concerns. We listened to these concerns and have helped address them through new regulations that will see the vast majority of small businesses exempt from the packaging and printed paper program.”

While that goes on to say that less than 3,000 businesses – less than one percent of the total number of businesses in BC – will have to register and report to MMBC, and that the 150 largest businesses in BC will pay the bulk of the program’s costs.

However, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), which recognized MMBC as the “Paperweight Award” winner for Canada’s worst new red tape, is still not pleased. “It’s interesting that the government and MMBC are trying to diminish the impact on small business,” said Mike Klosten.
Crescent Valley home destroyed by fire

by Art Joyce

A homeowner was seriously injured when his home burst into flames on Konkin Road in Crescent Valley at about 4:30 the afternoon of February 1. The man’s name has not yet been released. He is currently being treated at Vancouver General Hospital. According to Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Chief Glen Leidloff, the house appears to be a write-off. Nelson RCMP say the insurance investigator was on the scene this week but no cause has been determined yet for the fire. It took firefighters nearly seven hours to get the blaze under control and moppped up.

Inside it’s pretty charred and there’s open holes between floors.

Leidloff says since Christmas he has had six calls-out due to chimney fires. “I was just cleaning up Saturday morning after the house fire when I got a call for a chimney fire and then on Sunday I got another one. My message is to just start looking at cleaning your chimneys this time of year.”

Having house numbers clearly marked is also very important for firefighters, especially in the Slovenian Valley where there are so many back roads. A few minutes lost due to a wrong turn could be critical not only to property but also for risk to life. Leidloff says when a fire call comes in, crews have to “rip and run,” so there’s no time to stop and try to find a location on Google maps. GPS is often inaccurate in remote areas where data used for maps can be many years out of date.

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Tales From the Fisherman’s Market: Get Fresh With Oysters

One Valentine’s day, not too long ago, I made the mistake to many men make on this special day: the mistake of not planning ahead. It was 5:30 that day and my cell phone rang. The voice on the other end asked in an excited voice, “So... what’s for dinner?” I could tell by her tone that this was a question I should have an answer for.

Now I’m not a chef, nor have I ever claimed to be one. So with one hour to go until the most romantic dinner of the year, my options were limited. February happens to be one of the best months for oysters on the BC Coast and oysters I do know. Having grown up on the West Coast, I’ve harvested oysters, mussels and clams from beaches and tide pools and have eaten them for as long as I can remember. The benefits of oysters go well beyond nutritional, and this seemed fitting, especially on such a romantic evening. With that in mind, I grabbed a bag of oysters and a few lemons and headed for home.

An hour later when my sweetheart walked in, fully expecting that I had let her down, I instead greeted her with a cool glass of red wine (like I said I am no chef) and a heaping pile of fresh oysters. She pointed and I stacked. We laughed and talked all evening slurping down the fresh, cold, briny oysters.

One of the best Valentine’s dinner ever. She raved for days about how wonderful I am, so now every Valentine’s Day, fresh oysters are on the menu for our special dinner.

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Olympian has connection to Nakusp

by Karrie Campbell

Like many Canadians, Mike Korek of Nakusp will be watching the Olympic Games. But Korek has a special reason to cheer on Canada — his son Dusty is competing in ski jumping.

Dusty qualified for the men’s normal hill ski jump on February 8, but both he and teammate Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes were eliminated in the first round final on Sunday at the Sochi Games. Dusty came 39th, with 111.1 points. Only the top 30 competitors advanced to the final.

His next competition is February 15, when he will compete in the qualifying round for the individual large hill event.

Korek says his son, who lives in Alberta, first tried ski jumping at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary when he was only six years old. He started competing about four years ago and has been all over the world. “It’s been a long-time coming. I didn’t think he’d make this year’s Olympics,” Korek said.

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Blue Ridge Timber ends management agreement
by Jan McMurray
The Meadow Creek Cedar forest licence is back under full suspension once again, and will be cancelled at the end of April unless a buyer is found.

"It is the ministry's understanding that Meadow Creek Cedar is now actively seeking a buyer for the licence, prior to the cancellation taking effect," stated a spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Small businesses exempted from MMBC recycling plan
continued from page 1

CFIB’s Director of Provincial Affairs in Victoria, Darryl Knight, said, "We don’t care if it’s two dozen or 200 – that’s still too many businesses that are going to be in jeopardy in many cases because of this new policy."

Klassen pointed to this government’s policy of requiring the removal of a regulation whenever a new one is created. "But because MMBC is arms-length from government, they can create as many new regulations as they want and government doesn’t have to be accountable to the public.

Klassen said not only would a lot of small businesses be unhappy with the new recycling system, but also a lot of residents. "British Columbians will be asking why the BC government has given monopoly power to an agency that is governed by representatives of big business such as Procter & Gamble, Wal Mart and Coca Cola. So if British Columbians start to wonder why their tax bill is going up, they will want to know why the price of goods is going up, they will have to go to Wal Mart and Procter & Gamble to voice their concerns about that. Good luck to them getting an answer.

MMBC Managing Director Allen Langdon, when asked to comment on the criticism that consumers, not industry, will pay for the new recycling system because industry will simply add the recycling cost to the price of the goods, stated: "Businesses are going to decide what to do with the costs – it’s an individual business decision. But I would add that the cost of the program to businesses is less than one cent per year on every product."

Klassen remarked that British Columbians "got really mad about the HST, and now they’re looking to get mad about this. With MMBC, all taxes will be hidden in the cost of the goods they buy.

Klassen is also skeptical about the environmental impact the plan will have. "The goal of this program is to try and reduce the amount of waste in the waste stream – the idea being that businesses would be encouraged to reduce the amount of packaging. But all they are doing is taxing small business and consumers for packaging, and not providing any incentive for that packaging to be reduced," he said.

Langdon, however, says the MMBC plan includes incentives to use less packaging and to use more recyclable materials. "If you use less packaging, you’ll have less fees. There are very strong incentives for people to reduce packaging or switch to more recyclable materials. It won’t happen overnight, but businesses will start analyzing and making efforts to reduce their packaging or to use more recyclable materials."

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Blue Ridge Timber, the company that has been managing the licence for the past year or so, is in the process of ending their management agreement with Meadow Creek Cedar due to challenges in successfully meeting all the requirements to manage both the backlog of liabilities and current obligations associated with the MCC licence, reports the ministry.

Blue Ridge took on management of the licence in October 2012, with the intention of purchasing it within a year. At that time, owner Trevor Kanigan told the Valley Voice that the company was aware that there were challenges ahead. He states in an article we published October 31: “We are not making any promises. We don’t have a magic solution. We just want to be part of the solution and help find a way to get the licence back to being a healthy operating licence.”

The licence was suspended in February 2012 due to Meadow Creek Cedar’s very poor performance meeting its silviculture and road building and maintenance obligations.

The ministry amended the suspension in late 2012 to allow Blue Ridge to manage the licence. The company’s agreement with the ministry required Blue Ridge to put aside $5 per cubic metre of wood harvested to pay off MCC’s approximately $120,000 in fines and debts to the government.

The ministry reported that the majority of the fines are still outstanding because Blue Ridge did not log as much as it had anticipated. Work was carried out on some high priority roads like Woodberry Creek and Fletcher Creek roads, but there are roads up Duncan River and Hearty Creek that need attention. Although some trees were planted, there are still silviculture commitments to be addressed.

“Blue Ridge developed a new Forest Stewardship Plan for the licence, some trees planted, so it’s a small step,” state the ministry.

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Friday, February 14
Valentine’s Dinner
Silverton Gallery
7:30 pm

Valentines Art Extravaganza
Vallum Whole Community Centre
6 pm - 1 pm

Jennifer Chocolate presents Chocolate
Arrow Lakas Theatre
7 pm

Couples Two for One Admission
Nakusp Hot Springs
10:30 am - 9 pm

Saturday, February 15
Kootenay Organic Growers Society AGM
383 Buker St, Nelson
1 pm

Sunday, February 16
Know Your Stolen Watered
Slocan Park Hall
7 pm - 1 pm

Tuesday, February 18
Hidden Garden AGM
Hidden Garden Theatre
7 pm

Silverton Council
Silverton Council Chambers
7 pm

Nakusp Hospice Society AGM
Arrow Lakas Hospital Board Room
7 pm

Wednesday, February 19
Evel Tryp, Lebanon Open House
Nakusp Emergency Services Building
7 pm - 4 pm

Draft ROX budget review meeting
Koals Council Chambers
7 pm

Draft ROX budget review meeting
New Denver Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Thursday, February 20
Draft ROX budget review meeting
Nakusp Council Chambers
6 am

Draft ROX budget review meeting
Slocan Council Chambers
10 am

Friday, February 21

Forudville Brass
Bunmorong Arts Centre
7 pm

Chitra Couture and James Lamb
Silverton Gallery
6 pm

Saturday, February 22
Texas Hold ‘Em
Slocan Legion
6:30 pm

Chicken Day
Vallum Whole Community Centre
10 am

Kootenay Community Garden AGM
Langham Lake Hall
10 am

Sunday, February 23
Koals Ski-athon
Hidden Garden Theatre
7 pm

Thursday, February 27
Slocan District Chamber AGM
Hidden Garden Theatre
7 pm

Saturday, March 1
New Denver Spring in Saturday
Hidden Garden Theatre
10 am - 2 pm

Thursday, March 5
Inter-generational Cooking Class
WET Graham Community Centre
4:30 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
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owner Trevor Kanigan were not successful.

Jennifer Chocolates is hosting the movie CHOCOLAT at the Nakusp Movie Theater at 7 pm on Valentine’s Day. Tickets are $10 and include a chocolate, or buy a Package for Two which includes movie ticket, hot chocolate, cocoa beans, and a double layer box of assorted chocolates. Bring a lover or a friend!
Donation store open and staying put
The Donation Store in New Denver is open again and full of good news! Our new landlords, Kelley Wright and Dave Harley of Valhalla Pure Outfitters, want to continue with the rental agreement that has been in place since 2004.
This means we can continue to accept your donations of gently-used clothing, books and other goods. By making them available for a cash donation, we are able to keep the Bowen Hall operating. The only way this can work is to rely on volunteers to keep the store running.
This is where you can help. We, like every other thrift store, need folks to respect our volunteers. You can do that best by ensuring the clothing and other items you bring are clean and saleable.
We want to say thank you! We appreciate all the generous individuals who take the time and make the effort to ensure that what comes in our door is something another person will want to purchase.

Sinixt Nation gives Mt. Sentinel update
Lim Lint to all the supporters and allies that came and visited us at Mt. Sentinel. Lim Lint again for the donations of food, coffee, firewood and money. And above all, Lim Lint to all the stories and laughs shared around the fire.
The Sinixt Nation has placed a combo lock on the gate at Mt. Sentinel. Any water users, firewood gatherers, and other community members who maintain cultural relationships with the area are being encouraged to contact the Sinixt Nation for access. Access to BCTS and its licensees is being restricted until further communications and until the concerns of the Sinixt Nation are addressed.
This week the Sinixt Nation was contacted by the contractors to access the road in order to remove the last excavator. This has been the only response the Sinixt Nation has had from the logging companies in two weeks. There has been no response from BCTS or the Ministry of Forests.
The Sinixt Nation has heard rumours that a possible injunction hearing against us could be held and February. To mark the occasion, the Sinixt Nation plans to hold a bonfire on Monday, February 17, from 10am to 5pm. Everyone is invited. Come on out and support the Sinixt Nation.
Contact for Mt. Sentinel Access:
250-226-6743.
Deanna Zarelli
Communications Liaison for Sinixt Nation
Valleum

Speak up against BC’s environmental mismanagement
The BC government continues to degrade and mismanage our environment and wildlife with impunity. Let’s take grizzly bears as an example. No one knows how many grizzly bears there are in BC, but at least nine BC grizzly bear populations have doubled and are unlikely to recover largely because the BC government continues to approve industrial development in their habitat, including Invermere Creek Power Inc.’s Upper Lilcoet River Hydro Project and logging in Lynx Creek, North. By pushing Tealco’s New Prosperity Mine even though the latter has twice been rejected by a federal environmental assessment panel.
The pace of current and proposed industrial development will negatively impact grizzly bear populations that are critically healthy, including the Purcell-Selkirk bears following the government’s approval of the controversial Jumbo resort.
The government also promotes the grizzly bear trophy hunt, which causes the senseless death of at least 500 grizzly bears per year. The government just expanded this morally indefensible hunt to four areas in the Kootenays and in the Cariboo. The majority of British Columbians oppose the hunt but we subsidize it, because it costs more to ‘manage’ it than it generates for the provincial coffers.
Do we as a society want to leave behind an industrial wasteland devoid of wildlife for our children and grandchildren?
I call on British Columbians, including government biologists, to speak up about destructive policies often based on shaky science that the BC government promotes out of greed and in the name of vocal minorities, be they corporations or a small segment of hunters.
Louise Taylor
The Valley Voice

Letter from MP to Canada Post President
Deepak Chopra
It is my understanding that Canada Post is proposing to discontinue Saturday service to the Greenwood Post Office.
This presents a hardship for a number of citizens in this small rural community. For example, as you can see from the enclosed letters, owners and operators of horse-based businesses need to receive and send parcels six days a week. Also, as noted in the attached correspondence, those living in Greenwood often work in other communities and do not return home until after normal business hours. They rely on Saturday postal service.

It is important for you to understand that Canada Post provides well-paying jobs in our small rural communities. Any job loss as a result of reduced postal hours is felt throughout the community. It is simply not fair that the restructuring of Canada Post be accomplished on the backs of our rural communities, many of which are already struggling due to these difficult economic times.

I strongly urge you to ensure that both the workers of Canada Post in Greenwood and the communities to discontinue this proposal and consult with the communities prior to any proposed changes in business hours.
Alex Atanakanen, MP
BC Southern Interior

The Valley Voice
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Slocan advocates for improved access to provincial parks
To clarify the issues in the Slocan council notes in the January 29th Valley Voice, rather than “calling for road access to all provincial parks,” Slocan’s UCBC responded in “Foresight, not shortsightedness!” with the desire to have all forest service roads which currently provide, or have formerly provided, access to provincial parks, be designated, improved, and maintained by the provincial government as public highways, rather than “public highway” designation necessary to ensure continued public access.

Despite the Province having identified tourism as a key element in its “Families First Agenda” and “BC Jobs Plan,” with the decline of the forest industry, forest service roads are no longer being maintained and public access to provincial parks is slowly being cut off and lost. This is not merely a local issue, where the valley has lost access to Kinbasket Park, but a provincial wide issue.

The tree farm license, which forms part of the valley commons, was granted conditional on the existence of the mill at Slocan. That mill closed in 2001 and is now being pulled down, and the tree farm license rights transferred to Interfor (Casagrande). A source of income for the village and employment for valley residents likely gone forever.

Out-of-province tourists identify parks as a priority reason for visiting BC, and 60 per cent of British Columbians have visited a provincial park within the last year. Outdoor adventure experiences in pristine natural settings epitomize the BC tourism experience and are a major source of jobs and revenue. Continued access to provincial parks from our valley is an important part of our future economic survival, both by attracting that tourism revenue and by supporting the integrity of our local environmental, cultural, and social structures – the qualities of life that attract new residents who will be more than just tourists, businesses, ideas and energy.

Let us hope that the provincial government views favourably Slocan’s first ever UCBC advocacy letter.

Patricia McGoard
Slocan

Interior Health
BC’s Interior Health Authority worked its mysterious magic in Nelson a few years back. They re-branded themselves ‘authority’ about the time they came to Nelson town with the axe swing at Nelson hospital and emergency health services.
As we can see from our friends and relatives in Kaslo, hundreds rallied. Meeting after meeting and SOS (Save Our Services) lawn signs littered evert lawn around Nelson. Sometimes the sign was raised in short order and blown on a useless lawsuit against the ‘authority.’
It was suggested at the time by a Nelson mandarinstart to a tax reform: present an option on local business establishments for customers to have

PST kept in a local trust fund. The environment would be protected from the corrupting their authority to keep the PST in local trust fund for medical services.
Nothing makes governing bodies pay attention like tax revolts. Ask the British.
The longer citizens of BC (Canada) ignore their responsibility to keep corporate socialist politicians and marginalized overpaid bureaucrats in their place, the more difficult it will be to stop the greed of some wealthy people taking away a nearly fair future for decent folk.

Every generation, in every circumstance is faced with political realities that affect future humans. We folks in this resource wealthy place of ancient culture, can succumb to the current paradigm that wealth will trickle down from the super rich and if we just accept our place in the order, we will be rewarded with indifference by this powerful elite – who may or may not believe they are doing us a favour with their corporate socialist madness.

Thank you to Nakusp
We wish to say THANK YOU to the wonderful people of Nakusp and the wonderful area from the families of Bumagaa Island and especially the village of Ocean Occan.
Ruth and I have lived half our life in Ocean Occan since 2006. We built and started a private elementary school so the young children did not have to walk five kilometers over a mountain to get to school. The school has had 95 students taught by four teachers, in four classrooms. The school is run by money donated through a sponsorship program in Nakusp.

On November 8 at about 8 pm, a super typhoon ("Yolanda") swept through the area with winds up to 300 kilometers an hour ripping through our village. She destroyed houses, fishing boats, rice crops, banana plantations and coconut and cashew groves. These are the main means of livelihood in our area. With the roofs gone and the strong rains, most of the reserve food was also destroyed.

Thanks to the donation of clothes, blankets, medical supplies and money, we were immediately able to distribute help to the needy. Many required items like bags for school and food were distributed. Red Cross came and distributed food to all the families after the road was opened. We hired the locals to open the road and repair the roof, clean up broken glass and clear the school.
The grade one two room was flattened and half the roof of the school was blown off. We enclosed the stage so the students could attend school in a very short time. The work of rebuilding houses and livelihoods is ongoing.

We came home on December 21 for Christmas and New Year. We are returning to the Philippines on February 10. There is still much to do, including rebuilding the classroom and fixing our own home roof. At present the hole in our house is temporarily repaired with a tarp.

No one in our village was killed and there were no serious injuries, although there were many close calls. We thank the efforts of the local Nakusp emergency teams.

In closing we want to again thank you for your prayers and donations. Our prayer is that God will bless you all richly for your generosity.

Ed & Ruth Wiebe
Nakusp / Ocean Occan

Open letter to Ministry of Energy, BC Hydro, BCUC
Abeyance cannot be forced. What does the title the Honorable mean to you, Mary Polack and Bill Bennett, the Minister and Premier? Do you work for BC Hydro and BCUC? You who are purportedly my representatives at the Ministry of Energy, how can you remove the moratorium on the sanctuary? CPC and NDP application processes are primary avenues of protection for the public and do removes these processes. What is the point of your existence if you are going to shut down the sanctuary against the law? Are you the servant of the law or the law of the sanctuary? We are against the common law that no act or law can harm a citizen. Please cease and desist at once. I am EHS and you are hurting one.

I have stopped all electronic payments to BC Hydro and will now write a cheque and send it through the mail to the monopoly BC Hydro. I will pay on the website line that the extortion fee has been deducted and the remainder of the invoice for services is paid in full. I will not pay a tax the government has illegally collected.

Do you put an act on hypothecating your property or us? You do wish you are recognized as tyrants when our grandchildren and great grandchildren study this time in Canadian history? It is the truth about yourself that will set you free. I pray you have the courage to do what is honourable for those that are paid to represent.

Have fewer and fewer good days as EHS is non and for me causes very real pain. I respectfully request you stop the push for so-called smart meters and cell towers, as you are causing me mental and physical harm as well as financial stress. Just where am I supposed to get this fixed income? My fixed income is not indexed as you say. It is nothing but a tax grab disguised as an extortion fee without due process.

If you called me a thief and a rapist, would you take my offense? I know I would. At this time I do not fully believe you are these awful things. I believe you are just misunderstood. I believe you are better than what you portray. I believe you will be held accountable and examined by this government and the sanctuary.

Let us forget, and let us shoo those who have died in the effort to achieve a future through past non-violent action healthier, happier, happier world for ourselves, the children and future generations. Blessed are all with a future protected, safe, with good health, happy marriages, peace and love.

There will never be another one like you...there will never be another one who can do the things you do...Thank you for you. May you live and loved. (Matthew Thomas Trail)

BC Hydro’s ‘legacy meter’ penalty shameful
Once more power has gone to BC Hydro’s head. On January 20 we received our first BC Hydro bill since the deadline of the Meter Choices program was passed. This is when BC Hydro, following a sustained campaign against the program, began making out rebates to those of us who remained in a give a vote of confidence to their highly questionable ‘smart meters’ technology. In its apparent belief that Joe Public is fundamentally stupid, BCTelus however, opted to sweeten the pill by referring to it as a ‘Legacy Meter change.’ Sounds quaint. Doesn’t it? Not if it’s a penalty. A fine. Punishment for refusing to play ball with the power authority.

On January 10 a meter reader visited Fernie. This was necessitated not because of smart meter renevelers like ourselves, but because there are so far only a handful of smart meters installed in the village and these aren’t yet enabled for the Meter Choices program. In other words, if someone doesn’t manually read the meters, they won’t get a read. As it happens, the meter reader didn’t get around to all the meters – at least, she didn’t get around to ours – so BC Hydro did what it’s done routinely for the last few years in the absence of an actual reading: it ‘estimated’ how much electricity was used by calculating the difference from the previous year, and billed customers accordingly. Here’s the thing though – the rennevelers got dinged with a nasty fine while all other customers received a normal bill. Same service, different treatment. Does that sound fair?

According to BCTelus, 19,380 customers have effectively refused smart meters. Assuming we’ve all been penalized consistently, this adds up to almost a million dollars on the first of February on the one million dollar fine for the year 2013! And what for? Not for actually reading the meters. Nor for estimating our consumption.

And while we’re at it, doesn’t “GST stand for Goods and Services Tax” it used to at any rate. Which leaves me wondering. What part of theLegacy penalty is for goods or services? Come to think of it, what’s the “rate order,” which appears to be just a shabby fixed with a fancy name. Where’s the goods? Where’s the services? Just wondering, that’s all. For 34 years my wife and I have never once failed to pay a BC toll. Yet nor have we sought compensation for all the times we’ve had to read our own meter and pay according to readings to BC when their ‘owingest’ fell wildly off the mark (three out of six times last year alone). However, if BC Hydro wishes to continue its corporatist bullying, I’m afraid we, the average citizen, will have to re think the thankless role of faithful paying customer from now on.

Shame on you, BC Hydro. And shame on you, the Minister of Finance for facilitating BC Hydro’s in its high-handed, un-Canadian conduct.

A plague o’ both your houses.”
Laurence Charles-Lombard
Fernie
**Nakusp council: Zeleznik reports on wood biomass fact-finding tour**

by Art Joyce

Councillor Zeleznik has not given up on the idea of a Nakusp biomass heating plant. At council’s regular meeting January 27, Zeleznik reported on a fact-finding mission he undertook with two local business owners, Dan Wiebe of Box Lake Lumber and Dan Wassnl of Pacific Inland Pole (PIPCO). Wiebe and Zeleznik also presented a map of downtown Nakusp with a proposed network of pipes supplying wood biomass-generated heat to businesses and public buildings. Human Zeleznik and Wiebe visited the Revelstoke municipal district heating system, which partners with the Donville sawmill for wood fibre supply. From there they continued on to Enderby, where the Finekki Maisee Company has established a wood biomass district heating system. The plant was recently the subject of a Global TV news segment, which Zeleznik screened for council. Enderby’s biomass plant began four businesses and has expanded to include a dozen, including the community swimming pool. The total project cost has been $500,000, with government assistance and an expected cost recovery period of about 10 years. An additional benefit is the reduced carbon footprint, amounting to about 250 tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) annually. Cost savings on heating energy for local businesses has amounted to about 50 percent. Zeleznik pointed out that it’s unlikely Nakpus will ever have access to natural gas and that both propane and electrical heating are facing cost increases of up to 24 percent in the near future. Propane currently costs $8.6 cents per 10 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), and about the same for Hydroelectric energy in BC with recent increases. Meanwhile, district heating systems using wood biomass for energy average between 1.25 to 2.5 cents per kWh. Economic studies typically find that 70-80 percent of money spent on energy costs leaves local economies, whereas revenue generated from community biomass systems tends to stay local. Wiebe said that between his business and the pole yard, Nakusp would have plenty of raw material for a biomass heating plant, though not enough by itself to make a co-generation plant. Hookups for local businesses, hospital and schools would be incorporated into the business plan for the plant, providing a strong incentive for those wishing to join the network. He’d like to see a larger biomass plant than the one at Enderby because the setup cost would be about the same. This could be built into an expansion plan eventually to include local greenhouses and other clients. Present Wiebe is having to pay to have wood waste produced. Wiebe said that wouldn’t likely apply to a biomass business. Councillor Duchaine asked about the possibility of adding a drying kiln to add value to wood waste produced by the two businesses. Wiebe said that wouldn’t likely apply to a biomass business. Duchaine said he’d like to see a distinct biomass system connected to the arena boiler system, which at present is extremely costly to operate. Zeleznik said next steps include obtaining expert opinions on a business plan from David Dobos of Wood Waste 2 Raw Energy and the Enderby plant operated by Finekki Machine. Wiebe suggested that with support from the Columbia Basin Trust, capital costs could be offset, allowing the project to become another example of sustainable community economic development. The project could also help offset the burden on Village finances. The project could be broken into two phases, with strategic placement of supply pipes to minimize distances and therefore costs. A Village staff member advising Village staff to continue with Councillor Zeleznik on investigating costs and funding for a wood biomass heating plant. The next meeting was set for April feasibility study report for council.

- Council was advised by CBO Lindsy Tennat to sign a letter of intent with the Village of Fruitvale to cover the costs of hiring a professional to conduct leak detection for the Village water system. The CHT will contribute $10,000 to be matched by $5,000 from local businesses. The Village was advised to consider the potential for a major professional system to pinpoint exact locations. Council agreed to sign the letter.

**Blade Runners program trains youth for industry**

by Art Joyce

Nakusp community organizations have teamed up with Selkirk College to provide youth (15-30 years old) with training for jobs in the resource sector. The Blade Runner course — a safety and resources management course — is given access to 10 different certificate programs, including first aid, chainsaw safety, chainsaw operation, traffic control flagging, construction safety training systems safety, and environmental and occupational health and safety. The course also provides a range of employment, including safety, leadership and health training. The course is being developed by the Selkirk College Nakusp campus. The course is being developed by the Selkirk College Nakusp campus. The course is being developed by the Selkirk College Nakusp campus.

**HALCYON HOUSE**

**SITE MANAGER**

Job Summary: The Site Manager reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for the administration and supervision of the operation of Halcyon House in accordance with applicable policies and procedures. Responsible for planning, organizing and directing the excellence in the delivery of tenant-centred care approach to care. Responsible for overall assessment, determination of tenant status, care planning, interventions and care evaluation at tasks when delegated. Maintains and provides documentation and records related to the operator.

The Site Manager is responsible for general operations, personnel supervision, clinical supervision, tenant responsibilities, social programs and quality and assurance planning.

**Requirements:**

- Completion of a recognized training program of Licensed Practical Nurses
- Current licensure with the BC College of Practical Nurses
- Food Safe Level I
- First Aid
- Minimum of 4 years of experience in a combination of Acute Care Setting and experience in a Long Term Care setting
- Some supervisory/leadership experience an asset
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of this position
- No criminal record

Successful candidate will be a team player, with demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with tenants, family, the public, medical staff and members of the team.

To apply please submit resume by 4:00 pm on February 19, 2014.

**Nakusp Basketball RAMP RECOMMENDATION PROJECT INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE**

February 19, 2014

Nakusp Emergency Services Building
800 - 8th Avenue NW
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Construction of the Nakusp Basketball RAMP will resume this February, BC Hydro and Columbia Power are hosting an open house to provide an update on the construction activities taking place in Nakusp starting this February.

The Nakusp Basketball RAMP contractor, Landmark Forest Management Ltd., will also be on hand to answer questions.

For more information, please contact:

- BC Hydro by calling 1-800-663-2200 or by emailing bchydro.info@hydro.com
- Columbia Power at 250-304-6600 or visit columbiahydro.org

**Columbia Hydro for generations**

**HALCYON HOUSE**

*Helping People Live Independently*

**HALCYON HOUSE**

*Helping People Live Independently*

**Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes**

**The Valley Voice**

February 12, 2014

**HALCYON HOUSE**

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**HALCYON HOUSE**

*Helping People Live Independently*
Kaslo council, January 28: Airport to see $5,000 worth of improvements

by Jan McMurray

• Council approved an allocation of $5,000 for improvements at the airport in 2014 to reduce risks identified in the recent runway safety assessment. Improvements include replacing and insulating signage, and clearing obstacles such as rocks, barks and trees from a designated area around the runway (within 50 metres of the end of the runway and 60 metres beyond the end of the runway). The CAO said signage would cost $1,500 and would come out of a funds line of $2,500 and stuff of $2,500 would come from taxation.

Council also indicated that it would like to enter into an agreement with a “suitable legal entity” for the operation of the airport. Councillor Holland said he wanted to see the contract advertised. Councillor Lang said, “I don’t think there are multiple outlets that want to take it over. We have golfers looking after the golf course, hockey players looking after the hockey rink, so we’d have pilots looking after the airport.”

The CAO reported that tender packages would be issued soon for the wildlife interface project for the golf course, Waneta, Barker, and the drinking water areas. John Cathro, RFP, has been engaged to oversee the project. The four companies that responded to the Request for Proposals are: Fisheries and Oceans, DeBiet, True Blue, Looki. The tenders were due February 13. Council will likely award the tender February 18.

Progressive Frosty, the Kaslo company that has taken the lead on all wildlife projects so far, informed the council some time ago that it was not interested in this final contract. However, four local and national environmental groups have four major goals. The first goal is to promote Kaslo as a year-round tourist destination. “That’s the way we do it in Kaslo,” says Mayor Lay. “We built the same house at the end of the lake, and then they built the marina, and put the restaurant on the water. If you can get above that valley cloud in the winter you have all that beautiful blue sky and snow.”

The second goal was to provide more winter traffic for local businesses. This was met with mixed success, with restaurants doing well but others having a slow year. However, the snowmobiles did significantly better. The third goal was to establish communication with the non-mechanized recreation community. Abbey communicated with the various backcountry lodges in the area, including Redneck and Mt. Cuttlef, to make them aware of the event. “We don’t want to push anyone out or push locals out. The fourth goal, which Abbey says needs a lot of improvement, is to get people involved during the daytime.

Council will write a letter of thanks to Larry Badley for his many years of service as Kaslo Fire Chief. Badley retired January 31, but remains as Advisor to the Council. Badley has moved into the new position. Donie Yee is Acting Fire Chief until he is officially appointed by the RDCK board of directors and Regional Fire Chief Swan. Badley will also remain Local Assistant to the Fire Chief until Yee receives the designation.

Jen Chaas of the Fraser Basin Waterway Management Group reviewed Kaslo’s Sustainability Plan. The draft plan was circulated in mid-December, and Chaos plans to have a final draft ready in mid-February.

- A letter from BC Emergency Health Services inviting input on the First Responder Program was referred to the Health Select Committee.

- The CAO reported on the need to replace the bridge in the very near future, at a cost of about $100,000.

“I would say that every business did at least a little bit better; even in my case 20 percent better is still worthwhile. A lot of the people who work in the industry – the servers, the cooks – personally thanked me, because they got tremendous tips and winter is usually a slow period for employment. For the hotel, they called every staff person they had to come in and work that weekend. That’s a win.”

The plan for Kaslo Whitenoite next winter is to host more visitors than just snowmobiling, with multiple events starting in October, and aiming for about one event per month. Events will include cultural as well as outdoor activities.

In this first year, the event featured Canadian folk singer Carin Lucia, Cam and Tyler Hicks of Heckersh Productions filled town to paper one of their snowmobiles. We’re working to let people who have a global perspective know that we have snowmobiles here. We took the first trip up the snowmobiles in Kaslo. We’re working to let people know that the lack of income we’ve had and have a business,” says Abbey. “It gave a real lift to the community; there was a sense of excitement in the days leading up to it.”

For more information visit KasloTourism.com

Kaslo Whitenoite lays down tracks for year-round tourism

by Art Joyce

The first ever Kaslo Whitenoite event appears to have surpassed organizers’ expectations. Not only were those attending the tourist gap and stimulate the economy during the toughest time of the year for local businesses. The event focused on a “snowmobile invitational” to attract winter tourists to Kaslo. Although plans for next year’s event will integrate non-motorized winter sports such as cross-country skiing, winter canoeing and snowshoeing.

“Event better than we anticipated,” says organizer Robert Abbey of Kaslo’s Landmark Bakery. “The snowmobiling community is an extremely positive group of people.”

The event received support from Tisha Dinkie, president of the Association of Kaslo and District Trails, who said her primary focus is on safe and responsible snowmobiling. New Deaver’s Tyler Paynter, a director with the group, was there to promote responsible snowmobiling in safety and maintaining snow conditions, as well as where to find avalanche warnings online. Paynter and Dinkie made an effort to interact with people who their primary interests are not motorized access to the backcountry. Concerns with losing access were addressed, including getting a sense of how the two groups could work together. Mayor Lay was another big supporter of the event.

“Families are looking for somewhere that’s gentler, safer for snowmobiling,” says Abbey. “It’s not just getting out there running a machine all day but getting where you want to go and then being able to off the machine and get on the ski. If you can get above that valley cloud in the winter you have all that beautiful blue sky and snow.”

Whitenoite’s organizers had four major goals. The first goal is to promote Kaslo as a year-round tourist destination. “That was one of the highlights of the day when so many people showed up on it including CBC Radio,” says Abbey. We had a lot of support from the province with the line that Kaslo was just a summer time destination.” The second goal was to provide more winter traffic for local businesses. This was met with mixed success, with restaurants doing well but others having a slow year. However, the snowmobiles did significantly better. The third goal was to establish communication with the non-mechanized recreation community. Abbey communicated with the various backcountry lodges in the area, including Redneck and Mt. Cuttlef, to make them aware of the event. “We don’t want to push anyone out or push locals out. The fourth goal, which Abbey says needs a lot of improvement, is to get people involved during the daytime.

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For more information visit KasloTourism.com

Jones Boys

Kaslo and Area Chamber acquires new office space

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce now has an office space on 4th Street in downtown Kaslo. It is expected to open sometime in the first two weeks of March.

“It’s long been a dream of our Chamber to have our own office. It’s been a long time coming,” said Daphne Hunter, Chamber president.

The new office, located between Kaslo Flourish and the gym, was donated to the Chamber – rent-free in perpetuity – by the Kaslo Arts and Cultural Society. Mayor Lay, brought in architect Bill Hayward. “A couple of our board members approached Bill and asked him how reasonable of a rent he’d be willing to consider, and after some
deliberation he said he wanted to give back to the community and would donate it in perpetuity,” said Hunter.

The Chamber will take responsibility for the utility bills and all office operating costs of the office space, and has started on “a major overhaul.” Many board members and members of the Chamber have come forward with ideas to paint the interior, replace light fixtures, fix up the bathroom, and put in new baseboard trim. The trim was donated by Boeckers by George, and many people have donated office furniture and equipment.

“We hope that a more visual presence will allow us to more take ownership of the Chamber as a whole,” said Hunter.

She says the office will be a place where people can learn about the area, with brochures and a welcome package available. It will be used for Chamber meetings, and could be rented to members at a nominal fee as a meeting or office space. “One of the plans is that Chamber office becomes not only a business resource, but consumer resource as well,” she said. Plans for the office to be furnished once the members have had a chance to discuss what they’d like to see happen there at the Chamber’s planning session, which will take place shortly after the March 15 AGM. “We are striving to keep the membership involved in the running of their office,” she said. Hunter.

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1-877-552-6287
Introducing new Kaslo Hotel head chef

by Jan McMurray

David Friedman is the new head chef at the Kaslo Hotel.

Originally from Toronto, Friedman has been working in restaurants for 30 years – in Toronto, Vancouver, and abroad in Australia and Japan. He received his chef’s ticket from the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts in Vancouver in 2006. But before he moved to Kaslo, Friedman had been running his own restaurant for almost two years in downtown Toronto. He specialized in seafood, and focused on local and sustainable products. “I was very tired into the local food scene in Toronto,” he said.

However, he closed down the restaurant because “it wasn’t as successful as it needed to be,” he said. “There are so many restaurants in Toronto. We get good reviews and we were well liked on Yelp [online], but the market was saturated.”

After closing it down, David felt he needed a change from Toronto. “I don’t really like the food culture there,” he said. “There are hundreds of ‘cookie cutter’ restaurants in Toronto – it’s a city of trends.” He started looking for jobs out west with all sorts of chefs such as Big White and Sunshine in mind, when he found the Kaslo Hotel head chef position online.

“The job appealed to me because the owners were looking to upgrade their food program,” said Friedman. “And the lifestyle in Kaslo appealed to me as well,” he added.

Hotel owner John Eckland said many chefs were interviewed for the position. “We were looking for a number of things, which we found in David,” he said. “David has strong experience, having owned and operated his own restaurant in Toronto, as well as having worked in a number of other high-end establishments. He has a widely known reputation for creative cuisine, especially using sustainable, local ingredients. Also, the hotel is planning to make a major effort to attract Asian customers, especially from Japan, since this area has a connection to the Canadian Japanese community. David lived in Japan for four years and taught cooking classes there. All in all, we thought David would be a good fit for the hotel and the region.”

David says he hasn’t made many changes to the Kaslo Hotel menu yet – just some “fine tuning” – while he observes local food habits. In the spring, he plans to introduce a new menu with an “Asian influence.” He also wants to add some local flavour. “People come to this area to experience the culture here, so I’d like to feature local food. I’m trying to bring in some local ingredients from what I can source.”

Friedman says he’s trying to create a menu that will cater to all types of clientele at the hotel. “We have to find the fine line. It’s a beautiful boutique hotel, so we want to cater to that clientele, but also to the people who stay here just because they need a place to stay. We want to be the place for locals to come to for a special meal, but also a place to bring the family when you don’t want to cook at home. And we’re the local bar. So it’s a challenge.”

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of New Denver is seeking local residents to sit on the Village of New Denver’s Local Selection Committee for the CBCT Community Initiatives funding program. Interested individuals should contact the Village Office at 250-359-2310 or office@newdenver.ca for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

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 wkrac@telus.net.

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

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New Denver council, January 28: Reduced Village office hours announced

by Katrina Campbell

The Village office will be closed the week of February 17-21, and for the following eight Fridays as a trial until the end of April. This is to give staff uninterrupted time to plan for audits and budgets. Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway objected to the move, saying staff felt the complaints generated would add to their workload and no time would be saved. Mayor Ara Budaia said she’d be willing to sit with the counter “to spare staff grief.”

Councillor Heather Kriech reported on the last West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBHRD) board meeting. By acclamation, Margarette Rovell is chair and Walter Popoff is vice-chair. Interior Health will attend the March 14 meeting and has been asked to provide a service delivery model and an analysis of health care needs in the district. BHR will also be asked to provide an update on the planning process for the emergency department at Arrow Lakes Hospital.

Councillor Shauna Falk reported that Recreation Commission #6 grant allocations were approved, and Daniel Halyer was reappointed as alternate rep for Area H. Rosebery Parklands and Trail received approval to carry over unspent funds to 2014.

The Rural Affairs Committee resolved to have AKBLG and UBCM ask the Province to review its Boundary Expansion policy to include an assent by referendum in the areas to be annexed.

Len Block was appointed Economic Development Commission rep for Area I and Nelle Mckay was thanked for her years of service. The draft final Business Retention and Expansion report was issued by the Rural Development Institute, which will meet with the local steering committee (made up of EDC and Chamber of Commerce members) to discuss the report’s findings and next steps.

Lisa McCullin was authorized to participate in the Government Finance Officers Association webinar series on taxation and assessment.
Lions help Sloan Valley Food Cupboard expand

Valley residents understand that our economy has been hit hard and last year’s food spill has meant a hard winter for many of our neighbors. With generous donations of money and food from local businesses and individuals, the Sloan Valley Food Cupboard operated by the WE Graham Community Service Society struggles to meet the increased demand.

“The Sloan Valley Food Cupboard serves over 150 client households in our service area, which includes everyone between New Denver and South Sloan,” says Karen Hogg, office manager/administrator. “Fortunately we are able to access supplies by the pallet load through the Vernon Food Hub and the National Food Sharing Network operated by Food Banks Canada. To date, the limitation on fully taking advantage of this national program is our lack of suitable storage space.

To help the Food Cupboard, the Kootenay-Sloan Lions Club has stepped in to renovate a storage shed on the WE Graham site to provide insulated, dry and pest proof storage.

“Renovations are now well underway and good progress is being made,” says Lions President Will Rimmer. “Like all renovation projects, this one has had its share of surprises, starting with the need to replace the foundation and get temporary bearing to support the roof. Thanks to our membership and the generous donation of time and labor by Gidley Industries of Sloan Park, we were able to stabilize the structure before snow fell. We are on track to complete the expansion by the summer, provided we meet our fundraising goals.”

Please consider helping this very worthy project by donating to the Food Cupboard Expansion Project.

Donations may be made at the offices of the WE Graham Community Service Society in Sloan or at Heritage Credit Union in Sloan Park.

To find out more about how you can assist with the project, contact either Karen Hogg at 250-355-2484 (office@wegcsa.org) or Wilf Rimmer at 250-226-7528 (kootenaysloanlions@gmail.com).

Enrolment stabilizing in Arrow Lakes School District 10

by Jan McMurray

Enrolment projections for the 2014-15 school year in Arrow Lakes School District 10 are looking “positive and stable,” reports Superintendent Terry Taylor.

Next year’s numbers are expected to hold steady at Nakusp Secondary (160) and Edgewood Elementary (22), decrease by 11 at Nakusp Elementary (from 185 this year to 174 next year), and increase by five at Larcherie (from 87 this year to 92 next year). Larcherie’s Kindergarten class next year will likely be the biggest we’ve seen in seven years at a projected 12 children.

Taylor is very pleased that enrolment is leveling out, and is particularly excited about the increase at Larcherie. She says her dream is for the schools in the district to be a draw for families to move to the area, and she is now seeing that happen all across the district.

“It feels like an exciting time in our district,” she said. “We’ve become well known for innovation and our ability to make rich things happen for students. We have so much that others acknowledge and recognize.”

Total district enrolment is projected at 473 students next year, compared to 486 this year. Taylor notes that it is challenging to predict numbers for the Distributed Learning School, so the district projects lower and enrollments higher every year. The DL School has 32 students this year, and 25 are projected for next year.

We Serve in the Valley

The Kootenay-Sloan Lions Club has been active in the lower Sloan Valley since 1977. Our members are women and men who volunteer time and energy to serve and assist our neighbors.

We meet regularly each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Passmore Hall. We welcome new members who share the ideal of “Service to Others” and bring new ideas and perspectives to the Club.

SLOCAN VALLEY

Valley Reads

Celebrate literacy in your home by checking out these great reads from the kindergarten to grade 6 students at WE Graham:

Kindergarten - 2 Class:
The Magic School Bus Series, Joanna Cole
Pipi Longstocking, Astrid Lindgren
The Hobbit, JR Tolkien (read aloud)
Magic Treehouse Series, Mary Pope Osburn
I Spy Books, Jean Marzollo

Grades 3-6:
Hatchet, Gary Paulson
Book of Elsewhere, Jaqueline West
Sisters Grimm Series, Michael Buckley
Spirit Animals, Books 1 - 5, Various Authors

Carol Thorp and Evelyn Goodell from Nakusp suggest:
“Every child should read!”
The Tale of Peter Rabbit, Beatrix Potter
“Beautiful and elegant language that adults and young ones can love and appreciate.”

Thank you to WE Graham students for their participation and congratulations to the book winners!
Bitcoin now accepted in West Kootenay bakery

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and Area Youth Centre (KAYC) building has three beautiful new windows with built-in seats and a new kitchen floor. An open house to celebrate the renovations was held January 29.

The kids love hanging out in the window seats, and the place is so much brighter with the windows," said Liz Hughes, facilitator of the Girls’ Group at the centre and president of the Kaslo and Area Youth Centre Society.

Originally, the project included the purchase of a fridge and stove, but the area society donated those items, freeing up the funds for the window renovation.

New windows brighten up Kaslo and Area Youth Centre

by Jan McMurray

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Originally, the project included the purchase of a fridge and stove, but the area society donated those items, freeing up the funds for the window renovation.

Not only are the window seats attractive and inviting – they also provided an invaluable carpentry experience for two Kaslo youth, Charlotte Pearce-Stuyt and Morgan Cameron built the wooden window frames and seats with local mentors Steve Anderson and Yvonne Boyd. This project happened thanks to Shannon Isaac, who was hired last year as Kaslo and Area D Youth Coordinator. She also spearheaded a youth project in Meadow Creek that resulted in a new floor for the Larchview Hall, new furnishings and a mural. Isaac’s position was made possible by CBT’s Community Directed Youth Funding program, which will provide $25,000 per year over four years. The North Kaslo Youth Community Services Society is administering this funding and is Isaac’s employer. Isaac’s role is to enhance youth programs and services in Kaslo and Area D.

RCMP Cops for Kids help Nakusp students

submitted

Two Nakusp Secondary students have been given iPads by the RCMP to help them with the challenges they face in school.

Corporal Ryan Feeley of the Nakusp and Slocan Lake RCMP presented Kendra Karyl and Joseph Nevoral with new iPad Airs on behalf of the RCMP Cops for Kids Charitable Foundation.

Kendra has cerebral palsy. Her iPad will be equipped with specialized software that is specifically designed to assist her unique learning needs. Joseph, who has cerebral palsy, is a grade 10 student. He loves technology and is excited at the opportunity to broaden his educational, cultural, and social experiences with the new iPad.

Cops for Kids is committed to assisting children in medical, physical or traumatic crisis. The group works tirelessly to raise funds to continue its ongoing support to the children in communities it serves.

Cops for Kids holds many events throughout the year. Its signature event is the annual Cops for Kids Ride, a gruelling 10 days over some very challenging terrain.

To learn more about Cops for Kids, visit www.copsforkids.org.
Double success for Hills Nordic Ski Club

Submitted

The winter season 2013/14 has proved to be a bumper year. The ever-popular ski school program has attracted record numbers and for the first time in a long while, Hills Nordic Ski Club has sent representatives to several regional cross-country races.

Thirty students (up from last season’s 23) enrolled in the Bunny, Rabbit and Track Attack/racer program. With financial support from membership, the Hills Recreation Society and Recreation Commission 6, classes kicked off early January on groomed tracks in Hills. The club now has six qualified volunteer coaches helping develop ski skills from ages three to 12 years.

“The skaters, the cry of delight, the achievement and spills all make it worthwhile,” said Bunny coach Scott Kippink. “No matter the weather, enthusiasm is always top of the list. We all love it.”

The older Rabbits and Track Attack are coached by club chair Kip Drebish. Lucas Piggot, Devon Duerksen and Kolibri Drebish proudly represented Hills Nordic Ski Club at races in Rosland, Kimberley and Nelson. Kolibri now has three gold medals in her age group, with Devon winning one silver.

“Hills Nordic Ski Club is going from strength to strength,” said Drebish. “It’s wonderful to provide this outdoor winter time activity for the children, and to introduce them to competition. We would like to thank all the parents who have supported this club, the volunteers who groom the tracks and all those who help out with transport. We look forward to the ski party which is on the first weekend in March. That’s always fun for both young and old!”

Snapschots of everyday life
– A Slocan Valley Historical Society project

Submitted

In the midst of major events – wars, the Depression, protest and internments – Slocan Valley families still took photographs of everyday life; weddings, rafting on Slocan Lake, trapping and hunting, logging, growing gardens, hanging out with friends.

Vall奥林 resident Rita Moir, working on behalf of the Slocan Valley Historical Society, is scanning these snapshots of everyday life in the early to mid 1900s, to ensure that they are preserved. The archival project is funded by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

Moir will be on hand to show a small selection of photos from the ongoing collection on Thursday, February 20, at Wasil School at 3 pm during the Nelson Public Library’s monthly outreach program.

“Family albums are records of daily lives, of friendships and community formed even during the hardest of times, of all the rituals and celebrations that continue to sustain families and friends,” says Moir. “I love the photos of the young people rafting on the lake in 1946, or the four Fournoff cousins as young women in 1952, or the young man interned in 1943, posing for their photo in front of the old Cameron house in Slocan in 1943. What these photos show is vibrancy and strength and survival, and I love that.”

All are welcome at this free slide show. For more information, contact the Nelson Public Library, 352-6333.

Touchstones art exhibit includes work of Kaslo artist

Submitted

Humm... That looks familiar...

That’s one of the initial reactions that people can have to art created from reused or recycled material. In different ways and for different reasons, Brent Bukowski (Kaslo), Shyla De Souza (Calgary), Mark Mitzel (Vancouver) and brothers Cedric and Nathan Bomford (Winnipeg and Vancouver Island, respectively) all make use of reused or recycled materials in their work.

Mining the landscape of consumer culture, they find material in back alleys, old houses, thrift shops and landfills. Looking past its original use, they reinterpret both its function and meaning through their photograph and sculptural installations. Join us for this exciting exhibition of art that challenges preconceptions, and offers a new take on used materials.

The exhibition, ‘Found: the Art of Re-use’ will run in Gallery A from February 8 to May 11 at Touchstones Nelson, located at 502 Vernon Street.
James Lamb and Christa Couture to perform at the Silvertown Gallery

In an evening of music at the Bonninton Arts Centre Friday, February 21, 7:30 pm.

Doors open at 7:00 pm.
Ticket prices at Bon Marché/Dollar Store.
Adults $20, Seniors $15 (65 & over).
Students $10 (17 & under).
Children free.

Hospitability Host: Margot’s Sunnyhills Lodging.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council Presents
Foothills Brass

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICE - OFFICE HOURS

The Village of New Denver Municipal Office will be closed from Monday, February 17th, through Friday, February 21st, 2014. The office will also be closed on Friday, February 28th and all Fridays in March and April. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sloancentre offers child care, subsidy info

Submitted
A free half-day of childcare plus information and help regarding childcare subsidies will be offered to families with pre-school children on Monday, February 18, at the Sloanco Children’s Centre in Slocan from 9 am to noon. The centre is developing a more flexible approach to enrolment, as many parents have unpredictable work or life schedules, and will use the day to spread the word.

“We want to create a morning where parents can see the centre, learn about our new drop-in policy, and see if they may be eligible for childcare subsidies,” says Natalie Lucas, who runs Sloanco.

“We are offering the half day of care to encourage parents to come in, and because we want to give children a positive experience with the other children, our resources, and staff,” said Gailo from the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre will be on hand to help with the subsidy forms and information.

Radio Hall Children’s Centre is a fully licensed daycare, with certified early childhood educators on staff to provide a nurturing and educational program for children. It has a cozy, homey feel to it, and is filled with enriching art, language, and play opportunities for the small group of children it serves. Child care licensing ensures that all provincial standards for safety and care are met. The centre operates as a part of the WE Graham Community Service Society.

For more information, or to sign up for care, call Natalie at 250-355-2222.

Foothills Brass returns to Nakusp

Submitted
On Friday, February 21, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council brings back the Foothills Brass. This brass quartet has become one of the favourite ensembles to perform at the Bonnington Arts Centre as part of ALAC’s concert series.

Foothills Brass has entertained audiences for more than 30 years, leaving its impressions everywhere it goes. Founded in 1981, Foothills Brass is comprised of musicians from across North America playing two trumpets, one French horn, one trombone and one tuba. They are dedicated to exceptional artistic presentation, meaningful educational activities and innovative leadership in the arts, community, and education. Come join us on Friday, February 21 for an exciting evening of ‘The Sound of Brass’ at the Bonnington Arts Centre. The concert starts at 7:30 pm and the doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are available at Bon Marché/Dollar Store until Friday afternoon.

ALAC thanks Margot’s Sunnyhills Lodging for hosting this concert.

The Valley Voice February 12, 2014

On the Road Productions Presents
Harry Manx
Live At The Capitol Theatre
421 Victoria St, Nelson BC

Old Man Luedecke
Live At The Civic Theatre
719 Vernon St, Nelson BC

Saturday, March 8th
Advance Tickets are $35 (+tax and $1 service fee)
Available At The Capitol Theatre Box Office and online at CapitolTheatre.bc.ca

Wednesday, March 12th
Advance Tickets are $15 and Available At:
OnTheRoadManagement.com &
Eddy Music

www.christacouture.com

Known for his fascinating compositions and tasteful, highly regarded musicianship, Lamb has toured and lived throughout Canada but has recently returned to his childhood home of Nelson. His 2013 album, Imaginings, met high praise throughout the Canadian folk music community and was nominated for numerous Kootenay music awards. He has performed in art spaces, established venues, yoga studios, strangers’ homes, on festival stages and the Via Rail lounge car. His live presentation can haunt a room with thoughtful joy and his unique voice and commanding stage presence can plunge even the most jaded heart to outermost silence. http://www.jameslambmusic.com

Dan Miles receives Canada’s Outstanding Principal Award

He will travel to Toronto to attend the tenth annual Canada’s Outstanding Principals gala dinner event and attend ceremony on February 25.

This award is a very prestigious and important acknowledgement of Dan’s work as an educator and educational leader,” states a press release issued by Kootenay Lake School District 8. “We are very pleased to congratulate Dan on this important recognition.”

The Canada’s Outstanding Principals program is a program of the Learning Partnership, a national charity supporting excellence in public education. This year, The Learning Partnership will recognize 48 outstanding principals, representing every province and territory across Canada, with the award.

Behind every great school is a great principal who is truly an outstanding role model for his or her community, says Alexa Peoples, president and CEO of The Learning Partnership.

“These principals are presidents of their schools; they communicate compelling visions, engage their communities, mentor their staff and, most importantly, create safe and nurturing learning environments for students. We are delighted to be recognizing these individuals as examples of excellence in public education.”

Canada’s Outstanding Principals are nominated by their peer, school staff and community members. Nominations are reviewed and final winners selected on a representation-by-population basis by a National Selection Committee made up of a distinguished group of Canadian education, community and private sector leaders. Candidates are chosen using the following criteria: characteristics of outstanding principals; evidence of partnerships with parents and community; a personal story illustrating successful change and innovation that resulted in improved student achievement; and corresponding letters of support.

As part of Canada’s Outstanding Principals program, winning principals will participate in an executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, between February 23 and 27. The program will introduce them to leadership and management practices and theories, and will be attended by business leaders and instructors at one of Canada’s leading business schools.

“The Learning Partnership believes that principals who understand the importance of strong leadership in education should be recognized and their skills enhanced,” said Peoples.

The 2014 Canada’s Outstanding Principals will join an assembly of 311 education leaders who have received this honour over the past nine years, becoming members of The Learning Partnership’s National Academy of Canada’s Outstanding Principals. The National Academy offers principals ongoing networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities so that they can continually enhance their leadership skills.
Electricity rates and billing explained

From understanding the residential conservation rate and interim rates, to questions about your electricity bill, we’re here to help.

### The residential conservation rate explained

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<th>Flat rate structure</th>
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Interim rates as of January 1, 2016.

This new, two level rate structure was designed to encourage you to save energy where possible. You’re billed at a lower rate (9.09 cents) for the first 1,600 kWh. Your use above this amount is then billed at a higher rate (13.54 cents). Under this new structure, about 71 per cent of our customers pay the same or less than they would under the previous flat rate structure. Learn more at [fortisbc.com/electricityrates](http://fortisbc.com/electricityrates).

### Did you know?

Your energy use increases in winter over summer by: 50%

Why? Because on colder, darker winter days we:
- turn up the thermostat
- leave lights on longer
- use space heaters

### Understanding interim rates

Each year we go through a rate setting process with the BC Utilities Commission. Interim rates are set before the process is completed and can change. If they do, your bill can be credited and adjusted accordingly.

### Equal payment and other options

We offer a variety of billing service options to meet your needs.

**Equal Payment Plan:** for a predictable bill

**Payment options:**
- preauthorized payment (Direct Debit Plan)
- cheque
- online banking
- financial institution
- credit card
- [fortisbc.com/billoptions](http://fortisbc.com/billoptions)

### How can we help?

Our customer service representatives work locally at our Trail contact centre. They’re members of the very communities we serve. They understand you may have questions about your bill and are here to help.

[electricity.customerservice@fortisbc.com](mailto:electricity.customerservice@fortisbc.com)
1-866-436-7847
Lucerne PAC looks at options for school calendar

by Jan McMurray

The Lucerne Parent Advisory Council has opened up a discussion on alternate calendar options for the school.

Recently, the PAC circulated a survey to gauge parents’ interest in a four-day week. The survey states: “If a high percentage of parents are interested in looking into options for a four-day week, we will follow up with another survey of model choices and a public meeting. If a large percentage is opposed, we will not pursue the matter any further.”

Julia Greenlaw, PAC co-chair, reports that survey results so far show no clear majority, “so we’ll keep this conversation going,” she said. Out of 35 respondents, 34.3 percent want the standard calendar and 31.4 percent support the four-day week. The rest want more information.

“Our next step is to come up with clear visual examples of various different calendar options and then put those out to students and parents,” said Greenlaw.

Greenlaw explained that calendar decisions have to be made by March 31 each year for the following year, so no change is expected for next school year.

“It’s a very big question — it’s a lengthy thing to explore. Parents, teachers, bus drivers, custodians, the school district and the community all have to be consulted.”

The PAC started looking into different calendar options because quite a few Lucerne students miss school one day a week for appointments, music lessons and sports travel. Also, the several holiday Mondays in a year cut into teaching time, so working the calendar around holidays would result in more consistent instructional time.

There is also research showing that the conventional school calendar is not necessarily the best schedule for students, and that educational outcomes are not affected by the different calendar options.

Greenlaw reported that about 15 parents attended the February PAC meeting, and concerns were raised about the fall next year. “Childcare is one of the biggest concerns,” said Greenlaw.

“This is a potential liability for the district,” she continued. “We would be held accountable for making sure those children are safe.”

Greenlaw says the visual aids showing the different calendar options will be available within a week, and encourages parents to drop off their surveys at the school office.

Inappropriate internet use at Lucerne leads to clear guidelines for students

by Jan McMurray

Lucerne School now has clear computer and internet use guidelines for students, after inappropriate internet use by some students was discovered recently.

“Our internet service provider, Provincial Learning Network [PLNet], reported to us that one of our ISP addresses had streamed data which was in violation of copyright laws,” reported Lucerne Principal Drew Nielsen.

Nielsen explained that the school was required to come up with a “suspense plan” in order to remain in compliance with its agreement with PLNet. “The extended consequence of non-compliance with PLNet standards would have resulted in loss of all internet privileges by the school,” he said.

The project needs the final $25,000 by April 22 (Earth Day) to meet the high demand of the busy spring field trip season. CBMEN is seeking program sponsorship from local businesses, as well as charitable donations from individuals. Since CBMEN began offering Wild Voices in 2009, more than 40,000 students from across the Columbia Basin have received curriculum-linked presentations and field trips. Currently, 79 local experts offer 135 different programs, through which students can participate in activities such as snowshoeing, avalanche safety training, pond explorations and exurbs to see kokanee salmon spawning.

CBMEN’s Wild Voices program outreach coordinator, Senie MacDonell explains, “Teachers can book these presentations online, and we offer funding for bussing as well as small honoraria to educators. As well, on average it only costs us $10 per student per program.”

If you would like to make a donation or learn more about the areas between the Kids Program, please go to www.cbmen.org or contact Duncan Wattick at 250-341-6014 or email info@cbmen.org.

Snowmobile closures in force to protect caribou habitat

Closures now in effect in about 60 areas frequented by the mountain caribou in southeastern British Columbia. Maps showing the locations of these closed areas are available online at www.env.gov.bc.ca/ts/wildlife/snowmobile-closures.html.

Areas of particular concern this winter include: Silvercreek Ridge near Trout Lake, Mt. Grace, Standard Peak, Nine Mountains, Frisky Ridge, Catamount Glacier, North Star Glacier and the Upper Spillman River area. Hunting Lakes is also closed, as is an area of open water between Nelson and Creston, and north of Revelstoke.

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice February 12, 2014
Outdoor education academy at Burton School a possibility for next year

by Jan McMurray

An outdoor education academy program for grades 11 and 12 students may operate out of Burton School in September 2014.

Terry Taylor, superintendent of Arrow Lakes School District 10, explained that the new academy program is being modeled on the outdoor education program at Nakusp Secondary, run by teacher Dorian Boswell.

“Teacher Dorian Boswell from Nakusp’s microhydro plant powers up submitted

Mayor Karen Hamilton officially turned the switch on at the Village of Nakusp’s new microhydro power plant last month.

“This is an exciting time for the Village of Nakusp,” she said. “Five years ago, council had a vision to build a power plant to add a source of revenue to the Village, while at the same time constructing a Water Treatment Plant. Now the project is complete and with cooperation of all the parties involved, the plant is generating power.”

Power produced at the plant will feed directly into the BC Hydro grid. The microhydro plant, which will run continuously, uses Nakusp’s existing drinking water collection infrastructure on Brousse and Halfway Creeks. The plant is a 50 KW, 600V net metering project utilizing a high efficiency single nozzle Pelton turbine and is expected to generate approximately $100,000/year and $35,000/year in revenue for the Village.

“Seeing council implement green technology that will produce revenue for generations is the kind of proactive action that is making Nakusp a leader of small communities,” stated Nathan Wood (AquaDeNovo Inc) and Steven Thompson (90Dot Engineering Inc). Ward and Thompson were largely responsible for completing the design of the facility and seeing the project to completion, while satisfying the stringent requirements of all five regulatory authorities involved.

The project was funded through a Federal Gas Tax – Innovations Fund grant in conjunction with the new Water Treatment Plant project.

Historic walking tour planned for Slocan

Slocan Valley Historical Society seeks sponsors

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Historical Society is developing a self-guided historic walking tour through the village of Slocan.

“We have 10 sites earmarked for kiosks and interpretive signage, and we’re hoping to get at least three kiosks up this year,” reported Joyce Johnson, president of the society.

The kiosks the society plans to install will be similar to those on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. With information panels mounted, the kiosks range in price from $2,000 to $11,000.

The organization has been approved for a $5,000 matching grant through the artVent program of Business for the Arts. To secure the grant, the society must come up with the matching funds by March 1.

“We are in the process of soliciting sponsors, and we’ve secured a little over $2,000 this far,” said Joyce Johnson, president of the society.

Johnson explained that installing the kiosks is phase one of the project, while phase two will involve creating a brochure, a guidebook, and downloadable text and audio files that people can download onto their cell phones.

The kiosks will cover the history of the Slocan Hotel site, the ballpark, Columbia Apianes, the old highway and tunnel, the Village office, the mill site, the hall, the store, the school, the cemetery, Harold Street businesses and church, Bay Farm, the cemetery, CPR and steamwhistles, and the lakeshore area.

For more information and to sponsor the project, contact the society at 355-2230 or locachistorsociety@yahoo.ca or Box 28, Slocan V0G 2C0.
Village of Nakusp hosts financial open house

by Jan McMurray

Only 16 people showed the cold on February 4 to come to the second annual Nakusp financial open house to find out what it costs to run the Village and how their tax dollars are spent. There were 40 people through the doors last year.

In 2013, Nakusp residents’ property tax dollars totalled about $888,248 and were distributed among the Village (44%), the RDCK (18%), school (31%), hospital (4%), police (4%), and BC Assessment Authority (1%).

How does Nakusp compare with other municipalities in terms of total taxation on a typical house? A graph comparing 20 municipalities in 2012 put Nakusp in ninth place (from the lowest). Slocan had the lowest amount of taxation, followed by New Denver, Greenwood, Silverton, Salmo and Kaslo. Nakusp is the highest.

Nakusp’s 2013 debt was $1,473,000, up from $1,191,681 in 2012. Projects carrying debt include the Cedar Chalets ($185,000), the sewer system ($29,993), the sewer lift station ($195,758), the hot springs ($660,934), the Emergency Services Building ($102,398) and the arena ($750,000).

The Village has $1,331,750 in reserves, as follows: sewer ($169,128), equipment ($293,752), fire ($128,007), water ($454,137) and general capital ($315,885).

The Village’s 2013 revenue was about $1,273,483—$888,248 came from taxation and the rest from grants and fees. Here is how the money was spent: $613,000 on administration, $343,153 on Public Works, $218,023 on Parks and Rec, $90,957 on the hot springs, $94,377 on the fire department and $10,525 on the conservation projects.

Revolution comes to Nelson, February 19, 2014

Submitted

Revolution is a film about changing the world. The film documents the true life-adventure of environmentalist Rob Stewart, acclaimed director of Sharkwater, as he continues his remarkable journey. The film follows him through 15 countries, where he discovers not only that sharks are in grave danger—but that humanity itself is at risk.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety is delighted to bring this stunning film to the big screen with high definition picture and sound. The award-winning documentary will screen one time only at 7:30 on Wednesday, February 19 at the Nelson Civic Theatre. Tickets are $10 for the general public or $8 for students, seniors, and EcoSociety members. The proceeds will be split between the West Kootenay EcoSociety and Rob Stewart’s educational efforts to bring awareness to the environmental issues and

Newfoundland comes to Kaslo!

Submitted

On Thursday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m at the Langham, get ready to steal yourselves away to another world. Forget the Forts hill, forget the cancelled flights at Castlegar. Think about expanding your soul while listening to this trio all the way from Newfoundland. Get ready to enjoy beautiful harmonies and energetic music-making with “The Onces.” Advance tickets are only $15 at Willow Horse Boonique and Saunderly Naturals. Tickets at the door will be $18 (if there are any left!)

From their beginnings as three actors who also loved to sing together, The Onces has embraced a different vision of Newfoundland music. Their sounds do not come from the noisy pubs and dockside taverns that feed so much of the island’s energy. Instead, their music comes from a quieter and more thoughtful place.

The hope and tragedy are intertwined in their music; whether they are singing an old lament from World War I, original songs that speak of love defeated, or tuneful songs from the artists whose music inspirers them. Whether they keep it a cappella, or pick on layers of accordion, bouzouki, mandolin and guitar, each song is a treat.

As a trio, the band has kept it uncomplicated, depending on the power of their voices and acoustic instruments. Lead singer Geraldine Hollett has an instrument of rare power; she is a singer who can still a noisy room, so expressive she can tell a novel-length story with a few words. Accompanied by Phil Churchill and Andrew Dale on guitar, mandolin, fiddle and bouzouki, they create a perfect blend of voice and melody. Sometimes melancholy, sometimes funny, always poigniant, The Onces sound like nothing else that has ever come from Newfoundland and we’re thrilled to have them grace the Langham’s stage.

RCM report: Balfour hit by thefts

During the last two weeks of January and in early February, the Kaslo RCM has responded to a number of residential break and enter thefts in the Balfour area. The unknown suspects broke into a number of residences and summer cabins along the shores of Kootenay Lake. These break-ins appear to be similar— the suspects are looking for and stealing similar items such as land tools, chain saws, TVs, and small household appliances and electronics. The suspects have not limited themselves to stealing small items. In one occurrence, they took a blue 2014 Polaris Razor, blue 2012 Polaris Outlaw ATV, and a 2003 Kawasaki KX65 motorcycle.

The Kaslo RCM are following up on a number of leads, and are specifically looking to speak to anyone who may have observed a light grey four 2007 Chevrolet 4-ton pickup (blue Polaris

The award-winning Kuskunam foothridge cost $437,750 and was funded with a $382,500 grant. The sewer treatment plant cost $2 million, funded with a $600,000 grant.

Capital projects to be completed in 2014 include the ice plant retrofit, the ice plant heat recovery project, and the reclaimed water project.

Review Panel recommended that Canada’s cabinet approve a mislabeled plant, rather than the sand to the rugged BC coast. Both pipelines are opposed by environmental groups concerned about the impact of tar sands oil on habitat and climate change.
GOLF SEASON IS COMING! Valley View offers Super Savings on Early Bird memberships NOW until February 16. Prices, contests, spectacular photo gallery: www.golfvalleyview.com

LOOKING FOR DOCK SECTION (Approx. 20’ x 10’ aluminum with composite decking that breaks loose from dock at Exeter Creek and may be drifting on Slocan Lake. Please contact: 250-635-4742 or cyguy94@gmail.com

AUTOMOTIVE


BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Thinking of starting or expanding your own business? Community Futures offers business loans, counselling & training; and delivers the Self Employment Program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info contact 250-674-2211 ext. 201 or email nакуспоесггрге.hca.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY – Slocan Lake Golf Club is actively seeking a Restaurant Manager for our fully licensed clubhouse for the 2014 season. Contract is negotiable and runs May through September. If you are motivated by the opportunity to run your own business, this may be exactly what you’re looking for. Experiences and interests of interest may be emailed to Lou, Lakecasterbyw3@hotmail.com no later than February 15, 2014.

WELL ESTATED (39 years) Spradlender manufacturing business for sale. Seasonal 6 to 9 months per year. Well established customer base. Room for expansion. 500,000 plus inventory. 250-359-7510 or pravo@earthlink.net

COMING EVENTS

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY AGM Thurs., Jan. 30, 1 pm at the PBS 803 Killens St., New Denver. What’s your vision for the gallery? Let us know! This is your AGM. This is YOUR gallery.

MONDAYS – DROP IN CLASS! 3:30 - 4:30 pm at Art Studio. New Denver. Meet the winter blues, have some fun, feel creative, productive, and meet new people. Just show up or call... Elite 250-358-2499 for info.


VALENTINE’S ART EXTRAVAGANZA - The Whole School is hosting this warm hearted community event on Friday, February 14 from 6 pm to 1 am at the Vincent Whole School Community Centre. Enjoy a gourmet lasagna dinner (vegetarian option available), live Art auctioning with artwork by Ali Crossley, Pamela Nagley Stevenson, Pip Corbett, Kaita, Vanessa Bady, Cindy Moore, Bobbi, Pixie Johnson, Teresa O’Neary, Greg Stone, Christian Smith and many more. Silver Art Auction too. Performances by Bo-Ceain and Carol Street, Sally 1 and Rob-Had Figral, Dancers. Catalyst, and 2 Synthesis. Admission $10 each at door. Dances $15 each or $24 per couple - reservations recommended. Call (250) 359-7737 or email whoolschool@outlook.com for reservations or more details. All proceeds to Whole School Build a Legacy Campaign.


The SLOCAN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be hosting their AGM at 7 pm on March 13, 2014 at Slocan Street (Council Chambers), Slocan BC.

SLOCAN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - February 27, Hidden Garden Gallery, 7:00 pm. Guest speaker from the B.C. Business Advocates Program. Come hear about this program that offers free business advice to businesses!

NEW DENVER SEEDY SATURDAY and Garden Wheel open discussions presentations on March 1. Discussion from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., then a potluck at 1 p.m. Hidden Garden Gallery. Do your part to support local seed production. Sponsored by the Healthy Community Society.

KASLO COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB AGM - Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 10 a.m. in the Langham's LKL Room. Come be informed and share in our community garden.

Golf season is coming! Valley View offers super savings on early bird memberships now until February 16. Prices, contests, spectacular photo gallery: www.golfvalleyview.com

Looking for dock section? (Approx. 20’ x 10’ aluminum with composite decking that breaks loose from dock at Exeter Creek and may be drifting on Slocan Lake. Please contact: 250-635-4742 or cyguy94@gmail.com.

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Coming events - Hidden Garden Gallery AGM Thursday, January 30, 1 pm at the PBS 803 Killens St., New Denver. What’s your vision for the gallery? Let us know! This is your AGM. This is YOUR gallery.

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Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 27, Hidden Garden Gallery, 7:00 pm. Guest speaker from the B.C. Business Advocates Program. Come hear about this program that offers free business advice to businesses!

New Denver Seedy Saturday and Garden Wheel open discussions presentations on March 1. Discussion from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., then a potluck at 1 p.m. Hidden Garden Gallery. Do your part to support local seed production. Sponsored by the Healthy Community Society.

Kaslo Community Garden Club AGM - Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 10 a.m. in the Langham's LKL Room. Come be informed and share in our community garden.
Selkirk College hairdressing students up to the challenge

Selkirk College hairdressing program students are engaged in a friendly competition and you’re invited to get involved in a way that will leave you with a fresh look.

At the start of January, cosmetology students at Selkirk College’s Cranbrook Campus opened for business. Students in the hairdressing and esthetics programs started booking appointments for a wide variety of services at great prices.

To add a little extra incentive and provide an important learning opportunity, the 15 students in the hairdressing salons have broken into teams to see who can attract the most clients between now and the end of the semester in March.

“The project is to show how it is to run your own salon,” says Nakita Brown, a student who arrived to the program from Ottawa. “An important part is to work in a team and to communicate. It will prepare me coming out of college and help us know how to treat customers and fellow employees.”

Students start the first four months of the program hitting the books first and then learning the practical techniques. Under the guidance of instructor Bonnie Pidman, the class is now taking customers.

“We have incredible prices, but it’s much more than that,” says Darsa Wegner, a Nakita native who decided to change career paths after ten years as a social services worker: “We’re being well trained, we are a good team, and that’s what most staff need.”

They have to set the bar really high.

The hairdressing students provide styling, cuts, hair treatments, perm and colour services. Across the hallway in the esthetics salon the students offer facials, footcare, waxing, artificial nails and brows.

The esthetics salon is open for appointments Monday to Wednesday and the hairdressing salon is open for appointments Monday to Thursday.

“We’re really appreciative of the community for supporting the salon,” says student Megan Maglio, who graduated from Nelson’s L.V. Rogers High School four years ago. “The more people we get up here, the better we are going to be when we graduate and get out there in the communities. Hair is a big thing to people, it’s like your security blanket. That’s a lot of trust to put in our hands and it helps build confidence for us. We’re up to the task.”


Next Valley Voice Deadline: Feb. 21, 2014

Never miss another Valley Voice deadline!
Sign up for our e-mail reminder list valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Eric Hyattfield - Project Planning/Installation
Nelson, BC - Ph: 250 354-3274 - Fax: 250 354-3041
E-mail crescent@icelink.net

Students in the Selkirk College Hairdressing Program are currently engaged in a friendly competition and eager to get to work.
Grant writing workshops applications now accepted

COMMUNITY

Submitted
To assist those interested in applying for Arts, Culture and Heritage Program grants from Columbia Basin Trust, Krista Patterson and Natasha Smith of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) will present workshops on how to apply and what to expect from the application process. The Trust’s Arts, Culture and Heritage grants are managed and administered by CKCA.

Individuals of all artistic disciplines are invited to attend the workshops, as are arts, culture and heritage organizations residing in the Columbia Basin. The Trust proudly supports initiatives and projects that highlight Basin culture and heritage, and for 2014/15 CKCA is receiving $708,000. Workshops are free but registration is required. Locations, dates and times are as follows:

Winlaw: Thursday, February 20, 7:90 pm at The Threads Guild, 7112 Perry’s Back Rd. (junction with Avenue. Hosted by the Castlegar & District Arts Council. Online workshops are on Friday, February 21, 2-4 pm and Monday, February 24, 6-8 pm. To register contact e-mail wksassistant@telus.net or call 1-501-954-5505; toll-free 1-877-505-7355. More information, funding policies and program application forms are available online at www.cbt.ca. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, visit www.cbt.ca or call 1-800-550-8994.

Kootenay Gallery features ceramic art exhibits by Les Manning and Two Winlaw artists submitted

The Kootenay Gallery in Castlegar opens its new season with an exhibit of work titled ‘Common/Opposites’ by the internationally renowned ceramic artist Les Manning, with the work of two Winlaw ceramic artists, Robin Doughty and Pamela Nagley Stevenson, in the adjoining gallery space.

The pieces found in Common/Opposites are a bold departure from Manning’s past collections which, while sculptural in spirit, were typically traditional, utilitarian forms: pots, plates and bowls. The 19 sculptures that make up this exhibition have been described as playful, using contrasting forms, textures and colours to reflect Manning’s personal experiences and knowledge of Canada’s landscape. He uses the qualities of ceramics to ‘describe’ this landscape combining the rough, dark stoneware with smooth porcelain using intense glazes of pink, yellow, blue, green and orange. There is an unexpected, yet delightful surprise.

The exhibition was curated by Joanne Maiton and is touring organized by the Exchange Route Art Gallery, Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The two Winlaw ceramic artists’ exhibition, “Trial by Fire,” reflects the specific techniques used by these artists, ancient in its origins yet complex in its processes. While the method is time consuming and labour intensive, those who choose it do so for the effects they can achieve. Years of commitment and dedication to perfecting their craft are reflected in the rich colours and textures found in their work. This exhibition is curated by sustainability.

The opening reception to be held on Friday, February 14 at 7 pm will include a dialogue between the artists and an explanation of the creation of the work, its technique and how it informs their work. For more information visit www.kootenaygallery.com.

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CMH wins Responsible Travel award

Submitted

Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) Heli-Skiing and Summer Adventures, the leading heli-ski operator on the west and pioneer of heli-biking and mountaineering in western Canada, was recently honoured with the prestigious Responsible Travel & Tourism Forum Leadership Award at a special ceremony in Toronto. Dave Butler, CMH Director of Sustainability (also a director on the Kootenay Rockies Tourism Board) accepted the award in Toronto.

The company was recognized for its nearly half-century of dedication to sustainable practices, acting as “stewards of the mountains on which it operates and the communities whose staff it lives, work and play.” From its head office in Revelstoke, CMH operates exceptional mountain experiences based on 11 lodges, one of them located in Nakusp.

The accolade acknowledges CMH’s ongoing initiatives — including a project to ensure that used skis are kept out of landfills, a commitment to sustainable construction and limiting energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions — as well as its community outreach, including support of local food banks and adventure-based therapy programs that bring local teenagers back to nature.

The award, sponsored by Air Canada, is bestowed annually on a Canadian travel and tourism organization (including tour operators, hotels, resorts and tourism boards) that has “demonstrated commitment to socially, economically and environmentally sustainable tourism in our region.”

“We’re especially pleased to receive the award as it is recognition for the hard work of our entire CMH staff to make a difference in the world, while providing amazing experiences to our guests,” says Dave Butler.

And in a great encouragement to continue our ongoing journey toward sustainability.”

Pianist Maxim Bernard in Kaslo

Submitted

The Kaslo Concert Society is pleased to present pianist Maxim Bernard in recital at St. Andrew’s United Church on Friday, February 14 at 7:30 pm.

Bernard’s recital will feature works composed during the years of the First World War by the so-called “Impressionist composers”, Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and others.

Born in Quebec City, he began piano studies at the relatively late age of 13, but his precocious talent and work ethic promptly led to international recognition. Qualities that have been praised