Bankers’ hours’ for Kaslo’s emergency department as of April 1

by Jan McMurray

The latest attempt at keeping Kaslo’s emergency room open 24/7 has failed, resulting in a now very familiar IHM announcement. ER hours will be Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, except statutory holidays, as of April 1.

The group of physicians working on a proposal to provide 24/7 emergency coverage, looking at a fee-for-service rather than a contract model, was unable to find enough physicians to make the proposal viable.

Interior Health has also confirmed that the one and only contract doctor currently working in Kaslo will be leaving the community effective July 1.

The Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee is focused on physician recruitment, and has formed a subcommittee to work on that. “The first thing we have to do is get a full complement of doctors here,” said Andy Shudock, committee chair.

The committee issued an update on February 21, the day after the IHM announcement on reduced ER hours. “The committee acknowledges that all available avenues of exploration for sustaining 24/7 healthcare for Kaslo, at this time, have been exhausted by all parties. Kaslo and Area D residents now need to focus on attracting and retaining medical professionals, in partnership with the Interior Health Authority, in order to rebuild a sustainable model for the community,” it stated.

The committee announces in the release that it is considering hosting a public meeting in the next six weeks, and will invite Interior Health.

The press release outlines its “interim objectives.” These include conducting interviews with physicians who have left Kaslo or turned down the opportunity to work in the community; exploring a Sunday-Thursday or Tuesday-Saturday schedule with physicians interested in working in Kaslo so that one weekend day is covered; being fully engaged in the recruitment of all health care professionals at Kaslo’s health centre; being part of the discussions about beefing up emergency transportation services; and giving high priority to improving paramedical services and paramedics.

Interior Health reported on February 24 that they have received the committee’s press release, but still need to discuss it before responding. “We are committed to ongoing discussions, particularly around finding physicians, but we need to talk with the committee about how that will work,” stated IH’s communications officer, Karl Harst.

Harst said the reason that the Kaslo health centre site manager is leaving is not true, but IH is currently recruiting for a new patient care coordinator and casual nurses in Kaslo. “At this time, we are working with the unions in terms of a staffing rotation for the April 1 changes and want to ensure we minimize disruption to our current staff,” said Harst. Citizens who wish to support the community’s efforts to recruit and retain medical professionals can contribute to the Kaslo and Area Working Group account at the Kootenay Savings Credit Union (account number 148006).

Kaslo focuses on physician recruitment

submitted by Maggie Winter

With the resignation of the only remaining contracted physician at the Victorian Community Health Centre, the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee has decided the time has come to become more formally and enthusiastically involved in physician recruitment efforts.

A physician recruitment subcommittee has been appointed and is hitting the ground running. Twelve interested community members recently attended a physician recruitment seminar featuring Maureen States, a professional physician recruiter from Red Deer.

States emphasized the importance of working closely and collaboratively with both Health Match BC (a Ministry of Health recruitment program) and Interior Health. This will enable Kaslo to immediately contact any physicians who express an interest in Kaslo. Prompt contact will ensure the physician is quickly made aware of all the attractive qualities of the village. As she pointed out, no one knows Kaslo better than those who live here, so prompt and continuous contact with prospective physicians is an important first step in the recruitment process.

States went on to discuss the best use of resources, how the recruitment process works and shared pointers on what she described as the “art of recruiting.” All who attended left feeling invigorated and appreciative of Maureen’s time and expertise.

Plans are now in the works for putting together a recruitment package and developing those important relationships with Health Match BC and Interior Health.

Kaslo has many amenities to offer prospective physicians, including a vibrant business core, an active arts and culture community and a broad range of all-season recreational opportunities. Rather than be discouraged by the current situation, the recruitment team views this as an opportunity to identify and attract physicians who are the right fit for Kaslo, who want to establish a home here and become integrated into the fabric of the community.

Demolition progresses smoothly at Slocan mill site

by Jan McMurray

Demolition at the Slocan mill site is proceeding on schedule or ahead of schedule, reports General Manager Ralph Tomlin.

The stack, part of the emissions control system for the burner, came down on February 22 about noon. This piece of equipment was installed in 2001 or thereafter to eliminate the fly ash problem.

The burner, demolished on January 22, was an olivine-silo type burner, not a bee hive burner as reported in the January 29 Valley Voice. The bee hive burner was replaced with the silo burner in about 1985. Tomlin explained that although the silo burner was much cleaner and more efficient than the bee hive, it still emitted fly ash, so they added the stack to the system.

Tomlin reported that most of the equipment that was sold has been removed from the site, so demolition is moving forward fairly quickly now. The site will be levelled and cleared by October 1 according to the contract with the salvage company, but Tomlin thinks it may be sooner.

There are still no plans for the Slocan and Rosebery properties. “We’ve got a long ways to go before anything happens with the property,” said Tomlin.

After demolition, the company will have environmental assessments done, such as soil and water testing. Tomlin says there is no legal requirement for these assessments, but “it’s just something we have to do to know what our options are moving forward.”

Tomlin says they expect “a small bill of health” as a result of the environmental assessments. “We don’t expect to run into any contamination of any sort. We never used any harmful chemicals. There is no contamination on that site that we are aware of.”

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Kaslo to host BC Rural Net conference, June 13 to 15, 2014

by Art Joyce

The British Columbia Rural Network (BCRN) will host its eighth BC Rural Communities Summit in Kaslo from June 13 to 15 this year. The Kaslo Institute, a non-profit "think and do tank," will serve as the host for this biennial event that brings together British Columbians grappling with the many challenges currently facing rural communities. This year’s summit theme is “Creativity, Communications, and Collaboration,” The Kaslo Institute is the brainchild of artist Randy Morse in consultation with area residents.

Members of the Kaslo Chamber of Commerce and Village council approached Morse to ask if the Kaslo Institute would consider putting in a bid to host the conference. Though he hadn’t heard of it before, he soon learned that the most recent host community had been Grand Forks, through Community Futures. The event attracted 125 delegates to that community. In order to build support for the application to host the conference, Morse asked 18 organizations to write letters of support. All but one did so, including Selkirk College, the Village of Kaslo, Mayor Dooley of Nelson, Mayor Bunka of New Denver, and the mayors of Silverton, Salmo, and even the District of Stewart, a remote community north of Prince Rupert. The application won unanimous approval from BCRN.

"Based on the Grand Forks experience we can expect about 150 people to attend," says Morse. "Coincidentally we have exactly that number of beds available for accommodation between Anworth and Shotty Bench. We’re going to have a really exciting, interesting and I think even a controversial agenda." Included on that agenda will be Project Comback, the Kaslo-based project designed to find ways of attracting and retaining youth in the community. “What combination of things do we need to put together to make that happen?” asks Morse. One obvious answer is high-speed broadband. A growing number of countries, including Norway, Denmark, France, Germany, Australia and even China have made universal access to high-speed broadband a fundamental human right, embodied in their constitutions. Australia has spent over $40 billion to ensure its residents have access to 1,000 megabit-per-second connectivity. That country has a similar situation to Canada, with a marked disparity between the small communities scattered across an immense landscape. Yet the recent Canadian federal budget allocates a mere $1 billion for broadband, mostly in northern communities. The CEO of Netflix in a recent speech referred to Canada as a “dark and dangerous place” for connectivity. Morse is relieved to see the Village’s insight in pursuing the Columbia Basin Trust’s broadband initiative, which would at least offer 100 megabit-per-second broadband in the downtown core. He believes the improvement to digital infrastructure could also lessen the burdens on physical infrastructure, which is in decay across the country.

"We’re talking to some extremely cool people working in digital animation, an Academy Award winning animator and people who are working in both Canada and the US. We might even spin off a small digital animation festival from the conference.

Morse sees the BCRN summit as a step toward bigger things for Kaslo. The ultimate goal is to make the region a centre for study of new and emerging technologies. "In the interest of promoting creative and sustainable and high quality of life." That could mean something as simple as developing innovative farming techniques or improving local food security. This would then be expected by the world to other rural communities hungry for new ideas. Development of intellectual property for the global market could embrace all sectors of the local economy, not just digital technology. Morse says the Kaslo Institute would be a regional outlet, and intends to ensure that the benefits don’t only flow to Kaslo but ripple out to Area D and beyond.

“We’re going to be talking with our friends in New Denver, Silverton, Nelson to see how we can connect them up to the conference as well. So, the Institute will be Kaslo-centred but very much Kootenay based. There are thousands of small communities around the globe facing exactly the same issues we face.”

Morse acknowledges that development is a double-edged sword and the community must not lose the very qualities that created the quality of life in the first place. Robert Sandford has written in The Walrus, "The two small rural communities like Canning, Alberta fell into the development-at-all-costs trap.

"We have to constantly ask ourselves, is this appropriate for the majority of those who live here, is it appropriate for our environment, our culture, our lifestyle? I have good friends with the Kaslo Institute is to lead the way in building consensus and then using that as a template, when it’s appropriate, to help other communities do the same thing assessing proposed economic and institutional projects. When asked “is research” might it be to provide activities such as drilling, digging and road building, the ministry spokesperson replied, “BC Parks research will guide the determination of appropriate research activities. The policy will be made public in the coming weeks.”

The Kaslo Institute has given the environment minister clear authority to permit commercial film-making in parks, in efforts to support the province’s film industry.

The Valhalla Wilderness Society is urging people to write letters to Premier Clark, Environment Minister and Parks Minister on their views on the proposed Park Amendment Act (Bill 4), and to sign the online petition titled ’Protect our Parks,’ authored by West Coast Environmental Law.

Regional branding project - working together is key

by Jan McMurray

A West Kootenay Tourism Alliance (WKTA) meeting was held February 16 at the Silverton Memorial Hall to continue the conversation around the regional branding process.

The WKTA area includes the Arrow Lakes, Slocan and North Kootenay Lakes Valleys.

Tom Hudock of ReInnzennce, the branding company behind the logo that was identified through their research that the WKTA region would attract the ‘explorer’ type of tourist. ‘Explorers find travel becomes a hobby for a destination. It’s less about the itinerary and more about the journey,’ he said.

Many of these travellers are looking for a relaxed, outdoor experience, wildlife trails, individual outdoor activities, heritage sites and festivals. The objective of the WKTA will be to entice these explorers to stay two or three days in each of the three areas that make up the region. Examples of similar brands that promote a journey type of experience are the Powder Highway, the Gold Rush Trail, North Valley and the Alaska Highway.

The meeting’s emphasis, however, was more on the importance of the three areas working together as a region than on the brand.

“It’s less about getting a name, brand, logo and website – the huge things in 10 years,” he said. "It’s about how you can work together," said Hudock. "You can grow stronger together than you can individually.”

Many of the participants came up with several regional ideas, including collaborative initiatives among similar types of businesses, packages focused on the three lakes, experiential tourism, an art and garden tour, and a tour of historic buildings. Hudock mentioned Sufferfest as a great example of a region-wide event. The group also talked about different ways they could share information about businesses and events throughout the region.

The WKTA also supported for the three community champions of the branding process – Peter Wallerling of Nelson, Jan McMurray of New Denver and John Addison of Kaslo. He said the success of the brand will take the involvement and support of everyone – businesses, the public, the media and community organizations.

A funding model to support the work of WKTA was also identified as an important issue going forward. By working with the Ministry of Tourism, the West Kootenay region will produce a brand statement as a strategic guide to follow for future planning, a completely designed rack card for Visitor Centres, and website and wayfinding signage designs.
Government and local industry show interest in Nakusp biomass project

by Art Joyce

Wood waste is becoming a problem in Nakusp but with the right support a solution is at hand—the biomass district heating plant envisioned by Tom Zelenkiz with business owners Don Wiebe and Ken Wanstall. Project proponents met recently via teleconference at the Ministry of Forests office with industry and government representatives to discuss an initial action plan and letters of support.

For both Box Lake Lumber and Pacific Inland Pole Company (PIPCO) the situation is becoming critical. The amount of wood waste has exceeded storage capacity and Wiebe at Box Lake Lumber is paying about $120,000 per year to have it hauled to Kelgara. Shipping the material to other markets isn’t a viable option as there is currently a surplus of wood waste building up across the province. The co-generation plant at Kelgara was only built to suit the pulp mill’s requirements, making it an unlikely recipient of wood waste from Nakusp. Shipping costs alone could not make this a viable alternative.

In part the wood waste surplus is a result of the government’s Air Action Plan. With an initial budget of $28.5 million over three years, the plan will phase out all burning of wood waste as was formerly done in beehive burners. The plan includes turning more wood waste into energy and working with the bioenergy industry to develop new fine particulate standards for industrial boilers in an overall strategy to reduce air pollution. But for Box Lake and PIPCPO and other companies that use wood, immediate action is required to improve the situation.

“Now industries are looking for alternatives to rid their wood waste and are all having extreme difficulties to find a source for this waste product,” says Tom Zelenkiz of Potton Services.

A district heating plant in Nakusp would meet all of the objectives of the Air Action Plan, while providing low-cost heating to municipal offices and businesses connected to its grid. Ministry representatives were favourable and offered to write letters of support, in particular to the Columbia Basin Trust as a potential funding partner. FNLRO will examine the possibility of selling the old Nakusp forestry warehouse to the biomass project. One option discussed was whether wood waste could be used with some amending as soil nutrients on decommissioned forestry roads. However there would be milling costs associated with this option. The idea of creating a wood pellet plant was rejected, as most of the mills in the area produce mostly cedar waste, which is not suitable for pellets. Project proponents will continue to investigate funding from the BC Clean Energy Fund and provincial carbon taxes.

“The biggest issue they saw was transportation; anything over a 50 kilometer radius starts to cost you a lot of money,” says Zelenkiz. “We’re looking at some kind of transportation subsidy.”

Among those present for the meetings, which included a site visit to PIPCPO and Box Lake Lumber, were NATCOR President Kathy Smith, Hugh Watt of True North Forestry, Mayor Karen Hamlin, Don Wiebe, Ken and Darcy Wanstall, and Tom Zelenkiz. Government representatives included Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FNLRO) Kootenay District Manager Gwalt Wigrill, Jon Guzzo, Resource Manager for the Selkirk Resource District, Irene Wingfield of the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, FNLRO Castlegar Resource Manager Tara DeCourcy, Revelstoke District Resource Manager Kurt Hurtmeier and FNLRO Manager of Climate Change and Forest Carbon James Sandfield. The Air Action Plan, initiated in 2008, included pilot projects for the use of sophisticated smoke and venting tools, alternative burning practices, and the implementation of emerging technologies to reduce harmful emissions. Cost sharing was seen as a way to ensure that government and industry share in air quality stewardship. The plan also fits with the BC Government’s goal of electricity self-sufficiency by 2016. The BC Air Action Plan website does not state whether its initial budget has been used up yet.

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Extension of Nakusp boat launch delayed once again

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp has been disappointed once again with the boat launch project. The work to fix the issues with the floating walkway is going ahead as promised, but not the ramp extension work.

BC Hydro had planned to start construction in mid-February, using a cofferdam, to extend the boat ramp out about 30 metres to where it would be usable year round most years. These plans were shelved when drier conditions necessitated the filling of the Arrow Reservoir.

“We can’t do a cofferdam and we can’t do it safely even if we were allowed to. The water has to rise,” said BC Hydro spokesperson Sabinia Locicero at an open house at the Emergency Services Building February 20. “In January, we met with Columbia Power Corporation and the forecast said we had time to go in and do the work and use the cofferdam. Then last week, we got the forecast for drier conditions and we had to start filling the Arrow.”

Instead, the construction company, Landscape Development, has placed hay and gravel to enable another 15 metres of access as a temporary measure. Locicero said they plan to continue construction during low water in spring.

At the open house, Frank Seewo of the Nakusp Rod & Gun Club distributed a letter from the club to the provincial Water Controller. The letter expresses the club’s deep disappointment at having no water access to the lake for two years, all the way from Castlegar to Revelstoke. “We can see that [both] BC Hydro or the BC Government has any control or influence over when or what future water levels will be. Let’s stop trying to operate with that variable. The only real approach is to be proactive, let the Letters, stating that the pre-colonial cement pads be lowered into place with a crane on a barge. This equipment will be in Nakusp this month for work on the floating walkway. However, Locicero explained that this option isn’t suitable to the location due to the soft soils and the height of the ramp. The soft soil would make it challenging to ensure the concrete panels were placed correctly and would not cause the panels to jut at risk.

Tim Baird, BC Hydro’s senior aquatic scientist, was at the open house and explained that under the obligations of the Columbia River Treaty and its side agreements, reservoir levels are adjusted for power or flood control only, and can also be adjusted on a bin for fish, but not for boat ramps. “It’s all built into calculations,” he said. “The US doesn’t tell us what to do. We don’t respond to them. We work with calculations.”

The remaining work on the floating walkway is expected to be complete within a couple of weeks. More floods will be added momentarily for stability; two anchor blocks will be moved to anchor the cable system with the cable system will be addressed by replacing both cables and re-locating one of them.

Locicero reported that this year during the spring low water period, BC Hydro plans to continue construction at the Nakusp and Edgewood boat ramps, and install the barrier at McDonald Creek Park. She said there are concerns about the southern breakwater and placement of the concrete blocks at the newly improved boat launch location and are investigating whether there are any feasible options to address these concerns.
Winter driving
Although I live in Nakusp, I work in Golden and Invermere and drive there, through Revelstoke, every week. Winter driving over Roger’s Pass has its own challenges, but it is the road between Nakusp and Revelstoke that causes me the most anxiety.

I want to thank the snowplow drivers and highway workers responsible for the road from Nakusp to the Galena Bay ferry. Especially the week before last! From Revelstoke to the ferry, driving the road was a dangerous nightmare... with a car or two off the road. Once I got off the ferry on my way home to Nakusp, the road was clean and clear for the first time in about two weeks, I was able to drive the speed limit without fear.

I am sure your job is tough and sometimes scary. I wouldn’t want to do it! I want to know how much it is noticed and appreciated.

Deborah Austin
Nakusp

Let us be the change we need
In response to the lack of environmental consideration and consultation by our government and big business in the pursuit of money, I quote and share a Ghandi Prophesy: “Only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, only then will you (and they) find that money cannot be eaten” and a barren, toxic, wasteland has been left behind for our future children and generations to come. Please, before these environmental developments progress until there is nothing left of the earth, and as a society of intelligence, technology and the potential for compassion, let us “be the change we need to see,” and not let this prophecy come true. I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy future.

Matthew Thomas
Trail

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

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

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

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

The Valley Voice
Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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LETTERS

February 26, 2014 The Valley Voice

What’s up with this ‘Sinixt Nation’?

Some things are enough and people will start to believe it. In the last issue of The Valley Voice Demasi Zenelli wrote an update for the Sinixt activities of late. In his latest letter he refers to the ‘Sinixt Nation’ timeline, also using the expression ‘A Sinixt’ three times in the first paragraph.

The reality is that nations are built, not simply proclaimed, and this exercise seems to be rash and unrealistic. If the last registered Sinixt person died in 1956, and neither federal nor provincial courts recognize the name, and if other bands don’t respect you, then perhaps the extinct status is indeed valid.

If this is the case, then it’s easy for any group of chronic malcontents and hobby protesters to snatch up this brand name and carry it to any number of causes. Would a ‘Sinixt Nation’ include only two-blooded native persons, or could it include anyone who shares that spirit or wants to harness that brand for added profile?

British Columbia has many rich and strong aboriginal communities and bands. In Westbank, Cranbrook and Osoyoos, there are spectacular examples of aboriginal groups who have succeeded in building up institutional and cultural undertakings. They are some of the many bands who have done well in their regions.

The designation of a nation seems divisive and isolational. It can’t be useful to either party involved and can even lead to hostilism. Look how Jorg Quebe has struggled over its national status.

Eventual acceptance and settlement of affairs can probably be found by thinking more like a modern Canadian and putting a limit on the Sinixt List.

Peter Reardon
New Denver

Open letter to Premier Clarke re: ALR

Congratulations on your successful election results. I am hoping that you will use the power you have been given by the electorate in a more balanced way than your predecessor. It does appear that you are more inclined to listen to the people you now govern than was he.

I am a farmer who has been farming my small holding for nearly 40 years. During that time I have doubled the amount of land that I farm and amalgamated the two properties as one, because I believe that they should be saved for farming, and not sold off for other purposes. While I do not make all my living on my small farm, I have provided a lot of good local people and they are all very happy to get what I provide.

I am concerned about your government’s decision to fast track rezoning for further housing plus development for the sale of the orchard to other development at a high rate. I urge you to do the right thing for all of the people. My grandchildren and your grandchildren are relying on you. We all need to exist, and a rural landscape dotted with small farms is far more appealing to our minds. This can be captured by subdivision and condo developments, or worse still, industrial activity. Beautiful BC is still beautiful so far, in spite of us. You have a chance to do it that way.

I am particularly concerned about the loss of farmland that will be the result of the new tax that is planned on the Peace River. Suffice it to say that ‘Site C’ is not a site that I would like to see. Good luck in your deliberations.

Red Raffel
Glade

Open letter to BC Hydro

I am sure by now that most users of BC Hydro think they are being overcharged for KWh used in their homes. Well, if not you, I sure do. All the talk about everyone being smart has not helped this homeworld.

Starting in November 2011 we had spray foam insulation applied to all the walls in our crawl space and another layer of insulation put into the attic. We replaced our two large sliding glass doors with energy-efficient doors and windows. Then we replaced all the lights with the new energy-efficient ones and we turn off the lights in the rooms when we leave.

We also wash in cold water and hang things outside to dry. In the winter we have to use the dryer, one lead a week. Not that bad on electricity.

We noted our very old energy gobbling freezer and fridge with a nice new Energy Star high efficiency combination fridge/freezer. Out with two, in with one energy saver.

Now it is 2013 -- we installed heat pumps in our home and shop, much more energy efficient than nine baseboard electric heaters and two wall electric heaters. The heat pump will still put out hot air down to -20. When the weather goes cold out we have the wood stove ready to go and there are no issues with the energy bill.

In December we had a LiveSmart BC certified energy advisor come to our home. He gave us two thumbs up.

BC Hydro came to our home and installed a digital meter in June 2012. They are not collecting any readings from our meter that I am aware of – I have never seen any BC Hydro workers come to take readings. There are no complaints in the news, so if they do not learn to live with us, I believe they are not coming here. Our meter has read ERR00 for the last six to seven months.

After all the money we spent to improve our energy consumption, the gas estimate bills sent out by BC Hydro are higher than before we did any improvements. How do they come up with a bill of $1 and step 2?

I thank you for letting me rant.

From one unhappy BC Hydro customer.

John Fredrick
New Denver

Media domination from the oil and pipeline industry

While searching for children’s woodworking projects online, my screen was suddenly intruded by a colorful, large pop-up ‘news release’ for a project called ‘Pipeline Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline consortium is working to meet the 209 conditions before it constructs its pipeline. I’m looking for children’s wood projects…’

Following the ad I read: “Certain information provided in this news release may constitute forward-looking information. Although these statements are believed to be based on information and assumptions which are current, reasonable and complete, they are necessarily subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties, which may therefore vary from those expected.”

I am to assume then that if what is said in the news release does not match actual outcomes, that’s just the way it goes?

Exploring that thread a bit further, I read with great concern the proposed joint plan for Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)-directed and Postmedia-written articles to appear in Postmedia (owner of many major newspapers) media streams, heavily disguised as independent journalistic articles. It is clear that readers would be easily fooled into believing that these articles were directed by journalists, instead of public relations experts paid in full by the oil and gas industry.

It is also clear that disguising corporate public relations as journalism exactly the intention of the partnership. This is demonstrated, for example, by the statement: “The National Post will [work with CAPP] to leverage all its news and editorial resources creatively to continue this conversation [to amplify our energy mandates] and by the article template suggestions provided by Postmedia to CAPP in the Joint Prezi presentation.”

The presentation came to light on Twitter on the same day that Postmedia downsized its parliamentary bureau in Ottawa and laid off prominent environmental journalist Mike De Souza, as well as political reporters Andrea Hill and Troy Cohen.

I am concerned that Postmedia and CAPP jointly ensure to Canadians that CAPP is not using Postmedia to publish CAPP-produced corporate messaging disguised as independent journalism.

It is very concerning to me that millions of dollars are being spent for the current, oil industry-based, media blitz strategy and at the same time there seems to be a silencing of environmental and/or political journalists. The very expensive media push to develop oil and gas success stories and simultaneously convince voters, by constant ‘guaranteed improvements’ that there are no real adverse effects and everything will be OK in full operation, there is very little REAL consideration, in my opinion, for the invaluable resources of water and air in the oil industry plan.

In conclusion, I worry about the quality of the work we are handing our children while I’m essentially standing by and allowing this finite environmental degradation to occur. It’s time to raise awareness and, with united action, hopefully affect the next elections so future generations will at least have a more hospitable world.

John Fyke
New Denver
Nakusp students gain valuable experience at International Boat Show

by Jan McMurray
Nakusp Secondary students made a big splash at the International Boat Show at Vancouver’s BC Place January 22-24. Nine students aged 13-17 from Donnie Bowell’s Outdoor Education class were at the show selling the trilfishers that they designed and manufactured at school. The trilfishers are fishing lures that work well for salmon and other predatory salt or freshwater fish.

“People have never seen high school kids running a booth at a trade show before, so we had a lot of interest in the trilfishers and the outdoor education program,” said Bowell. They took the kids two months to make 300 fishlures for the show and they sold almost 200, bringing in $7,000. Last year, the class went to the smaller Abbotsford outdoor trade show with the trilfishers and sold $2,500 worth. These funds are used to purchase the materials to continue producing the fishlures and to cover some of the expenses involved in attending the trade show.

Reene Coochman and Abby Bowell, two of the students, said the boat show was a valuable learning experience. “We had to learn to talk to the public — initiate conversations, persuade people and sound confident,” said Reene. “A lot of people said we rustled during the show.”

Abby Bowell said she and a lot of the other students in the class have never had a job before, so “going to the trade show and talking to the public was a really good experience.”

The students were also interviewed by Novus TV, and the story aired on CBC and a couple of other TV stations. To prepare for the show, the students went through “sales training” with help from students who went to the Abbotsford show last year. They also studied up on Nakusp and area, as they took the Village booth with them as well to promote the community.

“They are learning by experience rather than in the classroom,” said Bowell. “The project has been a huge learning experience for the kids ever since it got started.”

About three years ago, Bowell bought a fishing fishlure on the coast, and brought it to his class to see if the students could improve on its design. “It’s been a learning process since day one, figuring out how to design them, produce them, and market them,” he said. “That’s the beauty of it — the learning just goes on and on.”

To the thrill of the trilfishers, the presentations have produced a video, brochure and website. They’ve made presentations to the school board and Village council, and they may be invited to other school districts to speak about the project. They’ve entered Junior Dragon’s Den, a West Kootenay initiative of Community Futures and CFIB to encourage young entrepreneurship.

Little did Bowell know at the beginning that the project would get so big. “A dozen stores approached us at the show and asked if they could carry them in their store. We can’t manufacture enough of them. We need someone to help us at this stage,” Bowell said. He said they may have found the help they need by connecting with a company called Rapala at the show. Bowell said the students expressed appreciation for the support from local sponsors — RDCK, CB1, Nakusp and Area Development Board. He has set up Beta 2 Rotors and Lures, House Hardware, and the Chamber of Commerce. “We couldn’t afford to go to a show like this without their support,” Bowell said.

Two Nakusp Secondary students selling their trilfishers at the International Boat Show in Vancouver at the end of January.

Skaters bring Broadway to Nakusp arena

submitted

On Saturday, March 1, “Broadway” becomes more than the name of Nakusp’s main street when the Nakusp Figure Skating Club presents its Broadway-themed carnival. The action starts at 3 pm at the Nakusp arena.

The entire community is invited to the event, which showcases the club’s members, from young children just learning to skate, to StarSkaters who compete around the region.

“It promises to be a great event,” said Kelly Waterfield, club president. “Our skaters are excited to be displaying what they’ve learned, to music from Broadway hits like the Lion King, Riverdance and Hair.

“We thank the community in advance for coming out to support them, plus our sponsors like Bon Lake Lumber, Columbia Basin Trust and InterRent.

The club strives to keep fees low in order to make the activity accessible to as many skaters as possible, and the carnival is an important fundraiser. Tickets are available at the door and are $5 for adults. $3 for seniors, and free for children five and under. There will be a raffle, baking table and 50/50 draw, plus flowers will be available for sale to congratulate the skaters.

This year the club boasts nearly 30 skaters from in and around Nakusp. Trained by coach Sabrina Hamson, they range in age and ability, from those just learning to those competing and testing in StarSkate. Registration for 2014/15 will open in September.

Learn more about the club and its programs at www.nakuspfigureskatingclub.com.

The Valley Voice February 26, 2014

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council Presents:
LIZZY HOYT

Fiddler, songer and dancer at the Bonnington Arts Centre Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 pm Doors open at 7:00 pm Tickets at Bon Marche/Dollar Store Adults: $20; Seniors: $15 (60 & over) Students: $10 (17 & under) Hospitality Host: Mango’s SunnyRidge Lodging: The Arrow Lakes Arts Council Presents: Celtic fiddler/singer Lizzy Hoyt at the Bonnington

submitted

On Saturday, March 1, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the last of this season’s concert series at the Bonnington Arts Centre at 7:30 pm. Lizzy Hoyt is an award-winning Canadian vocalist and songwriter who also happens to rank among the top Celtic instrumentalists in the country. With the voice of an angel, Lizzy delivers music and stories with soaring melodies rooted in Celtic and folk traditions. Her music has been recognized on both the national and international level. She has won several awards, including the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 for her outstanding contribution to commemorating Canadian veterans and history through music. So come and join us Saturday as we celebrate an evening of fun with this Canadian fiddler, songer and step dancer. This concert starts at 7:30 pm at the Bonnington. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Tickets are available at the Bon Marche/Dollar Store until the afternoon of the concert, then at the door.
Kaslo’s Project Comeback seeks ways of retaining youth

by Art Joyce

A society that fails to create a future for its young people puts its own future in jeopardy.

With the increasing urbanization of our economy, small rural communities are seeing an exodus of their youth to the cities or the oilfield to find work. Kaslo’s Project Comeback, sponsored by the BC Rural North, is looking for strategies to retain the community’s youth and even attract others here.

Funding has been used to do an initial youth needs assessment workshop to discover the best ideas for an action strategy. This part of the project has been completed and this week, Project Comeback coordinator Dustin East is meeting with interested parties to form an advisory committee to examine ways of implementing the strategy. “I’m also a young adult trying to make a living in Kaosto,” said East.

“Your youth are very confused about how to stay here or even if it’s possible to live here, and feeling they have to leave. And most of them don’t want to leave because they can’t because there’s no jobs,” he says.

The survey was advertised through word of mouth, posters, flyers, print media, and the internet. A total of 60 online questionnaires were completed by high school students, young adults and other community members living in and away from Kaslo. Young adults were broadly defined as those between the ages of 15 and 39.

The goal of the survey was to better understand decision-making factors important to young adults who want to live in Kaslo and address elements leading to out-migration.

The survey began by polling locals on the values they see important to defining and maintaining the character of the community. The number one value cited was a “sense of community interest in sustainability,” followed closely by a community that is inclusive towards all political attitudes. Another value was tolerance for the gay community and a diversity of culture. Unsurprisingly, high on list was access to and work in the state-of-the-art technology. Concern was mentioned regarding the state of highway access to the community and winter maintenance of roads. The largest group who responded to the survey were in the 20-35 age range (53%), with 30% age 20-29, making up the majority of survey respondents. Men were more represented at 67% compared to 37% male respondents.

What’s particularly interesting is the breakdown between the types of jobs reduced currently seem to have versus those they’d like to have. This was most pronounced in the retail and food industries, where 26% of respondents working in these sectors but only 3% of them stating it as their preference. This was also reflected in the arts and culture sector, with 17% percent saying they’d love to work in this area, but only 10% of youth actually doing so. Trades, social services, healthcare and education sectors matched closely preferred and actual occupations. Interestingly, while only five percent said they were working in agriculture, 10 percent of those polled said they’d like to. The dairy was also high among those who desire in but with only two percent only percent of youth respondents owning their own businesses while 10 percent are interested in having their own businesses. Youth unemployment was high, at 19 percent of respondents, 33 percent in full-time work and 20 percent in part-time.

When asked what drew them to the community, the top two reasons by far were family and lifestyle, with jobs dead last. A solid majority who took the survey grew up elsewhere and moved to Kaslo or Area D (49%), with the next largest group (24%) being those who grew up here but moved away and have not returned. Only 15% percent had grown up in Kaslo or Area D, moved away and have since returned. Those who do find a way to stay here put down deep roots, with 57% percent here for more than 10 years. Educational opportunities were the number one reason youth moved away (19%) and the average time spent away is 10 years.

What factors were said to be the biggest attractors to youth wanting to return? Again, few surprises here: affordable housing topped the list, along with health and medical services, steady employment with jobs within 30 minutes of home, access to locally grown food, good schools, a safe and healthy place to raise a family, and a variety of child and youth services.

High school students responded that a majority planned to pursue post-secondary education but that about half of those polled planned to live in Kaslo after graduation. Project Comeback East says the impact of second homeowners in the community has affected rental prices, putting accommodations out of reach for many youth.

“One of the things we could do, talking to the housing society, is talking to second homeowners to see if youth could use it in some sort of shared accommodation if people are willing to open their houses to support the community.”

Project Comeback is linking with other service organizations such as Almeen Watson’s Food Hub. Watson is working toward a farm mentorship program that could address employment and training needs in local agriculture. The project will also be participating in the Rural BC Network’s June conference in Kaslo. Other ideas include courses in hunting and basic garden design and of course bridging the digital divide with high-speed broadband. East says there has been good support from Village council. In fact he credits the Village’s new CAA Neil Smith for seizing an opportunity to bring Project Comeback here when Golden opted out.

“I’m not shooting for the moon, I just want to establish a formulation for something to happen here. As long as we can stay focused on just doing one thing at a time, momentum will steadily build and we can keep moving forward.”

Kaslo Community Pharmacy

INTRODUCING ATOMA

OUR NEW HOUSE BRAND (replacing Relaxil)
• high quality
• Made in Canada
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IN-HOUSE SPECIALS on ATOMA PRODUCTS!
Feb 28-March 13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Campground Operators

Howser Park Recreation Site (campground)
At Duncan Lake

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Recreation Sites and Trails Branch invites proposals from parties interested in managing and maintaining a fee for service Recreation Site (campground) at Howser Park Recreation Site under a multi-year Agreement. The Ministry will arrange for General Compulsory Liability insurance for successful Proposers at no cost.

The intent is to:
• retain the site in public ownership;
• provide a safe, sanitary and rustic public recreation opportunity; and
• recover operational costs through campsite fees.

Requests for Proposal (RFP) packages can be obtained from the FLNRO FTP site at the following link:
http://www.gov.bc.ca/ip/DEK/external/outgoing/Recreation/...

A mandatory information meeting on the RFP will be held on March 13th, 2014. The Proposer or his/her representative must attend this meeting to be eligible for submitting a proposal. The meeting will be held 10:00 Pacific Standard Time, at the Kootenay Lake Forest District Office 1907 Ridgeway Road, Nelson, B.C. V1L 6K1.

Proposals will be received until 14:00 Pacific Time, March 21st, 2014 at the address specified in the RFP package. To obtain further information contact:
Justin Dexter, Recreation Officer
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
1907 Ridgeway Road
Nelson, B.C. V1L 6K1
Phone: 250-825-1212-7610, Fax: 250-825-9567
Email: Justin.Dexter@gov.bc.ca
Winter Blues Boogie is a West Kootenay Godsend

by Art Joyce

You have to live in the mountains to appreciate what a grand Winter Blues Boogie is in the depths of a Kootenay winter. This year’s 22nd annual boogie saw the return of Dr. Fion (Gary Gilbert) making one of his trademark snow attacks on the rest of the world. Things have come a long way since the first one, originally held as a birthday party by Barbara Yeomans for husband Dick Callum. They created a ‘social enterprise’ long before the term was coined, donating profits from the Boogie to local community groups.

It has to be overestimated what Winter Blues Boogie means to this community.

Living in rural BC it’s easy to feel the West Coast – the province’s power and population centre – has forgotten you exist. Rural communities are often the last thought of in government budgets. Citizens here have had to mockdate hospital emergency rooms to avoid closure and schools held bake sales to raise money for basic supplies. So we owe a lot to Callum and Yeomans for Winter Blues Boogie. Over the years, profits of each dance have been donated to Katrina Samula’s grade 5-7 classes, youth basketball, the Kooten Youth Society, and for the last 16 years the Lakecreek preschool, which takes in children 3-4 years of age.

“I guess people think the preschool runs because the government pays for it,” says Samula, “but it runs because parents pay fees. The boogie is one little gift in your back pocket that makes the year so much easier.”

Early Childhood Educator Charlene Alexander says Winter Blues Boogie is the preschool’s biggest fundraiser. Alexander teaches at the preschool, which has a partnership agreement with Lakecreek Community School, a K-12 facility. Stacked by early childhood educators like the late Dr. Fraser Mustard show that the birth to age 5 period is crucial to a child’s ability to integrate successfully in society and have a firm sense of confidence and competency. Alexander is often asked, “How do you teach preschool when Lakecreek already have kindergartens?” She explains that it’s an opportunity to build on their social skills in a safe environment. And because of the unique arrangement with Lakecreek, it provides a seamless entry into school and community involvement. The different aspects of the program include music and art, such as the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) and the Ministry of Education’s StrongStart.

“We’re looking at each child and seeing where they’re at right now and using their interests to help them grow in all areas of development,” says Alexander. “The environment is very hands-on, play-based so they get to be in their element and grow with their peers.”

Raising money for the little tykes is a big kick for Blues Boogie members too. No Excuse guitarists John Cullen wonders why people come back year after year to hear the “same old music” but he’s grateful they do. Aside from the urge to boogie, he thinks it has a lot to do with the cause. “It’s raising money for the little tykes”

New Denver Pre School Thanks

Dick and Barb for making the Winter Boogie happen!

Much appreciation to all the volunteers and the people who came to boogie. The dance is the main fundraising event for the Pre School.

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.

The Valley Voice February 26, 2014
Silverton Council February 18: Water Plan

by Katrina Campbell

- Council will allocate $5,000 toward the Columbia Basin Trust study grant application for a Water Master Plan. The application, if approved, would provide up to $10,000. CAO Bob Lafleur said the water system needed upgrading or replacement of monitoring equipment.
- Councillor Leah Main noted some of the infrastructure has been in the ground since 1917. Staff suggest water loss within the distribution system is less than 1%. A water use data review by CBT’s Water Smart program showed that “leakage levels are estimated to be 26 cents per total annual demand.”
- Melissa Miles was appointed as Chief Election Officer for the 2014 municipal elections; Bob Lafleur is the deputy.
- Lafleur was appointed as Acting Financial Officer.
- Council approved the grand application for the SIFCO fuel management prescription, and will allocate $5,000 for its share of the funding.
- Council agreed to participate in the collaborative feasibility study for joint financial administration with Silverton, Slocan, Salmo and Nelson. New Denver and Kaslo have not agreed to participate at this time.
- Councillor Leah Main reported on her attendance at an energy workshop in Kaslo January 8. Recreation Commission #6 meeting, the Kootenay Lakes Partnership meeting and the February 13 RDCK board meeting.
- The RDCK budget special meetings, which are open to the public and ongoing in various communities, give participants a run-down on draft budgets in seven areas: general administration, rural administration, environmental services, fire protection, community sustainability, development services and regional parks services. All departments had submitted their 2014 business plans outlining operational requirements, and goals and objectives. These were fleshed out by the directors’ input identifying their major goals for 2014.
- Main noted that the new CFO, Stuart Eckm, identified areas where mistakes had resulted in overly large surpluses in many service budgets. As a result, she said, the budget will likely result in no overall increase in taxation.
- Two open house information sessions, one in Slocan and one in Silverton, will be held in the spring to present to the public the draft Slocan Lake Guidance Document. Main described it as a “compendium of the science that has been done on the lake, particularly in respect of aquatic and shoreline habitat.”
- The RDCK gave two readings for a bylaw for a Sub-Regional Services Oversight model. This will put oversight of commissions ‘closer to home’ allowing the Sub-Regional Commission (Silverton, New Denver, Slocan and Area B) to help the commissions develop their budgets and authorize spending within those budgets without requiring board approval every time.
- The board gave two readings to a Water Supply Board Establishment by-law covering all RDCK-owned and operated water systems. Members will be the rural directors.
- The board will endorse a resolution to be presented at AKBLC calling for extension of services appropriate for Kootenay agriculture.
- At the RDCK Resource Recovery Committee meeting, participants discussed the MMMBC (recycling) situation. Main said that “industry is being allowed to tax us for a service they have been legislated to deliver but they are not delivering it.” The tax she was referring to was the ‘eco-tax’ levied on everything from batteries to tires.
- Councillor Joy Clarke reported on the Recreation Commission #6 meeting and the Chamber of Commerce/Kootenay Tourism Association meeting.
- Rec will have the New Denver fitness centre painted, and will advertise for the maintenance position.
- The swimming program is being organized, Slocan and New Denver will share an instructor in early August. The commission will support in principle growing a track for cross-country skiing at the golf course. The May Days committee and Silverton’s July 1st committee will each be given $200. The Hills Garlic Fest committee said thanks, but they don’t need it.
- Those who attended the Chamber/WKTA meeting talked about collaboration, tourism, keeping visitors here longer and attracting them in the shoulder season.
- Council agreed to a request from the Silverton Gallery Society to angling the scope of the 2013/14 RDCK grantees. The grant money to refurnish the floor can now be used to upgrade the building to meet new building codes.
- A request for a councillor to liaise with the Society, due to a perceived communication problem between the two bodies, was tabled.

grant application approved

Village of New Denver

“COUNCIL CONVERSATION CAFE”

Residents of the Village of New Denver are invited to join your council members for a “Counselling Conversation Cafe” on Saturday, March 1, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Apple Tree. This is an opportunity for New Denver residents to engage in conversation about current issues and ideas with Village Councillors. Support your local cafe by getting a tea or a coffee and a treat, and sit with us for some casual, but important dialogue. What is going well? What are some current issues? How can we solve them together? These are intended to be high level conversations between residents and Councillors.

Quality childcare is a healthy choice

The Province is committed to helping families obtain affordable, accessible, safe, quality childcare. A parent who is eligible to assist eligible British Columbia families with the cost of childcare payments vary depending on your family’s circumstances. Your eligibility will be determined when you apply and support documents are received by the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre. You may be eligible to receive full or partial subsidy based on your family’s circumstances. If you are considering quality childcare as an option for your growing family and would like support through the process please contact the Child Care Resource and Referral, www.chilcare.bc.ca.

Quality childcare helps children lay the foundations for their learning, integration with the group, scholastic success, and eventually, their full participation in community life. Children and families receive many benefits from quality child care.

As childcare staff are trained in childhood development they know what to expect from children and are able to nurture their growing skills accordingly. The typical childcare day offers a wide variety of activities from singing, dancing, art exploration, growing through interesting play opportunities and storytelling. Relationships with peers and carers provide healthy opportunities for social growth and can help a child’s self-esteem to blossom.

There are three licensed child care centres in the lower Slocan Valley: Valhalla Children’s Centre in Slocan, and Appledale Children’s Centre offer care for children 2.5 – five years. Brent Kennedy Learning Centre has a range of programs from infancy to age 12.

All of them have flexible enrolment options to be able to meet the needs of families.

The option of licensed family care, in a caregiver’s home, is available at Busy Beavers in Crescent Valley.

Inquiries

(1) Clarification of terms and conditions of the Proposal process shall be directed to
SVECDC Community Directed Funds Committee
slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com

(2) The Committee, the SVECDC, its agents and employees shall not be responsible for any information given by way of oral or written communication.

(3) The SVECDC shall only respond to questions that are submitted in writing. Any questions that are received by the SVECDC representative that affect the Proposal process, any interpretation of, additions to, deletions from, or any other corrections to the RFP document, may be issued as an addendum by the SVECDC. It is the sole responsibility of the potential Proponent to check with the Chair of the SVECDC Community Directed Funds Committee to ensure that all available information has been received prior to submitting a Proposal.

(4) Inquiries will be received up until 4:30 p.m. local time, Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

(5) The SVECDC may change, at its sole discretion, to proceed with all of the components of the project, none of the components or selected components of the project.

(6) All Proposals shall remain confidential, subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of British Columbia.

(7) Proposals shall be open for acceptance of at least 30 days following the Submissions closing date. The SVECDC reserves the right to extend this RFP for any reason without any liability to any Propositor or to waive irregularities in its sole discretion.

(8) Propositors are advised that the SVECDC shall not necessarily accept any Proposal and the SVECDC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals at any time without further explanation or to accept any Proposal conditioned on the SVECDC’s acceptance.
Slocan council, February 11: Microproject advances to next stage

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Mayor Madeleine Perriere announced that Slocan has completed the first stage of its microhydro project, and that the Village’s five-year financial plan projects that the project will bring in revenues of $50,000 per year for the Village starting in 2016. Council agreed to invite Mike Walsh of Skanuna Consulting to meet with council to discuss his proposal for next steps.

A letter from the Unity Festival listed concerns about the Special Events Bylaw. The $10,000 security deposit “will probably prevent the festival” from being held in Slocan. The requirement for festivals to submit an application to the Village 180 days before the event would mean that Unity Festival would not have time to apply for the 2014 festival, tentatively scheduled for July 26 and 27.

The Unity Fest letter also asked that Slocan sponsor the festival and that council designate a liaison. Council directed staff to investigate “what would be required for the Village of Slocan to sponsor the 2014 Unity Fest.”

Councillor Lunn was appointed Councillor Lunn as liaison.

The Special Events Bylaw was on the agenda for adoption, but instead, second and third readings were rescinded and the bylaw was referred to Committee of the Whole (COW).

This bylaw was drafted by a lawyer and introduced in September. Councillors Lunn and McGeal had expressed dissatisfaction at each reading of the bylaw, but had been outvoted.

At this meeting, Councillor Lunn spoke strongly against adoption of the bylaw, and read from a number of letters supporting the Unity Festival. She also stated that there had been no alternate processes proposed since the bylaw had been brought forward in September.

Councillor McGeal spoke about how “the bylaw has not been adapted to our needs” and complained about the lack of consultation.

CAO Richardson firmly reminded council that “at no time during the first, second and third readings did anyone make any amendment” to the bylaw. He said that staff could not make changes once a bylaw was introduced; this was council’s responsibility.

By rescinding second and third reading and referring the bylaw to Committee of the Whole, council has agreed to go back to the drawing board on this one.

• Councillor McGeal moved that the draft Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Policy be referred back to staff to revise so that it would more fully reflect the recommendations of the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). Councillor Lunn seconded the motion and said, “I see the value of having this policy... especially with the elections coming up.”

• Councillor Lunn moved that the Slocan Food Bank Community Garden Licence to Occupy be referred to Committee of the Whole. She feels that the document, drafted by the CAO in December, fails to achieve its two purposes – to enable the creation of a community garden on Village land and to protect the Village’s interests. McGeal read a one-page statement detailing some of her problems with the document. Councillor Patterson, clearly frustrated, wondered why no one seemed to have any problems with it. McGeal answered that perhaps, as with the Special Events Bylaw, the other council members had not read it carefully. Councillor Hillary Elliot took exception to this and called for a more respectful dialogue. McGeal apologized. Her motion to refer the Community Garden Licence to the COW meeting passed.

• Councillor McGeal added that the new Garden Licence was referred to Committee of the Whole. The first title she referred to “A Policy Concerning Village Council Members Access to Village Information.” This issue came up when council received an email sent to council by CAO Richardson, where he stated that he would provide reports to council as council was a whole representative body and contained no Village files, but that he would not respond to individual councillors’ requests.

McGeal said that she suspected the policy came from her request to look through the two or three boxes of material relating to the mill. Claiming the public had more access to information than council did, she moved that the topic be referred to a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to be held sometime in March. She also asked for the topic “wordy conversation” and seconded the motion.

Mayor Perriere spoke against the motion. “The whole purpose of the gardens is needed only when ‘when we know we have a subject of interest to everybody.’”

The motion passed, but later, during public participation, Joyce Johnson of the Slocan Valley Historical Society pointed out that there are two types of Village documents – active and archival. The public should “not be allowed to thumb through” archival documents, she said.

McGeal’s second late item was a review of Officers Bylaw #576. She said the bylaw contained “a lack of clariy about some of the CAO’s powers” and that she believed “the CAO has misinterpreted” a clause in it. She also stated she was “alarmed” at what she said was the CAO’s power to sell Village facilities. She moved that the bylaw be referred to the March COW meeting and her motion passed.

McGeal’s third late item was about council meeting minutes. She suggested that council consider having “anonymous” minutes to more fully record proceedings. The CAO said that recording resolutions only in the minutes was standard in local government. Council directed staff to report on recording on other styles of minutes-taking.

Councillor McGeal gave a report on the Screech Owl Committee’s first meeting. She moved that the CAO look into the ownership of the trailers on the old crew camp property and provide a copy of the agreement between the Village and Ministry of Environment concerning the use of the land.

Slokan CAO resigns after difficult council meeting

by Jan Murray

Slocan CAO Jack Richardson submitted his letter of resignation on February 12, the day after a very difficult council meeting. His last day in the office will be February 27.

“I enjoyed my work there. It’s just unfortunate. It was a council decision to get rid of me, there was a way to do it, but I wanted the way to do it,” Richardson said in an interview.

At the February 11 council meeting, the CAO’s performance and management style came into question several times. This led to six agenda items being referred either back to staff or to Committee of the Whole. Councillor McGeal introduced most of these referral motions.

“I think the straw that broke the camel’s back was when Councillor McGeal said she wasn’t happy with how the minutes were being done,” said Richardson in an interview.

Richardson has many years of experience in public administration. It was evident from the comments and actions of Council during the meeting that I am not meeting the key goals of municipal administration that some Councillors would prefer to see,” he states in his letter of resignation.

Richardson indicated that the appropriate place to discuss staff issues is at camera meetings, and pointed out that they had been in camera just before the council meeting. His letter states, “The comments of Council last night were a public embarrassment to me. Over my career in municipal government I have forgotten much about local government, but what I do remember is that a public flogging of staff is not the way to build a relationship of trust, teamwork and cooperation between Council and staff.”

Richardson said the way things went at the meeting took him by surprise, and he feels most of council was caught by surprise, as well. Councillor McGeal added three late items to the agenda, so no one had a chance to review those in advance. In the interview the late items were three of the six that were referred to staff or Committee of the Whole.

Slocan Mayor Madeleine Perriere said she took full responsibility for the situation, “I allowed the meeting to get out of hand, not expecting the inappropriate behaviour of some councillors. I take full responsibility for the whole situation. I would, however, like to express disappointment in how the council chamber was used to support personal agendas,” she said.

Mayor Perriere said she accepted Richardson’s resignation “with great sadness.”

“For the last three years, we have seen Jack take a strong interest in the workings of the Village of Slocan. His knowledge and commitment have been appreciated, especially in this time of transition for Slocan,” she said.

“My heartfelt apology to Jack goes without saying and I would like to wish him the best in all his future endeavors.”

Winlaw fire fighters have fun, raise money for MD submitted

Winlaw Firefighters raised $695 for Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada this far surpassed last year’s total of $480. It was our second annual fundraiser for this cause.

Although all of our surrounding fire department members were invited, only Winlaw members showed up. The game was great, the chilli delicious and the competition fierce. We wore hope more teams will join us next year.

A really big thank you to Forni’s Bakery, West Kootenay Roller Derby, Applehead Hall, and Wal-Mart for their support.
Know your Slocan watershed event brings community groups together

by Moe Lyons

On Sunday, February 16, locals passionate about our lake and our river pulled out all the stops to let the community know what is going on with the water all around us. They went from Bonanza Marsh, throughout Slocan Lake and all the way down the river, and all through the valley. It was the minuscule benthic invertebrates to the top predators, the otters.

Billed as ‘Know Your Slocan Watershed’ this informative event was organized by KROEP (Kootenay River Otter Ecology Project) in conjunction with Slocan River Streamkeepers and the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. Nine different initiatives were outlined, with displays, handouts, and people ready and willing to answer any questions about what they are doing to protect and improve the water on which we all depend.

The Streamkeepers were the most extensive group, teaching us about fish, macroinvertebrates, and a hand-on way or another in many of the projects displayed. Among these are the Slocan Watershed Protection Assessment and Mapping Project (SWAMP), the Kootenay River Otter Ecology Project, the Slocan rainbow trout count, and the Aquatic Habitat Inventory on the Slocan. As they are endlessly involved in waterbats studies, riverbank management, and riparian restoration.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, spearheaded by Richard Johnson of New Denver, is an innovative umbrella group, a non-profit which works with a wide range of community groups to help them obtain funding and to assist them in bettering the knowledge of their work. They also sponsor workshops, seminars, training and events, and were instrumental in getting our local washing station in New Denver.

Possibly their most exciting offering is SWAMP, which the Streamkeepers agree is absolutely key to the health of the entire watershed. SWAMP’s overview includes Pass Creek, Summit Lake and the Little Slocan Lakes as well as the main Slocan watershed.

The Kootenay River Otter Ecology Project is currently reporting on their spring survey. The main population in this river appears to be north of Lemon Creek, although they are all over the river. What has been discovered so far is their main food source is probably rainbow trout, followed by northern pike and (previously called ‘squawfish’) and some mammals, such as muskrat and weasels. The otters may even be good for the trout, as suckers allegedly consider trout eggs a tasty little snack.

The most consistent of five observers snorkelling in the river. They discovered “a staggering amount of fish biomass,” including rainbow trout, kokanee, whitefish and bull trout. They found the trout count in 2013 was the highest in the last six years, although they are concerned with what will now happen downstream of Lemon Creek since the fuel spill.

Perhaps the most ambitious project is the Aquatic Habitat Inventory, done by Mickwood Ecological Consultants and Streamkeepers. This huge mapping project results in an enormous database which can be viewed as a whole, and leads to a greater understanding of how everything works together.

Another small group represented at the forum was the Wolwater Creek Waters Users, who have conducted water monitoring on their creek since 1997. They are one of only four water-sampling groups left, from a high of 14 from 1996-2001, when Forest Renewal funded their work.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society was formed about six years ago when proposed development on the lakeshore awakened residents to the need to protect and understand the lake. Since then they have undertaken a three-year water quality study and have mounted an awareness campaign about aquatic invaders, including Eurasian milfoil, zebra and quagga mussels, New Zealand mud snails and various species of invasive fish. Currently rock cod is the most pervasive invasive species in the lake and its environs.

One fairly recent arrival in the scene is SCRAPA, the Spring Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance. Formed in response to the closure of the mill in Slocan, they are proposing a steering committee to investigate “remediation and restoration of the Spring Creek outflow and other riparian areas in the village,” with the intent “to avoid an empty pedestal of contaminated land which sits unoccupied and generates little income for the years or even decades it takes for development to occur if left to market forces.” Their website is slocan2020vision.org.

Finally, we have Streamkeepers per se, with their many initiatives to take care of the Slocan River. For ten years they have been working with riverside landowners, riverbanks, address flooding and enhance habitat on the Slocan River.

Most recently, they have been monitoring the results of the Lemon Creek spill, and trying to determine what the company and the government know and are doing about it. Fortunately they have data on Lemon Creek going back to 1999 so they can compare current conditions to these previous.

Speaking for Streamkeepers, Jen Yeow was happy with the turnout at the event, with people flowing in and out of the hall throughout the afternoon.

“This shows lots of community concern, and people clearly want to know about the ecology of the river,” she says. “This gives them a chance to see there are lots of groups people don’t know about yet.”

“We know our priorities. We no longer have a bunch of questions, we have data, information, answers. We have an action plan – we are going to work with community groups and support their ideas. We’re done the homework. We’ve got the input, we know what needs to be done.”

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Snow Inspires Creativity for North Valley Mountain Film Fest 2014

submitted

The wonder of winter captures the imagination of several filmmakers showcasing their creative works at this year’s North Valley Mountain Film Festival, to be held Saturday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Silvertone Memorial Hall. From the professional team at Sweetgrass Productions, whose feature film Valhalla has gained awards at international festivals, to local snow enthusiasts carrying cameras, this year’s artists convey their love and appreciation for the magic of snow.

Not that winter is the only season of inspiration to receive attention from filmmakers. Local paddling wild man Carl Jacks brings summer alive with a daring trip down the remote reaches of the Incanumaneken River, all in the name of protecting the old-growth forests of this intensely special wilderness. Local wildlife photographer Jesse Selphakovski gets up close and personal with the summertime ptarmigan of bears and their cubs, allowing the viewer a glimpse into the complex personalities of these charismatic creatures of myth.

But it is winter that receives the greatest attention at this year’s festival. Local Niboboard shedder Randy Spears gives us a glimpse of the growth of an old-growth forest in winter with his film Big Trees. Another local ski ripper, Pete Schwartz, shares some of the beauty he has experienced during the winter wanderings over the past few years. And our feature film, Valhalla, triggers nostalgic feelings for winter’s most ephemeral feature: snow, in all its natural, impermanent glory. Valhalla’s storyline stitches together layers of life wrapped in ski season metaphor, all in the spirit of Kootenay values, as observed from the perspectives of visiting filmmakers skiing and filming in this area. The visuals and soundtrack will be sure to stir the imagination.

Please note the change in venue this year; the North Valley Mountain Film Festival will be take place at the Silvertone Memorial Hall in order to accommodate a larger audience. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for youth and students, and children aged 10 and under are free.

Cool Eaters of the West Kootenays

with Andy Rhodes

Kayu’s Café in Winlaw – go there!

Hi folks. It’s me again, your wandering food editor. Big news! I recently had lunch at Kayu’s Café in Winlaw. Don’t want to get ahead of myself here, but I’ll say it loud right now: GO THERE! The place is already humming with happy customers. On Valentine’s Day alone, 120 dinners were served and the local people are raving. So, you for yourself? Kayu’s Café is in the middle of downtown Winlaw. Right on Highway 6. You cannot miss it.

What’s ‘new’ about Kayu’s Café?

Everything! Nala Keene, the owner/proprietor who’s been in the food business for a long long time, took the building over on October 1 and spent over four months improving it: new wiring and plumbing, new kitchen, new light fixtures (all on dimmers), some new tables and chairs and a new hand-crafted broad-leaf maple bar (built by Mike) including really cool hand-crafted barstools, from which you can enjoy a drink while watching everything that goes on in the kitchen. I was there on a cold day, but the place was cozy and warm with its new wood-burning heater.

Once there was a screened-in patio – it’s now part of the building proper, with no wall separating it from the action. A new patio will soon appear on the west side of the building. You’ll be able to look at the forest instead of the highway.

Ok, on the front cover of the menu, a ‘mission statement’ from Nala and his employees: ‘Welcome to Kayu’s Café! We strive to create a menu which features as much local and organic food as possible; supporting local farms, selecting Ocean Wise seafood & organic hormone-free, free-range meats and poultry. Our mission is to bring together great friends, amazing food, talented live musicians and fabulous service so that you can have an awesome culinary experience. Enjoy!’

So, there are well, over 60 items on the menu. There’s simply not enough room here to list them all. Fortunately, you can find the entire menu online at kayuscafe.ca, but I’ll give you an idea. Appy: sopas del dia, pita & hummus, spanakopita, organic chicken wings, cinnabon calves.

Yes, dear, there are BURGERS! I couldn’t help myself. I saved, and ordered the smoked beef burger with a Caesar salad. I recommended this burger – with smoked applewood, aged cheddar cheese, maple bacon bacon (lots of it) & bourbon BBQ sauce – to all burger lovers and it usually sold out. So get this order early!

Dinner open at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments available!

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival

Saturday, March 8, 2014
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Seed library growing at the Castlegar Library

As the gardening season fast approaches, regional seeds are in reach of gardeners in the West Kootenays through the Castlegar Seed Library.

Members of the community—which includes the entire West Kootenays—will soon be able to check out seeds just like one checks out a book, for free. The Castlegar Seed Library aims to develop seed breeders and a bank of regionally acclimated, local seed. Growers can take, grow, save, and at the end of season, return seeds back to the library.

The initiative is being run in partnership between the Castlegar and District Public Library, Columbia Basin Trust, Area 1 of the RDCK, and The FOODTREE Pemouwikee.

Sign up as a grower, or donate seeds! Info is available online at: www.facebook.com/castlegarseedlibrary and donations are being received until March 15 at the Castlegar & District Public Library (1005 - 3rd Street Castlegar).

CPC recognized as top employer

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A history of the Nakusp Shipyard

by Bruce Rohn for the Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Steamboats built for the Arrow Lakes Columbia River route in the late 1880s and early 1890s were all built at Revelstoke while the steamers Columbia was built upstream at Little Dales. When the town of Nakusp was established in 1892, a town on the Arrow Lakes with transfer points to the rich Slocan area, it seemed more viable to build steamboats there.

The Nakusp shipyard was started in 1895 with the building of the SS Nakusp, the finest steamer built at that time in the interior of BC. Captain Trupp brought in the shipwright, the Bulgars, to build these boats and the others that soon followed. During the next four years, with the exception of building the SS Bonnington in 1911, the Nakusp shipyard would build all the steamers/boilers for the Arrow Lakes route. The tug Columbia, along with the freighter boat SS Trail, were built in 1896 and the SS Kootenay which was started in 1897 were the last built for the Columbia Kootenay Steam Navigation Co.

With the CPR in charge they finished off the 1890s with the building of two unique boats. The SS Rossland, launched in 1897, was built for speed and was a new design for steamboats. The SS Minto's prefabricated hull was diverted from the coast when the Stikine river service collapsed. It was assembled in Nakusp in the fall of 1898 and with its cone-shaped hull it would outlast all the other steamboats on the Arrow Lakes.

In 1902, the CPR shipyard built a steamer for the Revelstoke Navigation Co. for upriver. The patriarch of the Bulger family retired and returned to Portland and son Dave took over as foreman of the shipyard in 1903. With town developing on the Arrow Lakes, the shipyard was kept busy building its fleet to meet increasing passenger traffic.

In the winter of 1907-08, the shipyard undertook a unique project, refitting the SS Rossland. First, they added on the Texas deck, and then they proceeded to build a new hull. This was done by building the new hull on the top side of the old one, and then transferring the engines and machinery over to it. They severed the superstructure at the freight deck and used skids to transfer it to the new hull. This procedure was only done twice on the steamers/boilers in the BC Lake and River Service. The SS Slocan was re-built in 1908. The SS Kootenay followed in 1909 and sold out to new owners.

At this time, the Whistler was launched, the most powerful tug ever built on the lake. It was used to transfer rail barges between Nakusp and Arrowtown. In 1910, the shipyard was getting ready for its biggest project, the building of the SS Bonnington. A large group of joiners came from the Nelson shipyard to erect new shops for the shipyard. The main building was two stories high, 120 feet long by 30 feet wide. Rotating the hull started in December 1910. Also at this time the SS Minto was brought up on the ways to have its Texas deck extended.

A fifth way was put in on the west side to accommodate the length of the SS Bonnington. One of Nakusp’s biggest events came with the launching of the SS Bonnington on April 24th, 1911. The best years for the CPR boats on the Arrow Lakes were during the time period 1910 to 1914.

When WW1 broke out, the transfer barge service came to an end in 1914 and when the Kettle Valley opened up in 1919, the steamboat service took a big hit. The winters of 1916 and 1917 were very severe and proved to be the undoing of the SS Kootenay and the SS Rossland. The SS Kootenay was stuck in ice below Burton and took six weeks to get free. The Minto was also a relief boat after that and then was stripped at the shipyard in 1920.

A year later, the SS Rossland headed over on its side at the shipyard from the weight of the snow. Even though a diver was hired and the shipyard crew managed to raise the boat and pump out the snow and ice, the boat was done. Because Dave Bulger had not prevented this from happening by making sure the boat was not in any danger, he was let go as foreman and George Keys, who had worked on the SS Minto, took his place.

James Bulger, who was master builder at Nelson, left for the coast a year later. In the future, the shipyard would concentrate on maintaining the steamers/boilers SS Minto and SS Bonnington, as well as the screw tug Columbia built in 1920. The SS Bonita was built in the late 1920s. The SS Bonington was retired in the 1930s and sat at the Nakusp wharf until 1944 when it was towed to Boston to be scrapped. The SS Minto had a major refit in 1938.

In 1945, the shipyard ways were completely taken out and rebuilt. The small blocks that the old ways sat on were replaced by cement blocks and a new set of ways was placed on top. They can still be seen there today. In 1948, they brought in a fishing yacht from the coast, refitted it and renamed it the Columbia IV to replace the SS Columbia for the lower lake. This was the last launch of a vessel for the BC Lake and River Service.

In 1950 the ways were used to rebuild the old steamer Burton from the lead up to install diesel engines. For the rest of the ’50s and early ’60s, the ways were used mainly for assembling ferries, most notably the MV Arrow Park which was launched in 1955 to replace the SS Minto. The Nakusp shipyard was used for over 65 years and is the only ways left intact from the BC Lake and River service shipyards.

Village of New Denver thanks the Silvery Slocan Historical Society and the Koyukukai Society for their contributions to local heritage preservation.

Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West

Thank you to all the individuals and groups that work to preserve the heritage and rich history of the West Kootenay! Consistency Office: 52-1006 3rd St Castlegar, BC Phone: 1-888-785-0561

Village of Slocan

Congratulations to the Slocan Valley Historical Society for their excellent work in setting up the archives.

We recognize the important volunteer work done by the historical societies in our area.

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We wish to commend the volunteers that maintain our archives and our local museum. Without our history, we have no future.

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The Kaslo Spat - the story of Kootenay Lake lighthouses

submitted

This year's Heritage Week theme is "The Spat Affaire", which includes the story of light and water. Kaslo Spat by the Kaslo Spat is a submersible point of land on the edge of Kootenay Lake, near the entrance to Kaslo Bay. There has been a navigation light here since 1897 and the nearby lakebank is known locally as Lighthouse Beach.

In the old days travelers in the BC interior were required to travel via Kootenay Lake: Kootenay Lake was an obstacle for some, but an opportunity for others who knew how to build a storm-proof canoe or a specially strong boat. Until the 1900s lake traffic was minimal. The silver boom and railway connections changed all that. Steamship steamer, togs and barges were steered by lighthouse keepers, landing passengers and vulnerable freight between lake points. The last survivor is the SS Moyie, launched in 1898, and now at Kaslo.

With the completion of the Kaslo and Slocan Railway in 1895, backcountry mines could ship their ore more quickly and cheaply, most of it bound for smelters in the United States. It was carried by water from the end of the K&S line at Kaslo to Five Mile Point on the West Arm of the lake. There it was once again loaded to be shipped to port.

Kaslo Bay became a busy place.

submitted

The Langham turns 40 years old

Forty years ago, a small group of creative folk with a broad vision came together and purchased the derelict Old Langham Hotel in Kaslo, transforming it into a cultural oasis for the region's performing, visual and literary arts. In 1993 Canadians of Japanese descent who were interned in Kaslo during WWII were honoured with the opening of the Japanese Canadian Museum on the second and third floors of the historic building. The society is excited to celebrate the vision of those past four decades with events and celebrations throughout the year.

In this celebratory year, the board is also pleased to welcome a new executive director, Maggie Tahir, and a new curator, Ari Fain, to the Langham.

Maggie is known to Kasloans as she owned and operated Bayside Books during the early ’90s. Born in Vancouver, she moved to the West Kootenay region from the coast in the mid-1970s and comes to the Langham with multi-layered expertise and qualifications in the visual arts and in non-profit organizations.

For the past 40 years she has been an exhibiting contemporary textile artist, a textile artist, an educator, mentor, independent curator, historian, writer, and arts advocate. Maggie also brings strong management skills to the Langham. Her experience on non-profit boards include the Grand Forks Arts Council and the Kootenay Gallery, to name two. She is one of the founding directors of Gallery 2 in Grand Forks and several other regional organizations.

Ari Fain founded the Langham is a native of the year. Born in Regina, she has spent the past 20 years in BC with her partner, Brent Bukowski. Well known in the Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake community, Ari brings a dedication and an active creative imagination to her curatorial vision. With a BA in English and background in writing, along with her 20 years of learning, she is excited to develop her curatorial skills in critical writing and guidance in selection of local and national artists exhibitions.

Ari's fine arts background supports a strong historical overview and understanding of current affairs in relationship to the expressive arts. Ari is also an arts advocate and a mentor. Her experience with not-for-profit boards includes the Oxygen Arts Centre in Nelson and the Langham Cultural Society.

When asked how they feel about their new roles at the Langham, both Maggie and Ari agree it is a privilege to be involved in the community and heritage in the region. With the planning of the 40th anniversary celebrations, they are eager to give support to the Society's exciting upcoming events.

You will be able to access future events through the newly-completed website of the Langham. Look for more details on the Langham website. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Maggie Tahir at 250-353-2651 or send her an email.

Thank you to our local historical societies for their dedication and diligence in preserving our local heritage!

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Thank you for all of your volunteer hours and for keeping our aware of our history.

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D
Keepers of our history: historical societies preserve the records

submitted by the Sloan Valley Historical Society

It is said that those who don't learn from the past are destined to repeat it. So where would we be without those organizations that are dedicated to saving and preserving documents, photos and artifacts that showcase times past and record the lessons learned by previous generations?

Sometimes it's hard to imagine a world without technology, a time when postcards and handwritten letters were the norm for communication and might take weeks to arrive at the intended destination. Oh, how those dispatches were cherished!

So, where are the records of those cherished memories? Hopefully in an archive or museum, and not in the garage where they may become infested with bugs, become moldy and mildewy or chewed on by rodents. When significant historical items are lost in a sale for more sophisticated storage, they are available for all to access and enjoy.

The people who frequent archives and museums come for many reasons: researching for newspaper articles or college papers or a school project; writing a book; family history research; an interest in the area or subject. Knowing the local collective history gives people a sense of place.

Organizations such as heritage or historical societies play an important role in safeguarding all these documents, photos and items that make it possible for the past to come alive again. Like many organizations, they operate on a shoestring budget and have the passion of very dedicated volunteers. Unfortunately, often only a few volunteers carry the workload and are then burned out.

Heritage and historical societies need more volunteers—after all, many hands make light work. There are many ways that a person can simply volunteer: for the work and be welcomed into the family of volunteers. Can you provide bookkeeping services or legal advice? Do you have time to sit on the board? Can you write grants? Are you a policy writer? Do you have time to spend cataloging in the archives? All of these kinds of services are very much appreciated by a small society that can’t do it all!

The Sloan Valley Historical Society, "Fairy-Boat" Bonnington, circa 1920

by Mildred Baird

My memories of Nakanen revert back to the frequent trips we made to visit my Grandmothers and Grandfather Rushon, who lived in the picturesque little hamlet of Nakanen.

In those days we lived in Nelson, and as my father was an engineer for the CPR we had the happy privilege of a few family visits. Thus, with the fact that my mother dearly loved to travel, we were frequent travelers on the lovely old paddle steamer "Bonnington." If my father's job took him away for a few days, mother would get that old glaze in her eye, out would come the suitcases, and a few hours later, started and steered within an inch of our young lives, my little sister and brother and I would be sitting in the train coach on our way to Castlegar.

For me, the trip to Castlegar seemed endless, as I sat with my head fastened against the cool window, trying to pierce the darkness for a glimpse of the lights of our Fairy Boat that would be waiting to take us to Grandmother's.

It seemed we always arrived at Castlegar in the twilit mystery of night, with all the lights of the cabins blinking at us in such friendly welcome. The cheerful stewards would carry our baggage over the gangplank, and hoist my baby sister upon their shoulders, while my young brother and I would follow close to my mother's rustling skirts. I was always so proud of my pretty mother, and it seemed that everyone knew her along the way, and did their best to make our trip a special one.

Once we were assigned to our snug little cabin, I always begged my mother to let me stay up long enough to watch the dockhands with their final loading before the crossing over to Robson. With many warnings and instruction, I could then escape for my little private trait.

There, through the mesh of the guardrail, I watched while my sister and brother had their first scrubbing and were tucked safely into the upper bunk. I would stand at theinky blackness of the water with its myriad dancing reflections, and thrill to the novelty and beauty of the jelly crew as they called their loading instructions, and stewed their mystical cargo aboard our Fairy Ship Bonnington. Often animals were loaded, and I chuckled aloud as they slid and tumbled to the gangplank. So our journey would be ended. We would leave our mother's arms and run into the arms of yet another mother.

Mother was usually quite spotty about this time, and she slept soundly and immediately once snug in the crisp sheets. Too excited to sleep, I would lie there pretending to sleep until I could老公 was already snoring. I would slide each inch by the bottom of the bunk, then tiptoe across to the cabin window, and peer out into the darkness. Often people would pass by our cabin window taking a night promenade before retiring, and then my heart would pound wildly in my throat in case they would discover my faintly opened window and speak, awakening my mother.

Usually, the chill drove me back to the bunk before discovery, and I don’t remember staying awake long enough to ever see me make a landing at Robson.

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The Valley Voice - February 26, 2014

COMMUNITY

Thanks to the Lardeau Valley Historical Society
Your efforts to preserve our heritage have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your superb volunteer efforts!

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D
A plan for Kaslo’s waterfront is sorely needed

by Jan Murray

Public concern about the lack of a plan for Kaslo’s waterfront has prompted Kaslo council to ask the RDCK for help in doing something about its waterfront, piers and trails.

Kootenay Craft Distillery to open in Slocan Valley

by Art Joyce

The Kootenay ethic of self-sufficiency just got another boost. Slocan Valley residents Kevin and Lori Goodwin will be opening the Kootenay Craft Distillery this spring, with an open house March 7 and 8 from noon to 5 p.m. Their product line will launch with vodka, gin and eventually whiskey. The couple is determined to use only ingredients sourced within a 100-mile radius, all organic and GMO-free.

“It’s important to emphasize that this is a hand-crafted product,” says Kevin. “We’re putting all of our effort into producing something that’s different than anything you can get anywhere else. And meeting local production goals is really important at this time in the world.”

The pitch for the wheat for brewing will be sourced from Canyon, just east of Cranbrook, a farm that’s part of the process of becoming certified organic. Not only is it within 100 miles but it’s a heirloom strain of wheat called Marquis originally developed in BC during the 1890s. The farmer had to collect individual seeds by hand to get enough to plant crops. The wheat is stone ground and stored in wood silage.

The rye distillery will be in Armstrong, BC and the bottles come from Vernon. The Goodwins say progressive legislation recently introduced in BC for craft distilleries requires that all ingredients be sourced within the province. But the real ‘secret’ ingredient is one that can only be found in the Slocan Valley – our pristine, mountain-filtered glacial water.

“Vodka at 40 percent alcohol is 60 percent water,” says Kevin. “In a city like Seattle, a distillery has to first strip the water of chlorine and everything else before they can start to use it. Our water will definitely make a superior product.”

And because vodka doesn’t need to be aged, Kootenay Craft Distillery will have its own brand, Valhalla Vodka, ready for sale in March. Attached to the distillery is a lounge and tasting bar, with part of the original bar from the Silverton Hotel, which the Goodwins found online. When the owners of the bar learned it would be used for its original purpose in the Goodwins’ again, they reduced the price drastically. Customers will be able to purchase bottles in the tasting room. Whiskey lovers will have to be patient, since liquor laws in Canada require a minimum aging period of three years.

“The point is to create a 100 percent Kootenay product,” says Kevin. “We didn’t plan a business plan and there was a very open market for it. Tourists as well as locals love 100-mile Kootenay products.”

Gin, like vodka, doesn’t have to be aged, but unlike vodka, is meant to be flavoured using herbs such as juniper or coriander. The Goodwins are also working with a wildcatter to find local herbs. They’re also considering a mint-flavoured vodka. “We’d like to

Other small watercraft.

A presentation by Hajo Meijer at the February 4 Committee of the Whole meeting laid out the concerns. About 30 people flooded the gallery, and council received several letters from residents unhappy about the work.

That being said, it’s no easy task to open a distillery. This isn’t moonshine we’re talking about. It has taken the Goodwins four years to get to the point of opening the distillery doors. Two years of that involved just negotiating the bureaucratic paperwork and inspections from both federal and provincial governments. There’s nothing more regulated in Canada than alcohol and tobacco. The distillery is situated closely by both levels of government to ensure liquor taxes are paid on every drop produced.

Even the company logo reflects the local landscape of the Slocan Valley, with the mountains of Dioniso Peak depicted in the artwork. They’re hoping to name all their products after Kootenay characters or landscape features, for example a gin named Gerrie’s Gin, after Greer Gordon who was the Kootenay Lake pirate. Who knows? Maybe we’ll see a whiskey named Colonel Lowery’s, after the infamous cigar-chomping, whiskey-swigging Slocan newspaperman.

“Why are you destroying natural beach habitats?” Meijer asked during his presentation. “The natural look and feel of the beach is a huge asset for Kaslo. It’s an attraction for tourists and locals alike, so it’s an economic benefit. The natural beach and lake access is really what Kaslo is about.”

Meijer pointed out that work was done below the high water mark, which is protected fish habitat and requires government approval. He also said the work was in violation of the OCP (Official Community Plan), quoting sections that encourage the preservation of the waterfront.

“Please stop breach creation and tree removal before developing a waterfront plan,” he concluded to applause from the public.

Meijer and Village staff told him the purpose of the rock barrier near the logger sports area was to prevent illegal camping and grey-water dumping. He said he didn’t feel these issues were a big concern, but Councillor Leathwood told him they’ve had squatters on the beach for years, and some had threatened the mayor when he asked them to leave. She also said the rock barrier cut off only vehicular, not pedestrian, access to the beach.

During public time, it was also mentioned that part of the logger sports grounds is Crown land, not municipal land as previously thought. Members of the public wondered why the Village was moving beyond a property that is not municipal land.

Following the February 4 meeting, CAO Neil Smith discussed parks and recreation co-management with RDCK staff. As the RDCK combines $10,000 per year to the Moyie beach and waterfront trail area, RDCK staff agrees that some parks planning is in order in Kaslo. The RDCK is currently working on an overall parks plan, and the Village has asked for Kaslo’s waterfront, piers and trails to be included in the planning process.
COMMUNITY

RDCK budget: draft shows taxation holding steady
by Karine Campbell

Good news for residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay: the 2014 draft budget is out and it appears that there will be zero overall tax increase. All residents, including those in the villages and cities, pay taxes to the regional district, which are rolled into their annual municipal property taxes.

Stuart Fox, General Manager of Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer, is touring the regional district presenting the draft to councils and members of the public. The 40-plus page spreadsheet breaks down the revenue and expenses for 160 services in seven areas: general administration, rural administration, environmental services, fire protection, community sustainability, development services and regional parks services.

To prepare the budget, all departments submitted their 2014 business plans outlining operational requirements, and goals and objectives. These were fleshed out by the directors’ input identifying their demands for the upcoming year.

“These are draft at this time and subject to change,” Horn said. Some minor changes came out of discussions this week that have yet to be made, but nothing substantial.”

According to Silvertown councillor and RDCK director Leah Main, who attended the February 19 meeting in New Denver, Horn “has identified numerous areas where price budgeting was inaccurate, where financial requirements were overstated, or where unspent funds were carried forward without identifying notes and therefore duplicated in the following year, generating overly large surpluses in many service budgets.”

“Through his diligent work, and in consultation with the board, the 2014 budget will most likely represent no overall incremental increase in taxation. Administrative fees recovered through individual services have been reduced, and the overall General Administration Budget taxation has been reduced by 8.13 per cent, while Rural Administration taxation will increase by 5.79 per cent. Our individual services (parks, recreation, Economic Development Commission) will see no taxation increase.”

Some areas will have their taxes rise because property assessments have increased. Last year’s Assessments sent out notices, which showed increases of about five per cent in Silvertown and northern Area B. Chief Financial Officer David Nakesh stayed about the same. Kaslo was up slightly, but in the rural area of North Kootenay Lake assessments increased by five to 10 per cent per parcel.

Taxes needed to pay for the capital budget and operating budget have dropped by 1.56 per cent overall, although Silvertown and Area D will pay slightly more due to their higher assessments. Some parts of the budget are in flux, which means more need revenue, but overall the two balance each other.

Several items of note that arose at the meeting and awakening the Nakesh, who also spoke at Summit Lake Ski Hill (zero increase), regional parks ($9,135 eliminated which had been set aside for the proposed but not yet developed Roseberry Summit Lake Park/ trail). Recreation Commission #3 (down 0.54 per cent) and the north Slocan Lake TV Society, which showed a 44.68 percent decrease in taxation because of a large surplus. The reduction is the result of a budget recommendation suggested by the participants at the New Denver meeting: New Denver mayor Ann Burke, Area H director William Mason, and New Denver director Stuart Fox noted that some of the savings from the Rec 6 budget were due to a drop in the administration fees charged by the RDCK.

Markings from St. Mark’s: pancakes, ashes, Lent, and forgiveness
subtitled

On Tuesday March 4, 5:30 pm, St. Mark’s Church in Kaslo welcomes all to yummy pancakes, sausages and fruit for our annual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. (the English name for Mardi Gras, aka ‘Fat Tuesday’). Past tradition suggests pancakes could be used up the household far before the 40 days of Lent begin, to prepare ourselves for Easter.

Donations in gratitude for the abundance of food this land will be sent to PWRFDE, the national Anglican fund for world relief and development, for this year’s Food Security focus: Shaping Bread. One in eight people in the world don’t have enough food to eat, and we want to change that. If you choose, this Lenten season can help you to become less reliant by cutting down on dietary fat but also by letting go of unhealthy habits like holding grudges, or by taking on more earth friendly dietary habits.

The next day, Ash Wednesday, we will gather in the hall behind the church at 5th and C, and then 10:30 am to begin pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. Back, a book by US Episcopal priest Dennis Maynard.

Our wise brother Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said “There is no future without forgiveness.” Can anyone argue this? A reviewer noted: “Very helpful advice; validates the feelings one has when hurt

Happy Feet for Healthy Living
by Tyson Bartel

Imagine life without your feet: how could that be? Feet are so essential to the human experience, so why not give your feet loving care and attention in gratitude for how well they serve you? And there are so many ways to say ‘I love you’ to your feet that you can only briefly touch upon a few here and hope you will be curious to begin experiencing them for yourself. In fact, you could be rubbing one or both of your feet while reading this newspaper.

Thai massage has so many techniques for the feet that whole foot treatments of an hour or more are possible. And in the whole body treatments the feet are always included. While this massage is spent on the feet and their connection to body as a whole. For example, a great way to begin releasing neck trauma from whiplash is to work on the feet first. Gentle manipulation and stretching of the toes, feet and ankles improve blood flow and alignment while firm pressure applied to points and meridians on the feet improve energy flow and connection with other parts of the body. Reflexology is naturally incorporated into traditional Thai massage as part of the flowing, efficient, and efficient flow of energy along the bodywork. Ancient Egyptian medical charts of the feet illustrate that humans have known about the healing power of Reflexology for a long time.

And modern movement study methods like Feldenkrais offer many exercise lessons for aligning, integrating and avoiding the feet in the brain/body neuromuscular functioning. Feet can easily go to sleep if stuffed in shoes most of the time. As babies, we started off with as much feeling and movement in the feet as in the hands. What happened? There’s an old saying: ‘where attention goes, energy flows’. As children, did we end up forgetting our feet as we got better and better at controlling our hands? Is it ever too late to teach yourself to play piano with your feet? Make loving your feet fun and easy to do. It’s good for you and for your world and in more creative ways! Moshe Feldenkrais invented dozens of movement explorations involving the feet as part of teaching himself to walk again after crippling knee injuries.

Whether through massage, yoga, footsie, dancing, pedicure, good food or any suggestion that takes the feet off your glowing, it makes a big difference in how healthy you feel when you care for your feet in a spirit of love and gratitude. Wishing you happy feet for healthy living!
Federal government announces investment in rural broadband

Nakusp Library hosts Writers’ Coffeehouse

The federal government’s announcement of $305 million over five years in new government investment to improve rural broadband service is a welcome start, but more action is required to tackle the high prices and poor service faced by rural Canadians.

That’s according to community-based OpenMedia.ca, which says 32 billion and open access requirements are needed to build an alternative to the slow and expensive internet service delivered to rural Canadians by big telecom.

In the new federal budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced an investment of $305 million over five years to expand rural high-speed internet. OpenMedia.ca says it’s vital that local community groups, municipalities, and businesses are given an opportunity to access these funds.

OpenMedia.ca also welcomes the government’s commitment to establishing fair wireless roaming rates and to empower the CRTC, Canada’s telecom policymaker, to administer financial penalties against big telecom giants that break customer protection rules.

Canadians pay some of the highest prices in the industrialized world for broadband, because 90 percent of the market is controlled by just a few big telecom conglomerates. Rural Canadians face even higher costs and slower speeds than their counterparts in the big cities, while often having no alternative to big telecom for internet service.

“Investment in rural high-speed internet access is hugely important for the future of a connected Canada,” says OpenMedia.ca Executive Director Steve Anderson. “It’s encouraging to see the government acknowledge the problem — but the measures announced today won’t go far enough to deliver the quality high-speed internet that rural Canadians deserve. The devil is in the details — if the funds announced today go directly to big telecom conglomerates without accountability, then this will end up looking like big telecom welfare that no Canadian wants.

Anderson continued: Instead of padding big telecom’s bottom line, these funds must be made available to local businesses, municipalities and rural startups to build networks that are independent of the telecom giants. And where big telecom does access these public funds, there must be an open access requirement to ensure Canadians can access digital services from a range of independent providers. Considering Stephen Harper’s promise to increase telecoms choice, rural Canadians deserve and expect access to independent options outside of big telecom.

OpenMedia.ca has worked with thousands of Canadians on a crowdfunded action plan that would improve speeds and lower prices in rural and northern Canada. The citizen-backed group also led the successful Stop the Meter campaign, the largest online campaign in Canadian history, which rallied over half a million Canadians to stop big telecom companies from forcing a pay meter on all internet users in Canada.

Canadians can send their MP’s copy of OpenMedia.ca’s crowdfunded action plan for a more connected Canada at https://openmedia.ca/report/offroadvehiclelegislation/

Off Road Vehicle legislation introduced

Bill 13, the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Act was introduced February 24.

The proposed ORV Act replaces the 40-year-old Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act.

The act proposes establishing a one-time registration system specifically designed to integrate with the pre-existing structure of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia’s vehicle registry, reducing implementation costs. ORVs will have to be registered and display a clearly visible number plate before they can be operated on Crown or other public land.

The proposed legislation would also allow the development of regulations on all-terrain vehicles, including snowmobiles, to enhance public safety and reduce potential risks to people, property, and the environment.

In addition, if passed, the act would assist in identifying stolen or abandoned ORVs, by requiring ORVs to be registered in a database that is accessible to peace officers at all times; and would provide officers with more effective enforcement power.

MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT

The Village of Silverton is now accepting applications for a municipal campground attendant. The seasonal contract shall be from May 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014. Remuneration is to be a $5/50 split between the Contractor and the Village of Silverton.

Duties include:
• Pre-Season opening / Post-Season closing clean-up
• Collect camping fees / shower fees
• Prepare for garbage disposal, maintain fire pits, and campsites
• Supply / sell firewood, clean washrooms / replenish supplies
• Keep accurate campground log and receipt book

For a more detailed outline of responsibilities, please contact Melissa Miles at mmiles@silverton.ca

Interested applicants please submit a letter outlining their experience and include two references, by 4:00 pm on Thursday April 17, 2014 to:

The Village of Silverton
421 Lake Avenue
PO Box 14
Silverton, BC
V0G 2B0

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

COMMUNITY

The proposed ORV Act is the result of extensive consultation, implementation, including registration provisions, is anticipated in the fall of 2014.

Slocan District Chamber of Commerce
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
February 27
Hidden Garden Gallery
7:00 pm
Guest speaker from the Basin Business Advocates Program, offering free business advice to basin businesses.

Big clear out of Select Models of New Balance and Saucony runners... 30-40% off

Good selection of sizes and styles
New spring runners are on their way!

Susan Satherley sharing her work.

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Vince DeVito

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Federal govt changing cell tower placement rules

submitted

Over the last 20 years, wireless services have grown into something that Canadian consumers rely on every day. The placement of new cell towers is becoming ever more divisive with the rapidly increasing demand for wireless services.

Canadians deserve to have a say in how locations are identified in their communities. Improvements in Industry Canada’s Antenna Tower Siting Policy will ensure that local residents and municipal governments are at the forefront of the tower placement process, the government says.

The changes to the policy guiding the installation of new antennas will require companies to:
- consult communities on all commercial tower installations, regardless of height (at present, towers under 15 metres are exempt);
- build the tower within three years of consulting with communities; and
- ensure that residents are well-informed of upcoming constructions.

The improvements will also strengthen federal communications with the public on tower siting procedures, including new online resources on the process, and new reporting mechanisms to track tower issues and report back to communities.

In response to the announcement, the Canadians for Safe Technology (CST) applauds the removal of the height exemption.

“The announcement means that this outdated legislative loophole will be closed,” CST says. “The regulated exemption of communications towers under 15m arose during World War II as a means of allowing ham radio operators to assist in war efforts. This loophole has allowed particularly egregious commercial sitings of towers, including in residential back yards and other sites close to occupied residences and buildings, as well as in sensitive areas that are designed to be protected under municipal land use policies.

CST also says it looks forward to working together with the minister to further improve wireless radiation safety standards through Health Canada’s Safety Code 6, “to consider potential human health impacts of wireless radiation, advocating for increased transparency, education and awareness. CST welcomes today’s news, believing it is a critical step in the right direction.”

NDP: 2014 federal budget fails Canadians

submitted

BC Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko says Budget 2014 falls short of taking significant action on many of the challenges facing Canadians today. “There are 300,000 more unemployed today than before the recession, many seniors are struggling, and families are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet,” he said.

“It appears that the Conservatives are delaying any new ideas until 2015, the election year.”

NDP leader Tom Mulcair had strong words on the budget: “Budgets are about priorities and choices. It’s very telling that the Conservatives would rather attack public servants, environmental groups, unions and anyone who dares criticize their short-sighted policies, than help Canadians.”

Atamanenko, did however, acknowledge some positive points found in the budget.

“There are provisions to expand high-speed broadband in rural areas, $380 million for food safety and the creation of the Canada Apprentice Loan Program which provides interest-free loans of up to $4,000 per person of technical training. That is a good thing.”

The MP has some concerns, however, about the lack of specific support for rural infrastructure.

Environmental groups declare victory in endangered species protection case

submitted

The Federal Court has declared that the Minister of Environment and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans acted unlawfully in delaying for several years the production of recovery strategies for four at risk species threatened by industrial development, including the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline and tanker route.

Ecotoxicity lawyers acted on behalf of five environmental groups in this lawsuit: the David Suzuki Foundation, Greenpeace Canada, Sierra Club BC, Wilderness Committee and Wildsight.

The lawsuit challenged the federal government’s multi-year delays in producing recovery strategies for four species – the Pacific humpback whale, Nechako white sturgeon, married murrelet and southern mountain caribou.

Ecotoxicity lawyers argued that the federal government’s chronic delays have forced species already struggling to survive to wait even longer for the protection they desperately need.

Justice Anne L. MacTavish wrote in her judgment: “It is, moreover, apparent that the delay encountered in these four cases are just the tip of the iceberg. This is clearly an enormous systemic problem within the relevant ministries, given the respondents’ acknowledgement that there remain some 167 species at risk for which recovery strategies have not yet been developed.”

Photos online tell the story of one family’s internment

submitted by NMC

In 1944, Basil Izumi arrived at the New Denver internment camp with his mother Une. It was also the same year he and his mother were reunited with his father, John Izumi (JT) who had previously been sent to the Yellowhead Highway at the Tete Jaune Cache road camp, one of three road camps Japanese-Canadian men were sent to during the internment.

Prior to the uprooting, the Izumi family lived in Vancouver, and JT employed as a photographer for Campbell Studios. Having been prohibited from bringing his camera, JT left his equipment with his former employer Mr. Campbell for safekeeping. He later arranged to have his camera shipped to New Denver, and would go on to produce one of the best collection of candid family photographs taken during the internment. The original box the camera was shipped in, embossed on the side with the name ‘IZUMI’, can be seen on display at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

The Izumi family collection can be viewed online in its entirety at akkeinosonour.org.

• The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre will celebrate its 20th anniversary on August 9, 2014. Event planning is underway, but there are many opportunities to get involved through donations, sponsorships, and by volunteering your skills and talents! For more information about the event or if you would like to lend your support, please contact Momoiko Ito at nime@netink.ca or 250-358-2316.

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cbt.org/summerworks

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The Valley Voice February 26, 2014

Young Basil Izumi in a kit at Harris Ranch between New Denver and Silverton.
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“*Up here, it’s all about community: Networking takes place on the sidelines of the kids’ soccer field, folks tend to boycott big chain stores, and if you choose work over family here, you stick out*” - Sunset Magazine